

1 Introduction

The Department of Health and Ageing (DoHA) engaged a number of external consultants to assist with the *Evaluation of the Better Access to Psychiatrists, Psychologists and General Practitioners through the Medicare Benefits Schedule* (Better Access) initiative. The evaluation was undertaken to assess the accessibility, appropriateness and effectiveness of primary mental health care provided to people with diagnosed mental health disorders under the Better Access initiative.

KPMG was contracted to undertake Component D of the evaluation – Stakeholder Consultation. Component D involved the design and establishment, collection and reporting of information from a range of stakeholders, including peak professional organisations and consumer and carer organisations with an interest in the Better Access initiative.

During the engagement period, more than 1200 people (representing themselves or a particular group or organisation) were consulted. These included:

- interviews (face to face or teleconference) of more than 100 people
- group teleconferences of approximately 60 people
- workshops of more than 40 people
- online surveys, completed by in excess of 1000 people.

This document summarises the responses to the following online surveys:

- Survey of allied health professionals
- Survey of GPs, psychiatrists and paediatricians
- Survey of public mental health providers
- Survey of non-government mental health service providers
- Survey of consumers
- Survey of carers.