

TITLE

Is there a place for economics in mental health care?

ABSTRACT

The discipline of economics concerns itself with the task of allocating scarce societal resources to maximize societal welfare. The tools of economic evaluation are now widely used to help decision-makers, both in health and other contexts decide what might be a good value-for-money investments. Ultimately trade-offs between competing resource uses are made. Within these trade-offs the concept of benefit or value, always plays a fundamental role. The presentation of A/Prof Mihalopoulos will discuss the use of the tools of economic evaluation within the mental health context with a focus on how outcome and value is measured within mental health economic evaluations. She will draw on both her own work, which has consisted of numerous economic evaluations of single interventions, broader priority-setting studies and more recently a focus on outcome measurement for use in mental health economic evaluations, as well as the international literature to explore the topic of whether economic thinking has a place in mental health care and if so what type of role it could play.

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