### Allied Health Practitioner (AHP) FAQs

This fact sheet will answer commonly asked questions about working as an AHP at headspace Dandenong and headspace Hastings. If you have further questions, please contact us and we will be happy to chat with you.

#### Who can apply for an AHP role?

Practitioners who can deliver services under Medicare’s Better Access initiative, which includes registered psychologists, mental health accredited social workers and mental health endorsed occupational therapists.

#### What does an AHP do?

AHPs provide psychological interventions to young people with a Mental Health Treatment Plan. Currently the Better Access initiative provides up to 10 individual sessions per calendar year. Referrals are generated by GPs in the form of a Mental Health Care Plan. AHP services can be delivered both in person and via telehealth.

#### How are AHPs remunerated?

The AHP enters into a sub-contracted agreement with headspace Dandenong’s lead agency EACH. AHPs are remunerated as per Medicare Benefits Schedule. The administration team will be responsible for processing all claims under the relevant Medicare billing item numbers. The claims are submitted monthly and the AHP will then receive payments from Medicare. The administration team act as a conduit between AHPs and Medicare.

#### Are AHPs charged any fees?

No, there are no fees charged.

#### What support do AHPs receive?

AHPs receive both administrative and clinical support from headspace Dandenong. The administrative team will assist with any Medicare and billing issues. Support with appointment bookings, text reminders and rescheduling of appointments is also provided.

The Clinical Lead will support the AHP to undertake the work by

* Providing secondary consultation and advice regarding clinical work as needed
* Ensuring that each young person booked with the AHP is within scope of practice for the AHP
* Supporting the AHP to direct and/or support referrals to external services including tertiary mental health services when required
* Liaising with the headspace Dandenong and headspace Hastings staff about an AHP’s capacity for new referrals

#### What are the benefits of being an AHP at headspace Dandenong?

AHPs will be part of a multidisciplinary team that provides care for young people across four areas: mental health, alcohol and other drugs, work and study, and physical and sexual health. It is possible to work collaboratively whilst also working autonomously. There are also opportunities for learning and professional development.