



ACCREDITED MENTAL HEALTH SOCIAL WORKERS

Information for General Practitioners

If you are looking to refer your patient to a skilled, experienced mental health specialist for a professional assessment, counselling and other treatment and support options, refer to an Accredited Mental Health Social Worker.

Did you know?

Accredited Mental Health Social Workers (AMHSWs) are recognised by Medicare to provide mental health services under Better Access. A Mental Health Treatment Plan (including a referral) is required for patients to access Medicare rebates for up to 10 individual appointments per year (and/or up to 10 separate group therapy sessions per year).

There are over 3,000 AMHSWs in Australia, many working in private practice and recognised under Medicare to provide counselling to patients referred by GPs, paediatricians and psychiatrists.

Referring to AMHSWs

Refer to an AMHSW as part of your patient's mental health treatment, chronic disease management, or multidisciplinary care plans. AMHSWs have the expertise and availability to provide your patients with mental health support in a way that best suits their needs.

Other funding options

- Private health insurance under Extras/Ancillary cover
- Funding schemes, such as workers' compensation, transport accident, victim support, NDIS and veteran support services
- Full fee for service.

Accredited Mental Health Social Workers

AMHSWs are mental health specialists. They work with people in the community across the full continuum of mental health issues, including prevention, early intervention and treatment.

Find a Social Worker

Discover social work services across Australia quickly and easily with our Find a Social Worker tool. Search by name, location, or services offered at: my.aasw.asn.au/s/find-a-social-worker.

MEDICARE REGISTERED PROVIDERS

Accredited Mental Health Social Workers are eligible for Medicare provider numbers



AMHSWs work from a whole-of-person perspective, recognising the broader support requirements for an individual experiencing mental illness and the impact on friends, family, work and education.

AMHSWs are experienced in building relationships and working collaboratively with other health professionals to maintain multidisciplinary care.

How do AMHSWs help patients?

AMHSWs work with people with mild to complex mental health issues. They support patients through counselling and psychotherapy, using a range of evidence-based strategies, including focussed psychological strategies, depending on the needs of the patient.

AMHSWs are equipped to help individuals identify and address social and other environmental issues to improve their quality of life. This may involve individual, family and/or group counselling, in person or via telehealth.

What mental health issues do AMHSWs assess and treat?

- depression/mood disorders
- anxiety disorders
- personality disorders
- suicidal thoughts
- relationship problems
- life crises
- adjustment issues
- trauma
- family conflicts.

How are AMHSWs accredited?

AMHSWs are qualified social workers who have specialist mental health expertise. They have been assessed and accredited by the Australian Association of Social Workers (AASW). This assessment and accreditation process is recognised by the Australian Government.

YOUR LOCAL PROVIDER:

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: