

## EXPRESSION OF INTEREST Primary Care Innovation Grants 2026 – 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. Innovation is key to enabling primary care providers to develop new approaches to meet community-specific needs.

In recognition of 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 2026 – Allied Health** 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 maybe considered subject to available funding.

CESPHN is particularly seeking applications from the following allied health disciplines: Physiotherapy/Exercise Physiotherapists, Psychology, Occupational Therapists, Speech Pathology, Dietetics and Podiatry.

The grant aims to support allied health practices in developing innovative approaches and solutions that improve 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:

- Systems integration that incorporates digital health initiatives i.e. My Health Record (MHR), Provider Connect Australia (PCA), clinical information systems, electronic prescriptions etc.
- Supports communication with other primary and community care health professionals.
- Systems that support business improvements and access to care for patients

## 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 here: [CESPHN Catchment Area By Postcode](#).

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, Dietetics and Podiatry.

The allied health practice must meet these criteria:

- Be located within the CESP HN region.
- The practice principal is a member of their relevant peak body.
- Have an active Australian Business Number (ABN) or Australian Company Number (ACN).
- Have and maintain adequate insurance coverage.

Priority will be given to allied health practices that have not had been awarded an innovation grant previously from CESP HN.

## 4. Program details

### 4.1 Program activities

To successfully complete the Primary Care Innovation Grants 2026 – 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:

#### a. **Systems integration that incorporates digital health initiatives**

The proposed project should streamline communication, reduce duplication, and support more coordinated, efficient care. Adoption of technologies that supports greater patient involvement in care options is an advantage. For example - My Health Record, Provider Connect Australia, electronic prescriptions, and interoperable clinical information systems.

**b. Support communication with other primary and community care health professionals.**

The proposed project should enhance communication with other primary and community care health professionals by strengthening shared information pathways and improving coordination across local services. By streamlining communication processes and enabling more consistent information flow, the project supports more connected, collaborative care for patients.

**c. Systems that support business improvements and access to care for patients**

The proposed project should strengthen systems that improve business operations while expanding access to care for patients, including those from vulnerable populations.

## 4.2 Reporting

Allied health practices will be required to submit a short progress report at 2 months since the implementation of the project via an online form that outlines the following:

- Progress against timeline - Is the contracted activity being delivered in accordance with the agreed timeframes outlined in the contract?
- Risks and issues management - Have any unforeseen challenges, risks, or constraints arisen that may impact delivery of the contracted activity? If yes, please describe the nature of these risks and the mitigation strategies currently in place.
- Stakeholder satisfaction - Are key internal and external stakeholders satisfied with the progress, quality, and direction of the contracted activity to date?
- Support requirements - Does the practice require any additional support, from CESP HN at this time, to ensure successful delivery of the contracted activities? If so, please reach out to CESP HN at [practicesupport@cesphn.com.au](mailto:practicesupport@cesphn.com.au) and let us know what support is needed.

An additional final report is required to be submitted via an online form at the end of the activity that outlines the following:

- 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.
- Exceptional reporting declaration – a declaration must be signed to declare that all grant funds have been expended strictly in accordance with the terms, conditions, and approved purposes set out in the grant Memorandum of Agreement (MOA). All expenditure has been accurately recorded, is fully auditable, and complies with the financial, operational, and reporting obligations required under the agreement.

## 4.3 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 CESPHN. The term of the contract is twelve (12) months from the date of the MOA execution.

Please read the draft MOA and familiarise with the terms of conditions.

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 CESPHN 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 of \$8,000 made upon executing the 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 2026 - Allied Health program. Applications are to be submitted through the CESPHN online application form:

- [Expression of Interest Application: Primary Care Innovation Grants 2026 - Allied Health.](#)
- [DRAFT Memorandum of Agreement \(MOA\) – Primary Care Innovation Grants 2026 – Allied Health](#)

**Applications will close 29 April 2026.**

## 8. Contact us

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