

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST General Practice Accreditation Grants

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Overview

General practice accreditation plays a critical role in strengthening the quality, safety, and consistency of primary care services across Australia. Accreditation provides practices with an independent assessment against the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (RACGP) Standards for General Practices, ensuring that systems, clinical governance, and patient care processes meet nationally recognised benchmarks. Despite its benefits, many practices particularly small, newly established, or resource constrained clinics face practical and financial barriers to undertaking the accreditation process.

CESPHN recognises the importance of general practice accreditation in the health care system but also understands the barriers for some practices in achieving accreditation. This grant aims to support current non-accredited general practices that are not currently registered with an approved accreditation agency located within the Central and Eastern Sydney PHN (CESPHN) region to initiate and progress towards achieving accreditation. Funding may support areas such as accreditation fees, clinical governance improvements, staff training, policy development, implementation of quality improvement systems, and preparation for accreditation assessments.

By encouraging and enabling more practices to participate in accreditation, the initiative seeks to:

- Strengthen the quality and safety of primary healthcare delivery
- Improve patient outcomes through consistent, evidence-based care
- Support workforce capability and confidence in quality systems
- Reduce inequity by helping under-resourced practices meet accreditation requirements
- Promote continuous quality improvement across the general practice sector

This Expression of Interest (EOI) invites general practices that are committed to improving care quality and enhancing organisational systems to apply for grant support. Practices applying for this grant are not currently accredited or registered to be accredited against the RACGP 5th edition Accreditation Standards, but must be able to demonstrate organisational readiness, a strong commitment to quality improvement, and a structured plan for moving through the accreditation process. The grant will assist practices to overcome resource barriers and build sustainable quality systems that align with national standards.

Purpose and benefits of becoming an Accredited General Practice:

The Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (RACGP) has developed the Standards for general practices (5th edition) (the Standards) with the purpose of protecting patients from harm by improving the quality and safety of health services. The Standards also support general practices in identifying and addressing any gaps in their systems and processes.

Practice Incentive Program (PIP):

The [Practice Incentive Program](#) (PIP) provides funding to general practices to support the delivery of continuous quality care, enhance capacity and improve access to healthcare and patient outcomes. The PIP is administered by Services Australia on behalf of the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing.

The PIP consists of nine individual incentives, under three payment streams: Quality, Capacity and Rural support streams. Incentives include payments for quality improvement (PIPQI),

teaching, eHealth, general practice aged care access, after hours care, rural loading, procedures and Indigenous health.

PIP QI Program: Once the practice is registered for accreditation with an approved agency, it becomes eligible to participate in the Practice Incentive Program – Quality Improvement (PIP QI). Registering for the PIP QI program is optional for general practices. As part of this program, the practice is required to share deidentified data with CESP HN. CESP HN provides free access to POLAR, a cloud based data extraction tool designed specifically for general practice and also offers support to practices in undertaking quality improvement activities.

Workforce Incentive Program (WIP):

The [Workforce Incentive Program](#) (WIP) is delivered by Services Australia on behalf of the Australian Department of Health, Disability and Ageing and provides targeted financial incentives with the aim to improving access to high-quality medical services including nursing and allied health services in regional, rural and remote areas. The financial incentives are designed to encourage GPs to work in these areas and to support general practices to employ nurses, allied health professionals and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Practitioners and Health Workers.

To receive these incentives, your practice must:

- become accredited against the RACGP's [Standards for general practices](#) (5th edition)
- satisfy certain eligibility criteria and requirements

1. 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/>.

2. Eligibility

The eligibility criteria include:

- Non-accredited general practices not currently registered for accreditation with an approved accreditation agency must be located within the [CESPHN region](#).
- Are a General Practice in accordance with the definition of a general practice by the [RACGP](#)
- The general practice (including GP Principal/s) support the practice to become accredited within the next 12months.
- The general practice has assigned staff to oversee the accreditation process.
- The general practice understands the basic steps and timeframes involved in accreditation.
- The general practice is not currently experiencing major disruption (e.g., relocation, ownership change, prolonged vacancies).
- The general practice does not intend to close and cease operations within the next three (3) years.
- The general practice will engage with CESPHN support opportunities throughout the accreditation process.
- Applicant general practitioner is a registered GP with AHPRA and must not have their registration cancelled or suspended, or subject to any prohibition on practicing the profession.
- General practice must have an active Australian Business Number (ABN) or Australian Company Number (ACN).
- General practice must have and maintain required insurance coverage according to the grant contract.

3. Program details

To successfully complete the General Practice Accreditation Grants program, selected general practices must complete the following:

- Register with an [approved accrediting agency under The National General Practice Accreditation \(NGPA\) Scheme](#).
- Engage your CESPHN Practice Support and Development Officer for support throughout the process.
- Once the practice is registered for accreditation with an approved agency, it becomes eligible to participate in the Practice Incentive Program – Quality Improvement (PIP QI). Registering for the PIP QI program is optional for general practice. If the practices registers to the program the practice is required to share deidentified data with CESPHN. CESPHN provides free access to POLAR, a cloud based data extraction tool designed specifically for general practice.
- Comply with any Accreditation Self-Assessment requirements, or equivalent obligations, as directed by the designated approved accrediting agency at the time specified by that Agency.
- Complete the final onsite accreditation assessment coordinated with the designated approved accrediting agency.

Complete and submit a final report including a declaration of on outcomes via an online form that will be provided by CESP HN.

4. Reporting

General Practices will be required to submit a final report (approximately 2 pages) at the end of the activity that outlays the following items:

- Project summary – a brief description of the grant project.
- Outline of the accreditation journey including a timeline and how the practice progressed through the process.
- 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.
- Exceptional Reporting Declaration: 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.

5. Contract term

Participating general 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.

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

The MOA 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 \$5,000 (excluding GST) will be provided as financial support for undertaking the program activities. Entities with more than one general practice within the CESP HN region may submit an application for each eligible practice. A Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) will be signed by each general practice.

Funding will be distributed in one payment of \$5,000 made upon executing an Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) and at the commencement of the program.

7. Submitting your application

Please read this EOI guidance and the Memorandum of Agreement prior to applying to participate in the General Practice Accreditation Grant. Applications can be submitted through the CESP HN online application form.

- [CESPHN online application form \(complete all fields in the form\)](#)
- [DRAFT Memorandum of Agreement \(MOA\)](#)

Applications will close 29 April 2026.

8. Contact us

All questions related to this EOI are to be directed to innovationgrants@cesphn.com.au