



Pilots and Targeted Programs

Activity Work Plan 2022 — 2026

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PP&TP-GP- 1 - PHN Strengthening Medicare – General Practice Grants Program

Program Key Priority Area

Quality Improvement in General Practice

Aim of Activity

To establish, administer and manage the Strengthening Medicare General Practice Grants Program in relation to general practices (excluding eligible Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Services (ACCHS)).

The GP Grants Program will provide one-off grants between \$25,000 to \$50,000 (based on practice size) to support general practices and eligible ACCHS to expand patient access and provide better, safe and accessible quality primary care.

Description of Activity

The grants will be available for general practices and eligible ACCHS to make investments in innovation, training, equipment, and minor capital works in one or more of the three investment streams below:

- enhance digital health capability to fast-track the benefits of a more connected healthcare system in readiness to meet future standards
- upgrade infection prevention and control arrangements to ensure infectious respiratory disease (e.g. COVID, influenza) patients can be safely seen face to face
- maintain and/or achieve accreditation against the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners Standards for General Practice, under the General Practice Accreditation Scheme to promote quality and safety in general practice.

Needs Assessment Priority

NCPHN Needs Assessment 2021-2024

Needs Assessment Priority

Support sustainable workforce supply across GPs, medical specialists, nurses, midwives, Allied health, and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander workforce

Improve access to primary care services (GPs)

Target Population Cohort

Residents accessing general practice care across NSW North Coast PHN

Indigenous Specific	No
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Coverage

Whole Region

Consultation

Consultation with multiple stakeholders will be required to deliver the administrative requirements for this grant. This will be to:

- promote and open a grant opportunity to general practices across the PHN region for the GP Grants Program in April 2023, in line with the grant opening period and national requirements as advised by the Department
- receive and assess applications from general practices across the region, in line with the national requirements advised by the Department
- using templates provided by the Department, prepare and execute simple grant agreements for each successful general practice applicant
- arrange payment of grant funds to successful general practice applicants
- manage enquiries from general practice applicants/grant recipients
- record key monitoring metrics about the GP Grants Program (e.g. uptake and utilisation of grants by rurality, selected investment streams, grant amounts paid) and report this to the Department on a monthly basis using the national template provided by the Department, and assist with ad hoc requests from the Department for updates as required
- advise and support the Department on any compliance issues and support the Department with information and insights
- obtain end-of-program financial acquittals, financial declarations, and self-reported outcomes about the use of grant funding from general practice grant recipients
- support the Department's evaluation activities to assess the performance and success of the GP Grants Program

Collaboration

Engagement with all eligible general practices across the region to ensure application agreements re received, understood, completed with all necessary information and returned prior to the deadline for submission.

Activity Milestone Details/Duration

Activity Start Date	01/03/2023
Activity End Date	31/12/2024
Service Delivery Start Date	15/06/2023
Other Relevant Milestones	Launch of GP grant announcement and distribution of individual application agreements to all eligible general practices – 24 April 2023

Procurement approach

Expression of Interest (EOI)

Is this activity being co-designed?	No
Is this activity the result of a previous co-design process?	No
Do you plan to implement this Activity using co-commissioning or joint-commissioning arrangements?	No
Has this activity previously been co-commissioned or joint-commissioned?	No
Decommissioning	No

PP&TP-GP-Ad - 2 - PHN Strengthening Medicare – General Practice Grants Program - Admin

Program Key Priority Area

Quality improvement in General Practice

Aim of Activity

To establish, administer and manage the Strengthening Medicare General Practice Grants Program in relation to general practices (excluding eligible Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Services (ACCHS)).

The GP Grants Program will provide one-off grants between \$25,000 to \$50,000 (based on practice size) to support general practices and eligible ACCHS to expand patient access and provide better, safe and accessible quality primary care. The grants will be available for general practices and eligible ACCHS to make investments in innovation, training, equipment, and minor capital works in one or more of the three investment streams below:

- enhance digital health capability to fast-track the benefits of a more connected healthcare system in readiness to meet future standards;
- upgrade infection prevention and control arrangements to ensure infectious respiratory disease (e.g. COVID, influenza) patients can be safely seen face to face; and/or
- maintain and/or achieve accreditation against the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners Standards for General Practice, under the General Practice Accreditation Scheme to promote quality and safety in general practice

Description of Activity

The administrative requirements for this grant will be to:

- promote and open a grant opportunity to general practices across the PHN region for the GP Grants Program in April 2023, in line with the grant opening period and national requirements as advised by the Department
- receive and assess applications from general practices across the region, in line with the national requirements advised by the Department
- using templates provided by the Department, prepare and execute simple grant agreements for each successful general practice applicant
- arrange payment of grant funds to successful general practice applicants
- manage enquiries from general practice applicants/grant recipients

- record key monitoring metrics about the GP Grants Program (e.g. uptake and utilisation of grants by rurality, selected investment streams, grant amounts paid) and report this to the Department on a monthly basis using the national template provided by the Department, and assist with ad hoc requests from the Department for updates as required
- advise and support the Department on any compliance issues and support the Department with information and insights
- obtain end-of-program financial acquittals, financial declarations, and self reported outcomes about the use of grant funding from general practice grant recipients
- support the Department’s evaluation activities to assess the performance and success of the GP Grants Program

Needs Assessment Priority

NCPHN Needs Assessment 2021-2024

Needs Assessment Priority	
Support sustainable workforce supply across GPs, medical specialists, nurses, midwives, Allied health, and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander workforce	
Improve access to primary care services (GPs)	

Target Population Cohort

Residents accessing general practice care across NSW North Coast PHN

Indigenous Specific	No
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Coverage

Whole Region

Consultation

Initial consultation with all medical services across the region to determine eligibility status for grant. Ongoing consultation with eligible practices to support grant application process.

Collaboration

Engagement with all eligible general practices across the region to ensure application agreements are received, understood, completed with all necessary information and returned prior to the deadline for submission.

Activity Milestone Details/Duration

Activity Start Date	01/03/2023
Activity End Date	31/12/2024
Service Delivery Start Date	15/06/2023
Other Relevant Milestones	Launch of GP grant announcement and distribution of individual application agreements to all eligible general practices – 24 April 2023

Procurement approach

Expression of Interest (EOI)

Is this activity being co-designed?	No
Is this activity the result of a previous co-design process?	No
Do you plan to implement this Activity using co-commissioning or joint-commissioning arrangements?	No
Has this activity previously been co-commissioned or joint-commissioned?	No
Decommissioning	No

PP&TP-EPP – 1 – Endometriosis and Pelvic Pain GP Clinics

Program Key Priority Area

Access to specialised Primary Care Services – GP Clinics

Aim of Activity

The aim of this activity is to establish an Endometriosis and Pelvic Pain GP Clinic (GP clinics) at the Women's Health Centre in Coffs Harbour.

The program objectives are to support clinics to provide multi-disciplinary care with a focus on improving diagnostic delay and to promote early access to intervention, care and treatment options for endometriosis and pelvic pain. Each year of funding provided is to continue to expand and build on investment in resources and initiatives, undertaken as part of the program, and/or to implement new activities. GP clinics can utilise funding to provide enhanced services for the treatment and management of endometriosis and pelvic pain, based on the needs of the community, including but not limited to:

- recruitment of specialised staff, including nurse practitioner and allied health professionals;
- capital costs such as fit-out costs for pelvic physiotherapy areas;
- associated equipment; and
- resources, training and development.

Description of Activity

Provide support and assistance for the establishment of expanded service offerings and options for women with pelvic pain and endometriosis. GP clinic objectives include:

- improved access for patients to diagnostic, treatment and referral services for endometriosis and pelvic pain
- provision of access to new information, support resources, care pathways and networks
- provision of an appropriately trained workforce with expertise in endometriosis and pelvic pain
- directly benefiting patients from rural and regional areas
- providing enhanced support to priority populations
- increased access to support services, either through a nurse navigator or referral pathway.

Planning and co-design to achieve clinic objectives will include sessions with clinicians, consumers and harder to reach patient groups.

A focus will be on women attending the Coffs Harbour Women's Health Centre (CHWHC) where language/engagement/cultural barriers exist. Service enhancement to conduct a pre-initial appointment with a Women's Health Nurse is arranged, with GP appointments incorporating a full assessment, including referral for ultrasound and pathology, provision of medical treatment and supportive follow up care.

Peer led support groups and networks are planned for development and implementation.

Needs Assessment Priority

NCPHN Needs Assessment 2021-2024

Needs Assessment Priority	
Reduce the rate of potentially preventable hospitalisations	
Improve access to primary care services (GPs)	

Target Population Cohort

Women with endometriosis and pelvic pain. The focus of the program will identify harder to reach cohorts of women, including women from CALD backgrounds, Aboriginal women, and persons who may not identify as women.

Indigenous Specific	No
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Coverage

Whole Region

Consultation

The Department of Health sought nominations from PHNs for existing GP practices in their catchment specialising in women's health to meet selection criteria relating to capability, core service provision, education and training needs to be able to provide specialised GP services to manage women with endometriosis and pelvic pain. A broad expression of interest was circulated with 3 regional finalists from the PHN submitted to a national selection panel for assessment and determination of 20 national clinics to be supported to establish this service.

Collaboration

Collaboration and Engagement between the selected GP clinic and the PHN is required to:

- assist in development of areas of focus for implementation

- support ongoing reporting from the clinics to the Department and future planning activities
- support local communications and cross promotional activities
- raise awareness in harder to reach groups

Activity Milestone Details/Duration

Activity Start Date	23/03/2023
Activity End Date	26/03/2027
Service Delivery Start Date	01/08/2023
Service Delivery End Date	26/03/2027
Other Relevant Milestones	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pre-planning and initial engagement- April 2023 • Execution of contract agreement – June 2023 • Focus group completion, consumer co-design and baseline program data establishment - December 2023 • Implementation of Phase 1 service model enhancements - January 2024

Procurement approach

Expression of Interest (EOI)

Is this activity being co-designed?	Yes
Is this activity the result of a previous co-design process?	No
Do you plan to implement this Activity using co-commissioning or joint-commissioning arrangements?	No
Has this activity previously been co-commissioned or joint-commissioned?	No
Decommissioning	No

PP&TP-EPP-Ad - 2 - Endometriosis and Pelvic Pain GP Clinics - Admin

Program Key Priority Area

Access to specialised Primary Care Services – GP Clinics

Aim of Activity

The aim of this activity is to support and assist in the establishment of an Endometriosis and Pelvic Pain GP Clinic (GP clinics) in a selected primary care setting.

Description of Activity

PHN administrative assistance and support is required to establish the Endometriosis and Pelvic Pain GP Clinic (GP clinics) in selected primary care settings:

- assist in development of areas of focus for implementation
- support ongoing reporting from the clinics to the Department and future planning activities
- support local communications and cross promotional activities
- raise awareness in harder to reach groups
- assist in baseline data collection

Needs Assessment Priority

NCPHN Needs Assessment 2021-2024

Needs Assessment Priority	
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Improve access to primary care services (GPs)

Target Population Cohort

The PHN will provide support as above to the selected GP practice to assist in the establishment of expanded service offerings and options for women with pelvic pain and endometriosis

Indigenous Specific	No
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Coverage

Whole Region

Consultation

The Department of Health sought nominations from PHNs for existing GP practices in their catchment specialising in women's health to meet selection criteria relating to capability, core service provision, education and training needs to be able to provide specialised GP services to manage women with endometriosis and pelvic pain. A broad expression of interest was circulated with 3 regional finalists from the PHN submitted to a national selection panel for assessment and determination of 20 national clinics to be supported to establish this service.

Collaboration

Collaboration and Engagement between the selected GP clinic and the PHN is required to:

- assist in development of areas of focus for implementation
- support ongoing reporting from the clinics to the Department and future planning activities
- support local communications and cross promotional activities
- raise awareness in harder to reach groups

Activity Milestone Details/Duration

Activity Start Date	23/03/2023
Activity End Date	26/03/2027
Service Delivery Start Date	26/03/2023
Service Delivery End Date	26/03/2027

Procurement approach

Expression of Interest (EOI)

Is this activity being co-designed?	No
Is this activity the result of a previous co-design process?	No
Do you plan to implement this Activity using co-commissioning or joint-commissioning arrangements?	No
Has this activity previously been co-commissioned or joint-commissioned?	No
Decommissioning	No

PP&TP-GCPC - 1 - Greater Choice for At Home Palliative Care

Program Key Priority Area

Aged Care

Aim of Activity

To improve palliative care coordination and integration to support people who have a life limiting condition, by improving choice and quality of care and support in the home.

Description of Activity

Employ a Senior Manager in palliative and end-of-life care, project coordinators (2 FTE shared with other ageing leads) to and a senior project officer to develop and implement new and innovative projects in end-of-life planning and palliative care.

Undertake a needs analysis of end-of-life care needs and service gaps across the region. The needs analysis will inform the planning and development of activities to facilitate and coordinate improved access to palliative care services at home, with implementation commencing 2022-23 to 2024-25.

Initiatives will focus on:

- mapping palliative care and end of life care services, including community services and social supports
- working collaboratively with consumers, service providers and palliative care experts to prioritise areas of action and co-design initiatives
- reviewing and updating palliative care HealthPathways
- undertaking quality improvement building activities in primary care and aged care
- delivering education and training to primary care and aged care clinicians and staff
- undertaking community awareness and health literacy initiatives
- undertaking evaluation activities to review measures of success
- Other activities as required. All measures will be designed and implemented in line with HNC's Healthy Living and Ageing Strategy and evaluated using qualitative and quantitative indicators during the design phase.

Needs Assessment Priority

NCPHN Needs Assessment 2021-2024

Needs Assessment Priority

Improve access to end-of-life services and prevention of avoidable ED attendances

Target Population Cohort

People with life limiting illnesses, and their carers.

Indigenous Specific	No
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Coverage

Whole Region

Consultation

Consumers, Palliative Care Services – LHD and private, Palliative Care state and national peak bodies, Palliative Care friends groups, RACF, community aged care providers, community groups, RSLs, general practitioners, practice nurses, allied health professionals, Aboriginal health workers, general practices, Aboriginal Medical Services, MNC and NSW LHDs, NSW Department of Communities and Justice, Booroogen Djugun, local government, Clinical Councils.

Collaboration

Consumers, RACFs, community aged care providers, aged care peak bodies, community groups, RSLs, general practitioners, practice nurses, allied health professionals, Aboriginal health workers, general practices, Aboriginal Medical Services, MNC and NSW LHDs, NSW Department of Communities and Justice, Booroogen Djugun, local government, Clinical Councils.

Activity Milestone Details/Duration

Activity Start Date	05/11/2021
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Activity End Date	30/06/2025
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Service Delivery Start Date	01/02/2022
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Service Delivery End Date	30/06/2025
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Procurement approach

Not Yet Known.

Is this activity being co-designed?	Yes
Is this activity the result of a previous co-design process?	Yes
Do you plan to implement this Activity using co-commissioning or joint-commissioning arrangements?	No
Has this activity previously been co-commissioned or joint-commissioned?	No
Decommissioning	No

Co-design or co-commissioning comments

HNC undertook comprehensive consultation in 2021 to develop the North Coast Healthy Living and Ageing Strategy systems dynamic modelling and social research. Consumers, carers, local service providers and peak bodies were consulted as part of this process and end of life care planning and palliative care was considered. Further consultation and co-design of prioritised interventions will be undertaken in 2022 to inform Greater Choices initiatives.

HNC undertook further consultation and co-design activities in 2022 – 2023 to inform the HNC palliative and end-of-life care needs analysis. Consultation and co-design activities were conducted with consumers, carers, local service providers and peak bodies and included two face to face palliative and end-of- life care journey workshops, an online survey and key stakeholder interviews. Working collaboratively with consumers, service providers and palliative care experts, identifying areas of action for prioritisation and co-design of initiatives has commenced.