



**BRIDGET ARCHER MP**  
Federal Member for Bass

13 December 2022

**MEDIA RELEASE**

**Labor rips away mental health support from northern Tasmanians**

Federal Member for Bass Bridget Archer has called on the Federal Government to reverse their decision to rip away access to 10 additional Medicare-subsidised psychology sessions.

“The Coalition doubled the number of Medicare-subsidised psychology sessions from 10 to 20 through the Better Access initiative at the beginning of the pandemic to help those in our community who needed additional mental health support at that time,” Mrs Archer said.

“Evidence shows that serious mental health issues can peak in the two to three years following a crisis, so I think we are only at the very beginning of seeing the long-term impacts of the pandemic.

“And, given the economic uncertainty and cost of living stresses placed on so many right now, I am honestly at a loss to think why the Federal Labor Government would be ripping away an essential service when it is needed more than ever.

“No matter how Labor tries to spin this decision, the independent evaluation of the Better Access initiative recommends that the additional 10 services should continue and should target those with complex mental health needs.

“Cutting access to additional psychology sessions will only cause further harm and distress to those who need the services the most. I call on the Federal Labor Government to urgently consider reversing this decision.”

**ENDS**