

Friday 18 September 2020

Telehealth extension good news for Australians accessing dietetic services

Dietitians Australia welcomes the announcement by the Federal Government to extend telehealth appointments for allied health practitioners until 31 March 2021.

CEO of Dietitians Australia, Robert Hunt, says the 6-month extension to telehealth is an important step forward for the health of Australians.

“Patients and Accredited Practising Dietitians (APDs) have embraced telehealth, making it easier for Australians to access high quality nutrition care. This is the first step in creating a legacy that revolutionises healthcare access not just for GPs but for a range of allied health services, including dietetics,” said Hunt.

Telehealth protects the health of both patients and dietitians, ensuring Australians can continue to see their dietitian despite border restrictions or quarantine requirements.

A recent survey by Dietitians Australia showed that 97% of APDs in private practice found telehealth was essential to keep connected to their clients.

Today Friday 18 September 2020 is ‘Dietitians Day’, a day which celebrates how dietitians make a difference in their communities.

“Telehealth has transformed healthcare and provides another way dietitians can connect with their community,” said Hunt.

“We look forward to working with the government on a long-term plan for telehealth, particularly for allied health services such as dietetics, where virtual care is easily provided and is as clinically effective and cost efficient as in person services.”

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