

# EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

## CESPHN GP+ Program

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| EOI release date                        | 19 February 2025 |
| Deadline for EOI application submission | 19 March 2025    |

## 1. Overview

Central and Eastern Sydney Primary Health Network (CESPHN) welcomes small and solo general practices in the St George Region to submit an Expression of Interest (EOI) to participate in the GP+ program.

GP+ is a new program which offers an innovative approach to multidisciplinary team-based care in the primary care setting. The program is funded by the Department of Health and Aged Care and aims to support smaller general practices connect with local allied health clinicians, improve health outcomes, enhance patient experiences and reduce avoidable hospitalisations. The program targets patients with chronic diseases and supports vulnerable populations who are unable to afford private allied health fee paying or co-payment services.

CESPHN will deliver the GP+ Program through the commissioning of providers that will provide the following allied health services within participating general practices:

- A non-dispensing consultant pharmacist to support the management of chronic diseases and complex health conditions, through medication management, medication reviews and quality improvement activities.
- A social worker to support patients with chronic diseases to access psychosocial support and assist with navigation of health and social systems when required (e.g. MyMedicare, Centrelink, My Aged Care)

General practices participating in the GP+ Program will host the pharmacist and social worker onsite at their general practice. The pharmacist and social worker will be a shared resource across participating general practices in the St George region. The work of each allied health clinician within the practice will be on a part time basis (approximately 1-2 days per week). General practices are encouraged to host both the pharmacist and social worker at their practice, however preference for one service can be accommodated.

Potential benefits for general practices that participate in the GP+ program include improved access to allied health for their patients, as well as support for patients to manage their chronic health condition and to navigate support systems (e.g. My Aged Care, social services). GP+ offers solo and small general practices an opportunity to collaborate with a multidisciplinary team in-person and onsite.

Financial support to the value of \$5000 (excluding GST) will be offered to general practices to participate in the program. An initial payment of \$1000 will be paid upon execution of the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA attached), followed by two annual instalments of \$2000 until completion of the program in June 2027.

## 2. Information about Central and Eastern Sydney PHN

### What are primary health networks?

Primary health networks (PHNs) have been established with the key objectives of increasing the efficiency and effectiveness of medical services for individuals, particularly those at risk of poor health outcomes. They also aim to improve coordination of care to ensure people receive the right care in the right place at the right time. PHNs are not for profit, regionally based organisations which aim to strengthen primary care by redirecting frontline health services to improve health outcomes of the community.

## Our vision

Our vision is to achieve healthy and thriving communities and we do this by enabling high quality accessible health care. Our goals are to address community health and wellbeing needs, facilitate connected and quality care and partner to address regional challenges.

## Our region, our community

The Central and Eastern Sydney catchment spans 587 square kilometres. Our region stretches from Strathfield to Sutherland, as far east as Bondi, and includes Lord Howe Island. We are the second largest of the 31 primary health networks across Australia by population, with over 1.5 million individuals residing in our region.

Our catchment population is characterised by cultural diversity, with an estimated 16,225 (1.05 per cent of total population) identifying as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander and forty percent of our community born outside Australia, and high population growth. Our boundaries align with those of South Eastern Sydney Local Health District and Sydney Local Health District. Refer to this template list of postcodes within the CESP HN catchment area.

For more information about our region visit the 'About CESP HN' page on our website at <https://www.cesphn.org.au/>

## 3. Eligibility criteria for general practices

To be eligible to participate in the GP+ Program, the general practice must be a solo or smaller practice (2-4 GPs) located within the St George region. Practices require a data extraction tool (POLAR or PEN CS) to collect data relating to the project. Practices that do not have a data extraction tool installed will be assisted by CESP HN.

The eligibility criteria for GP+ are as follows:

- General practice located within the St George Region
- Solo or smaller (2-4 GPs) general practice
- Available consulting room for up to two days a week (days can be negotiated)
- Processes to ensure confidential information sharing, allowing social worker and pharmacist to conduct comprehensive assessments for patients
- POLAR or PEN CS extraction tool, or willingness to install (through CESP HN)
- Onboarding of pharmacist and social worker with practice policies, processes and procedures
- Capacity to collect data and meet reporting requirements
- Willingness to collaborate with social worker and pharmacist prior to commencement of the service to determine scope of practice and establish systems required for successful implementation of the program.
- Capacity to establish and implement methods of communication, referral pathways and workflow plans
- Capacity to meet the program objectives and outcomes through the referral of eligible patients to the social worker and pharmacist
- Nominate lead GP (GP champion) at general practice prior to commencement of service to guide the practice in program participation.

## 4. Reporting requirements

The general practice will be required to submit reports to CESPHN and have appropriate procedures and processes in place for data collection to meet reporting obligations. This includes reporting against agreed milestones and outcomes.

Data collection specifications are clearly defined in the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) and include:

- Number of patients referred to social worker
- Number of patients referred to pharmacist
- Number of patients who are on a waiting list for the service, if applicable
- Number of multidisciplinary team discussions and format
- Barriers, enablers, risks and benefits of participating in the GP+ Program

## 5. Contract Term

Participating practices will enter into a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with CESPHN. The term of the contract is March 2025 to 30 June 2027.

Attached to this EOI is a Memorandum of Agreement which will form a legally binding agreement on signing by the parties. The general practice must retain all insurances outlined in the agreement.

## 6. Funding

A total sum of \$5000 (excluding GST) will be provided as financial support for participating in the program and completing reporting requirements.

An initial payment of \$1000 will be paid upon execution of the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA), followed by two annual instalments of \$2000 until June 2027 to deliver the GP+ program.

## 7. Submitting your application

Please read this EOI guidance and the memorandum of agreement prior to applying to participate in the GP+ Program. Applications can be submitted through the CESPHN online application form which can be accessed [here](#).

Application will close **19 March 2025**.

## 8. Contact us

All questions related to this EOI are to be directed to [alliedhealth@cesphn.com.au](mailto:alliedhealth@cesphn.com.au).