



Mental health support for Australians affected by bushfires

Eligible patients are:

- individuals or families who have been impacted by the 2019-20 bushfires
- responders or emergency management employees or volunteers affected by the 2019-20 bushfires.

MBS items already available

MBS items under the [Better Access initiative](#) can be used for bushfire affected patients. GPs and medical practitioners can provide treatment services to their patient directly using focused psychological strategies (FPS). Health professionals must be registered with DHS to provide FPS services.

There are also items available to help GPs and medical practitioners manage a patient's mental health condition. There is no limit to how often these services can be provided.

Health professional	Mental health service
General practitioner	2713 or a general consultation item
Medical practitioner	279 or a general consultation item

Mental health services for drought affected patients have also been extended to those affected by bushfires. Patients affected by bushfires don't need to be in a specific location or be a certain distance from the health professional for these items to be claimed.

Health professional	Telehealth services
General practitioner	2121, 2150, 2196
Medical practitioner	894, 896, 898

MBS items from 17 January 2020

Patients can access these services without a:

- Referral
- Mental health treatment plan
- Shared care plan

Patients are eligible for up to 10 treatment services in a calendar year (1 January to 31 December). These services don't count toward the claiming limits under the Better Access initiative.

Health professional	Face-to-face services	Telehealth services
General practitioner	91721, 91723, 91725, 91727	91729, 91731
Medical practitioner	91283, 91285, 91286, 91287	91371, 91372
Clinical psychologist	91000, 91005, 91010, 91015	91001, 91011
Registered psychologist	91100, 91105, 91110, 91115	91101, 91111
Occupational therapist	91125, 91130, 91135, 91140	91126, 91136
Social worker	91150, 91155, 91160, 91165	91151, 91161

Information for patients: www.humanservices.gov.au/individuals/help-emergency/bushfires
Information for health professionals: www.humanservices.gov.au/organisations/health-professionals