

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

CESPHN DFSV Assist Program

EOI release date	15 July 2026
Deadline for EOI application submission	14 August 2026

1. Overview

Central and Eastern Sydney Primary Health Network (CESPHN) welcomes general practices to submit an Expression of Interest (EOI) to participate in the DFSV Assist program.

DFSV Assist is funded by the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing as part of the [Improving Health System Responses to Family and Domestic Violence](#) initiative. The program aims to build the capacity of general practitioners, practice nurses and practice staff to recognise and respond to domestic, family and sexual violence (DFSV), including child sexual abuse, in order to improve patient experience and outcomes. The program offers in-practice training and ongoing access to DFSV Navigators who provide advice and referral support.

This program will be offered to a select number of general practices in the CESPHN region. Financial support to the value of \$1500 (excluding GST) plus \$150 per GP per training session will be offered to practices who successfully complete the program. The first payment of \$750 will be paid upon execution of the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA). The second payment for GP attendance will occur following the completion of the three training sessions. A third payment of \$750 will be paid upon completion of all activities.

To successfully complete the DFSV Assist Program, participating practices must:

- Attend three training sessions
- Complete one Quality Improvement Activity
- Attend a follow-up session with the Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence Navigators
- Ensure all participating staff complete pre- and post- program evaluation surveys

The timeframe for completing the training and activities to meet program objectives is twelve months from the date of Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) execution. Attached is a draft MOA, please read and familiarise with the agreement. The participating practice and CESPHN will enter into the MOA after acceptance into the program.

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 [list](#) of postcodes within the CESPHN catchment area.

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

3. Eligibility criteria for general practices

To be eligible to participate in the DFSV Assist Program, general practices must:

- Be located within the CESPHN region
- Use the POLAR extraction tool, or be willing to install (with support from CESPHN)
- Have the capacity to collect data
- Nominate a lead at the practice prior to commencement of service to guide the practice in program participation.
- Be willing to complete all required activities outlined below

Priority will be given to practices that have not previously attended DFSV Assist training, although those that have participated before may also be considered.

4. Program activities

To successfully complete the DFSV Assist Program, participating practices must complete three training sessions, one Quality Improvement Activity, a follow-up session with the DFSV Navigators and all evaluation requirements. Details of each activity are provided below.

4.1 Training

Practice staff must attend the following three training sessions:

- *Responding to Domestic and Family Violence (DFV) in Primary Care*
 - CPD hours: 1.5
 - Delivered by CESPHN DFV Educator and Sydney Local Health District DFV Navigator
- *Responding to Sexual Violence (SV) in Primary Care*
 - CPD hours: 1
 - Delivered by GP Educator and Sydney Local Health District SV/CSA Navigator
- *Responding to Child Sexual Abuse (CSA) in Primary Care*
 - CPD hours: 1
 - Delivered by GP Educator and Sydney Local Health District SV/CSA Navigator

Training sessions will be delivered face-to-face at the general practice location at a time suitable to the practice, including during or after hours. Online training may be available on a case-by-case basis. It is expected that a majority of practice staff and GPs attend the training to successfully complete the program.

Participants can self-report Continuing Professional Development (CPD) hours for these activities through relevant bodies like the RACGP.

4.2 Quality Improvement Activity

Practice must complete one Quality Improvement Activity (QIA) which includes:

1. A baseline data extraction from POLAR of DFSV-related diagnoses and additional data extractions at 6 months and 12 months
2. Training for clinical staff on accurate recording of DFSV-related diagnoses

CESPHN will provide a template and one-on-one support to complete the QIA. Practices must use the data extraction tool POLAR to complete QIA.

Participants can self-report Continuing Professional Development (CPD) hours for these activities through relevant bodies like the RACGP.

4.3 DFSV Navigator visit

Upon completion of all three training sessions and the Quality Improvement Activity, the practice must facilitate a visit from the DFSV Navigators. The visit may involve case studies, a discussion on applying knowledge gained from the training, and/or practice policies and procedures.

4.4 Evaluation

Participating practice staff must complete a baseline survey prior to beginning the first training session and a follow-up survey upon completion of the entire program. The surveys will be anonymous.

The surveys are part of a national evaluation conducted by the Sax Institute. The surveys seek feedback on the program and ask participants to reflect on the application of their learnings.

Both surveys are only available online.

5. Contract Term

Participating practices will enter into a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with CESPHN. The term of the contract will be from the signing of the MOA to the final payment following the successful completion of the required activities, approximately twelve months.

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

Practices who successfully complete the program will receive \$1500 (excluding GST) plus \$150 per GP per training session attended. The first payment of \$750 will be paid upon execution of the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA). The second payment will occur following the completion of the three training sessions. A third payment of \$750 will be paid upon completion of all activities.

7. Submitting your application

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Please read this EOI guidance and the Memorandum of Agreement prior to applying to participate in the DFSV Assist Program. Applications can be submitted through the CESPHE online application form which can be accessed here [add link to form].

Application will close **14 August 2026**.

8. Contact us

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