

## EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

### Primary Care Innovation Grants – Allied Health

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## 1. Overview

Australia's healthcare system is facing significant challenges due to an aging population, increasing healthcare demands, and evolving healthcare needs. Primary care is rapidly changing, highlighting the need for innovative solutions tailored to community-specific needs.

Recognising the importance of innovation in enhancing health outcomes, Central and Eastern Sydney Primary Health Network (CESPHN) invites Allied Health Practices to apply for the **Primary Care Innovation Grants – Allied Health (AH)** up to the value of \$10,000 each, depending on the application and project/s submitted. Funding will be awarded to up to five Allied Health Practices – additional practices may be considered subject to available funding.

All AH are invited to apply - we particularly seek applications from Physiotherapy/Exercise Physiotherapists, Psychology, Occupational Therapists, Speech Pathology and Podiatry

The aim of the grant is to support Allied Health Practices in developing innovative approaches and solutions that better support efficiency, effectiveness and co-ordination of locally based primary health care services.

Funding will be allocated to selected Allied Health Practices who can demonstrate an innovative service, approach, model, process or product that aligns with one or more of the following focus areas:

- Focus on systems integration that incorporates digital health initiatives i.e. My Health Record (MHR), Provider Connect Australia (PCA), clinical information systems, electronic prescriptions etc.
- Adoption of technologies that supports greater patient involvement in care options.
- Supports communications with other primary and community care health professionals.
- Systems that support business improvements and access to care for patients (including those from vulnerable populations).

## 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

The eligibility criteria for the participating allied health practices will be from the following professions: Physiotherapy/Exercise Physiotherapists, Psychology, Occupational Therapists, Speech Pathology and Podiatry.

And service provider must meet these criteria,

- Participating allied health practices must be located within the CESP HN region.
- The practice principal is a member of their relevant peak body.
- Allied Health practice must have an active Australian Business Number (ABN) or Australian Company Number (ACN).
- Allied Health practice must have and maintain adequate insurance coverage.

Prioritisation will be given to those allied health practices that can complete the program by end of the 2025 calendar year.

## 4. Program activities

To successfully complete the Primary Care Innovation Grants – Allied Health Program, selected allied health practices must demonstrate an innovative service, approach, model, process or product that aligns with one or more of the following focus areas:

- Focus on systems integration that incorporates digital health initiatives i.e. My Health Record (MHR), Provider Connect Australia (PCA), clinical information systems, electronic prescriptions etc.
- Adoption of technologies that supports greater patient involvement in care options.
- Supports communications with other primary and community care health professionals.
- Systems that support business improvements and access to care for patients (including those from vulnerable populations).

### 4.1 Reporting

Allied Health practices will be required to submit a report at the end of the activity on:

- Project summary – a brief description of the project, its goals and objectives.
- Innovation description – explanation of the innovation, including unique features and benefits.
- Development process – outline the development process, methodologies used, and any challenges faced.
- Team and roles – information about the team, their roles and contributions.
- Risk Management – identification of risks and strategies implemented to mitigate them.
- Outcomes and impact – identify key achievements, including any measurable impact or success metrics.
- Future plans – next steps, any future goals and any planned improvements post this project experience.

## 4.2 Evaluation

All key staff involved in the project will be required to complete an online evaluation survey on completion of the program. The evaluation will seek feedback on the program and ask participants to reflect on their learnings and experience.

## 5. Contract term

Participating allied health practices will enter into a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with CESP HN. The term of the contract is twelve (12) months from the date of the MOA execution.

The MOA will form a legally binding agreement on signing by the parties. The allied health practice must retain all insurances outlined in the agreement.

## 6. Funding

A total sum of up to \$10,000 (excluding GST) will be provided as financial support for undertaking the program activities. Entities with more than one allied health practice within the CESP HN region may submit an application for each eligible practice. A Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) will be signed for each allied health practice.

Funding will be distributed in two payments with the first payment made upon executed Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) and commencement of the program. The second payment will be issued upon program completion.

## 7. Submitting your application

Please read this EOI guidance and the Memorandum of Agreement prior to applying to participate in the Primary Care Innovation Grants – Allied Health Practice. Applications can be submitted through the CESP HN online application form using the CESP HN online application form.

**Applications will close 9 May 2025.**

## 8. Contact us

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