

More allied health services program

The Australian Government has also allocated \$79.5 million over four years, from 2004–05 – 2008–09, to the More Allied Health Services Program as part of the Rural Health Strategy. Funding goes to 66 Divisions of General Practice with at least five per cent of their population living in rural areas.

Program funding is used to provide clinical care by allied health professionals to rural communities. Needs assessments determine where and what types of allied health services are most needed. General practitioners refer clients to allied health professionals, based on patient need, and the GP provides ongoing medical care and assessment. The client generally receives treatment from the allied health professional free of charge.

The Table below shows that in 2003–04, 90 full-time equivalent allied health (mental health) professionals were engaged under this program.

Full-time equivalent allied health professionals engaged under the More Allied Health Services Program, 2003–04

Allied health professional	Full-time equivalent (FTE)
Psychologists	45.7
Registered nurse — mental health	23.2
Counsellors	8.6
Aboriginal mental health worker	12.5
TOTAL FTE	90.0