

**Submission
No 2**

**THE IMPLEMENTATION OF PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE No. 2
RECOMMENDATIONS RELATING TO CROSS-JURISDICTIONAL HEALTH
REFORM AND GOVERNMENT CONSULTATION WITH REMOTE, RURAL AND
REGIONAL COMMUNITIES**

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Bulk billing is not always available. A patient has to have the money for a full fee ready to pay many doctors and specialists and at best, the receptionist can submit to Medicare for you. The upfront fee can be several hundred dollars and the gap between the fee and the Medicare rebate is often substantial.

Especially lacking in rural areas is mental health care, particularly psychiatric specialists. Considering statistics show suicide rates and domestic violence in rural areas are high, a much greater variety of mental health services are needed, from the psychiatric level, through various rehabilitation services, drug and alcohol counselling, anger management, and including respite services.