

**The feedback received from a local GP best describes the service that a mental health nurse can provide:**

"At Peninsula Family General Practice, we have been very fortunate indeed to have a mental health nurse on a sessional basis. She has proven to be highly successful and effective, for patient (and doctor) wellbeing, and closes many gaps in the provision of timely, appropriate mental health support services for a range of Primary Care presentations, with patients of all ages eligible.

The Mental Health nurse worked in partnership with GPs and other allied health providers and was particularly skilled in the delivery of no fee service delivery to many patients who would otherwise fit in the "too hard" basket. In particular, invaluable support was provided by the nurse to patients with such diagnoses as "personality disorders", dependence disorders, semi acute presentations of high prevalence disorders, as well as back up for those "brittle patients" that require extra care, not otherwise funded through Medicare models.

The Mental Health Nurse's knowledge of medications for treatment of mental health and dual diagnosis disorders is invaluable. Of particular benefit was the Nurse's knowledge of local resources, networks and of her ability to "play well with others".

The Mental Health Nurse is a most valuable member of any primary care team dedicated to delivery of a bio-psychosocial model of management.."