

“Under the Better Access program, nearly one million Australians now have a GP Mental Health Plan and have collectively received about **three million sessions** of psychological service.”

2009 (Feb) [Medical Journal of Australia](#)

“In setting up the Better Access Program, the Department of Health and Ageing estimated forward expenditure on the Program of \$ 538m over 4 years. **The cost over this period is in fact now approaching \$ 1.4bn.**”

2010 (Dec) [Australasian Psychiatry](#)

“Mr Rosenberg and Professor Hickie calculated the program's rising costs to 2016, in which it **will exceed \$1 billion** a year.”

2011 (Mar) [Sydney Morning Herald](#)

“We do not have enough data to verify whether the existing **\$10 million per week** being spent on the Better Access program represents good value.”

2012 (Feb) [Crikey](#)

“The review considers the Commonwealth's Better Access Program which is now costing more than **\$12 million per week and growing.**”

2015 (Apr) [Sydney Morning Herald](#)

Ten years of one-sided criticism about the costs of mental health care

Access to basic mental health care is an investment not a cost

“Medicare data indicates the Federal Government is investing around **\$15 million each week on Better Access**, which aims to improve community access to mental health professionals and team-based mental health care.

2017 (Summer) [The Australian Journal of Psychosocial Rehabilitation](#)

“\$9 million pales in comparison to spending on the Better Access Program, which I have calculated to be **\$15 million** each week.”

2017 (May) [The Conversation](#)

“[Sebastian Rosenberg] questions why we continue to invest **\$22 million each week** in Medicare payments under the Better Access program without evaluating its effectiveness.”

2018 (Dec) [Inside Story](#)

“In 2014-15, Medicare spending on psychology services was \$474.5m, or **\$9.1m each week.**”

2018 (Feb) [Crikey](#)

“At the same time, we are willing to continue to invest **\$22m a week in MBS payments** under the Better Access Program, without any outcomes or accountability.”

2018 (Nov) [Crikey](#)

“As it is, the Better Access Program is **costing \$22.5 million every week**, or \$28 million if you include out of pocket costs.”

2019 (Feb) [Crikey](#)