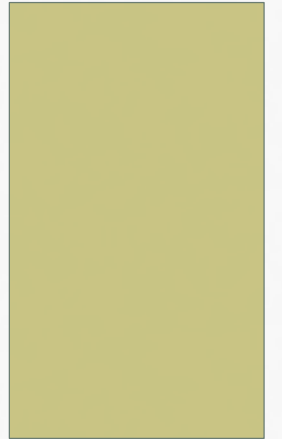


FUNDING FOR TELEHEALTH

ASH COLLINS, MD
OCTOBER/2017



DEFINITIONS

- The International Organisation for Standardisation defines;
 1. Telehealth as the ‘use of telecommunication techniques for the purpose of providing telemedicine, medical education, and health education over a distance’,
 2. telemedicine, is defined as the ‘use of advanced telecommunication technologies to exchange health information and provide health care services across geographic, time, social and cultural barriers’.

TYPES OF TELEHEALTH (&TELEMEDICINE)

- Store & Forward
- Live
- Hybrid

MEDICARE-FUNDED TELEHEALTH SERVICES

- From 1 July 2011, Medicare and DVA Rebates and Financial Incentives will be available for telehealth
- People in telehealth eligible areas of Australia have access to specialist video consultations (live telemedicine) under Medicare
- This provides many patients with easier access to specialists, without the time and expense involved in travelling to major cities.

ITEMS

- Specialist Services
MBS Video Consultation Items
- patient-end services
MBS Video Consultation Items

STATISTICS TO 30 JUNE 2016

- As at end of June 2016:
The Department of Human Services had processed over 475, 545 Medicare telehealth services provided to over 144,400 patients by over 13,815 providers.

4,731 specialists have provided telehealth services and 8,936 GPs

Services, Patients and Providers by Provider Type – claims processed as at 30 June 2016

Provider Specialty Type	Services	Providers	Patients
Specialist	320,677	4,731	144,400
General Practitioner (includes practice nurse)	152,106	8,936	
Optometrist	510	65	
Midwife	54	15	
Nurse Practitioner	2,198	68	
Total	475,545	13,815	

Patient Services by State – claims processed as at 30 June 2016

State1	Services	Percentage of Services
NSW	141,974	29.86%
VIC	79,952	16.81%
QLD	147,485	31.00%
WA	32,933	6.93%
SA	35,810	7.53%
TAS	29,248	6.15%
NT	7,111	1.5%
ACT	1,032	0.22%
Total	475,545	100.0%

1. State is based on patient location, not the location of the specialist

Number of Providers by Selected Subspecialty - claims processed as at 30 June 2016

Subspecialty	Providers
Obstetrics & Gynaecology	158
Orthopaedic Surgery	170
Urology	142
ENT	75
Anaesthetics	239
Psychiatry	794
Dermatology	155
Cardiology	226
Endocrinology	195
Gastroenterology and Hepatology	211
Neurology	158
Paediatric Medicine	441
Rheumatology	125
Internal Medicine	121

Services by Patient Remoteness Area (RA) - claims processed as at 30 June 2016












RA Name	Services1
Major City	46,472
Inner Regional	213,224
Outer Regional	182,725
Remote	23,122
Very Remote	9,964
Unallocated2	38
Total	475,545

1. Supported telehealth services are attributed to the location of the supporting provider, and unsupported telehealth services are attributed to the residential address of the patient.
2. Small discrepancies occur due to the apportioning of postcodes for remoteness areas.

SPECIALIST SERVICES

MBS VIDEO CONSULTATION ITEMS

- 11 MBS items provide for video consultations in telehealth eligible areas across a range of specialities; On 1 January 2013, 6 new MBS items took effect
- These new items will have the same requirements for patients as other telehealth items that is:
 - not an admitted patient; and
 - 1. not a patient of an emergency department; and
 - 2. located in a telehealth eligible area at the time of the attendance; and
 - 3. located at least 15km by road from the specialist; or
 - 4. a care recipient of a residential aged care facility (located anywhere in Australia); or
 - 5. a patient of an eligible Aboriginal Medical Service (located anywhere in Australia)

Telehealth MBS Item	MBS Group	Associated Items
99 	GROUP A3 – SPECIALIST ATTENDANCES	104, 105
112 	GROUP A4 – CONSULTANT PHYSICIAN	110, 116, 119, 132, 133
149 	GROUP A28 – GERIATRIC MEDICINE – CONSULTANT PHYSICIAN OR SPECIALIST	141, 143
288 	GROUP A8 – CONSULTANT PSYCHIATRIST ATTENDANCES	291, 293, 296, 300, 302, 304, 306, 308, 310, 312, 314, 316, 318, 319, 348, 350, 352
389 	GROUP A12 – CONSULTANT OCCUPATIONAL PHYSICIAN ATTENDANCES	385, 386
2820 	GROUP A24, SUBGROUP 1 – PAIN MEDICINE ATTENDANCES	2801, 2806, 2814
3015 	GROUP A24, SUBGROUP 3 – PALLIATIVE MEDICINE ATTENDANCES	3005, 3010, 3014
6016 	GROUP A26 – NEUROSURGERY ATTENDANCES	6007, 6009, 6011, 6013, 6015
13210 	GROUP T1 – MISCELLANEOUS THERAPEUTIC PROCEDURES SUBGROUP 3 – ASSISTED REPRODUCTIVE SERVICES	13209
16399 	GROUP T4 – OBSTETRICS	16401, 16404, 16406, 16500, 16590, 16591
17609 	GROUP T6 – ANAESTHESIA	17610, 17615, 17620, 17625, 17640, 17645, 17650, 17655,

6 STAND ALONE ITEMS (SPECIALIST SERVICES)













113	GROUP A3 – SPECIALIST ATTENDANCES	Stand alone item
114	GROUP A4 – CONSULTANT PHYSICIAN	Stand alone item
384	GROUP A12 – CONSULTANT OCCUPATIONAL PHYSICIAN ATTENDANCES	Stand alone item
2799	GROUP A24, SUBGROUP 1 – PAIN MEDICINE ATTENDANCES	Stand alone item
3003	GROUP A24, SUBGROUP 3 – PALLIATIVE MEDICINE ATTENDANCES	Stand alone item
6004	GROUP A26 – NEUROSURGERY ATTENDANCES	Stand alone item

PATIENT-END SERVICES

MBS VIDEO CONSULTATION ITEMS

- 23 MBS items are available for patient-end services provided to patients during their video consultation with a specialist, consultant physician or consultant psychiatrist
- These items are for face-to-face consultations when patient-end practitioners provide clinical support to patients during their video consultation

MEDICAL PRACTITIONER (INCLUDING A GENERAL PRACTITIONER, SPECIALIST OR CONSULTANT PHYSICIAN) TELEHEALTH ATTENDANCES

Telehealth MBS Item	MBS Group	Location of Service
2100  2126  2143  2195 	GROUP A30, SUBGROUP 1	At consulting rooms in a telehealth eligible area or at an eligible Aboriginal Medical Service
2122  2137  2147  2199 	GROUP A30, SUBGROUP 1	Other than consulting rooms such as a home visit or other institution in a telehealth eligible area
2125  2138  2179  2220 	GROUP A30, SUBGROUP 2	At a residential aged care facility

PRACTICE NURSE OR ABORIGINAL HEALTH WORKER TELEHEALTH ATTENDANCE PROVIDED ON BEHALF OF A MEDICAL PRACTITIONER

[10983](#) 

GROUP M12, SUBGROUP 1

In a telehealth eligible area or at an eligible
Aboriginal Medical Service

[10984](#) 

GROUP M12, SUBGROUP 2

At a residential aged care facility

PARTICIPATING MIDWIVES

[82150](#) 

GROUP M13, SUBGROUP 2

In a telehealth eligible area or at an eligible
Aboriginal Medical Service

[82151](#) 

[82152](#) 

PARTICIPATING NURSE PRACTITIONERS

[82220.82221](#) 

GROUP M14, SUBGROUP 2


In a telehealth eligible area or at an eligible
Aboriginal Medical Service


[82222](#) 

[82223](#) 

GROUP M14, SUBGROUP 3

At a residential aged care facility

[82224](#) 

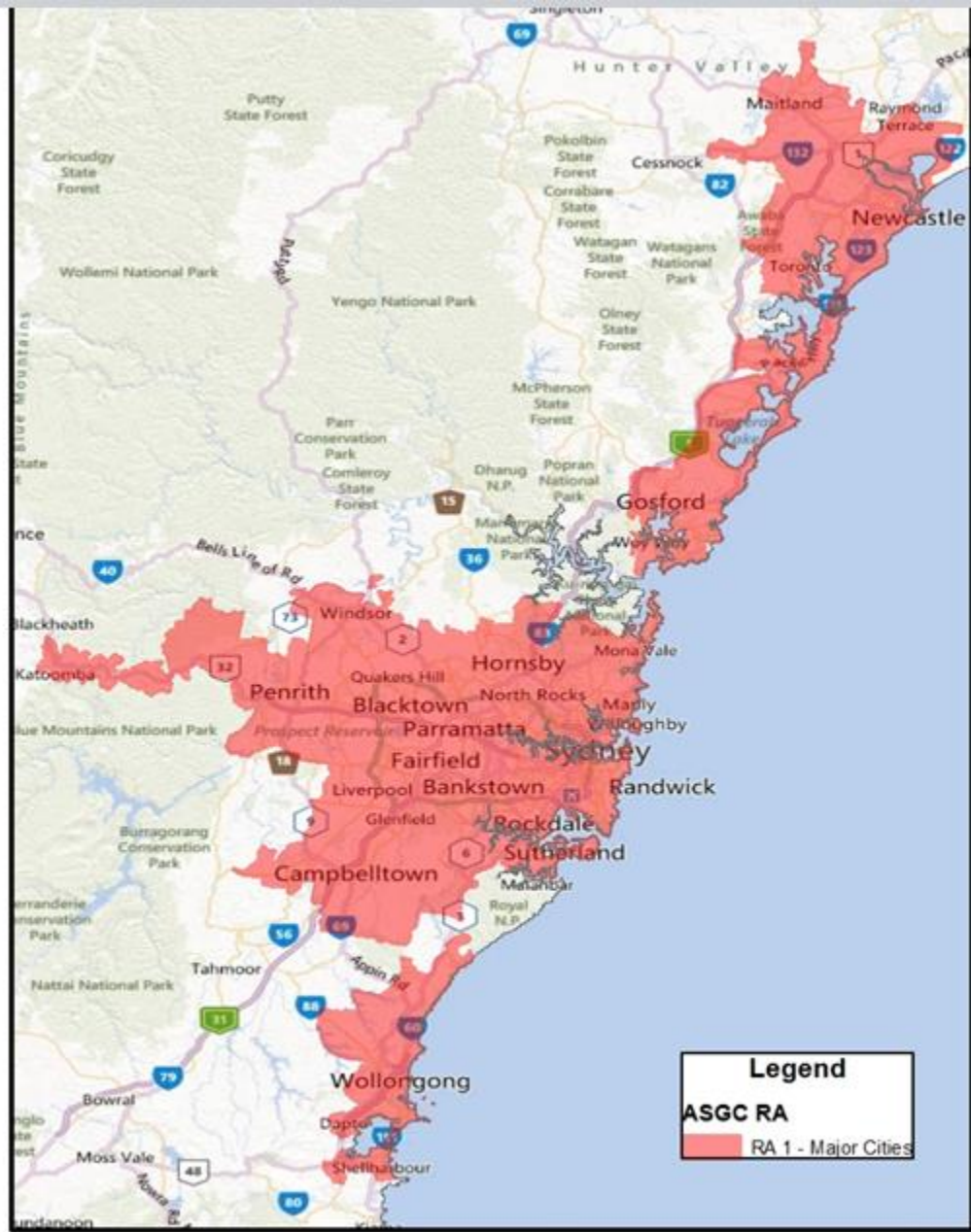
[82225](#) 

TELEHEALTH ELIGIBLE AREAS

- Telehealth eligibility is determined according to the Australian Standard Geographical Classification Remoteness Area (ASGC-RA) classifications.
- Medicare Benefit Schedule (MBS) benefits will now only be available for services provided to patients outside of RA1 – Major Cities.
- This change does not affect residents of Aged Care Facilities or patients of eligible Aboriginal Medical Services or eligible Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Services who are exempt from the geographical requirements



National - Telehealth Eligible Areas Australian Standards Geographic Classification (ASGC) RA. Telehealth Eligible Areas are outside RA 1. |

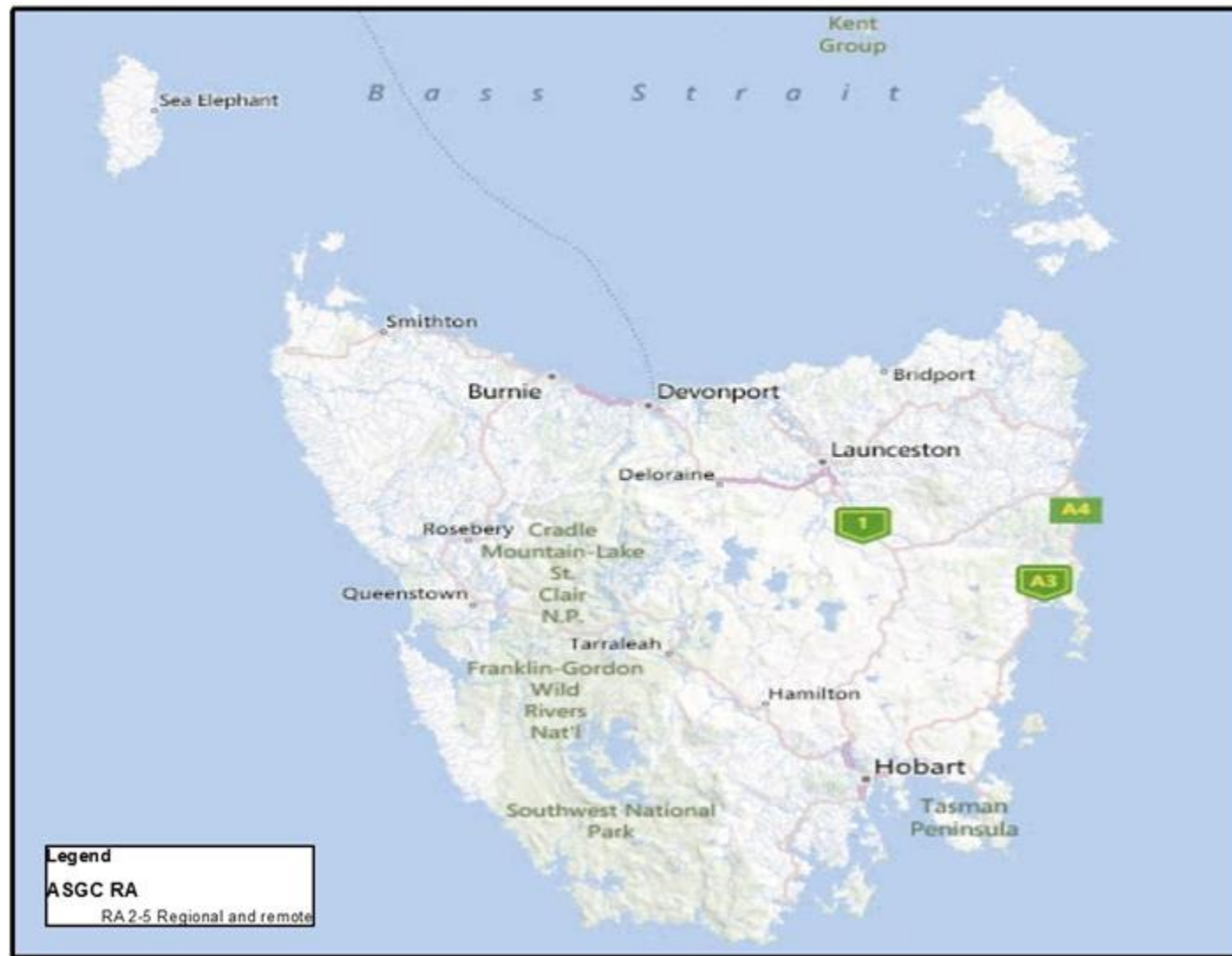


New South Wales- Telehealth Eligible Areas are outside RA 1.

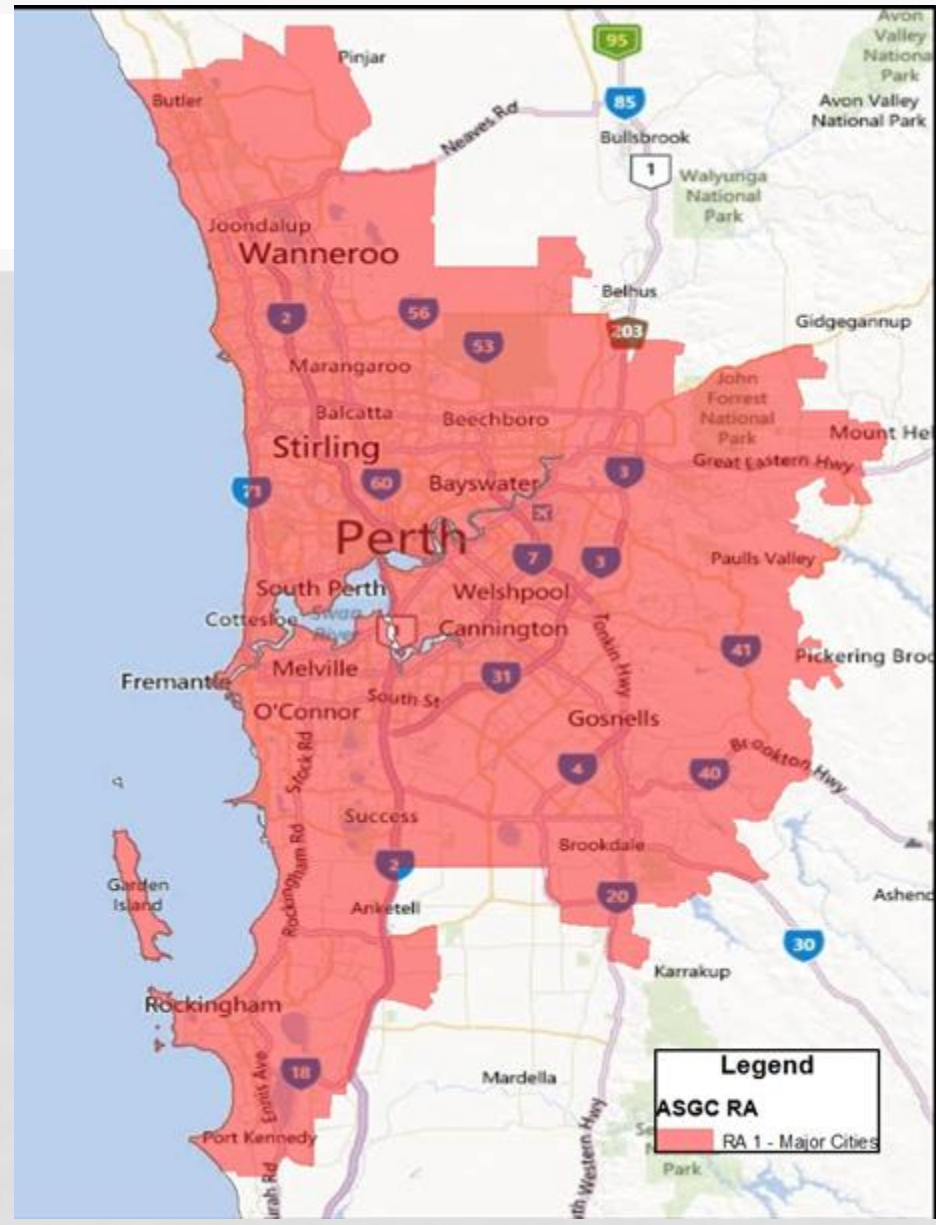


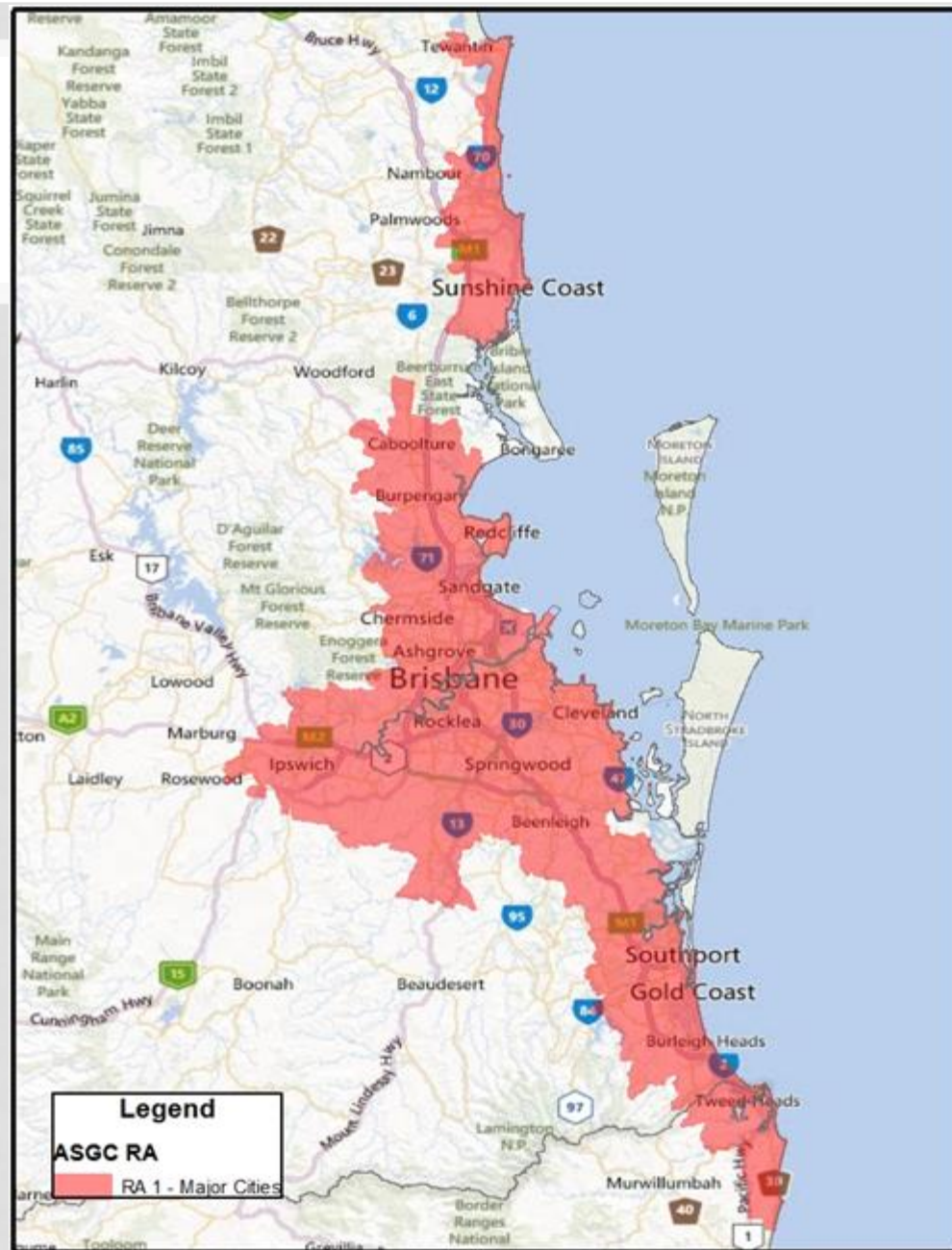
Victoria- Telehealth Eligible Areas are outside RA 1.

Tasmania - Telehealth Eligible Areas are outside RA 1 (ie RA 2-5).









OTHER POTENTIAL SOURCES

- PHNs
- Private Funds
- Insurance (international, home-monitoring)

THANK YOU

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October/2017

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