

## Overview of the Better Outcomes in Mental Health Care Initiative (BOMHCi)

The 2001 Commonwealth Budget provided \$120.4 million over four years to improve the quality of mental health care available to Australians. The BOMHCi builds on and works with previous measures to provide a comprehensive range of care options.

The initiative supports the primary health care sector to improve access to mental health services by providing mental health education and training for General Practitioners (GPs) and increased support for them from allied health professionals and psychiatrists. It acknowledges that many GPs are already providing primary mental health care and aims to provide financial and other support to address the barriers to management of mental health problems in general practice.

This initiative has five major components. Together, the components form a comprehensive system of primary mental health care, which is focused on continuity of care and quality mental health outcomes. The five components are:

1. Education & Training
2. The 3 Step Mental Health Process
3. Focused Psychological Strategies
4. Access to Allied Health Services
5. Access to Psychiatrist Support

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