



Media Release

Country WA PHN committed to delivery of after-hours care

29 June 2016

Country WA PHN is committed to working with general practices in regional WA in the delivery of after-hours care.

In July 2015, changes to the administration of Practice Incentive Payments (PIP) meant general practice received PIP payments directly from the Commonwealth Government.

Country WA PHN general manager Linda Richardson said following changes to the administration of PIP, the PHN had been consulting with GPs, other primary health care providers and WA Country Health Services (WACHS) to determine the after hour care needs across regional WA.

Ms Richardson said the establishment of the After Hours Readycare Telehealth Service, in partnership with WACHS, has been one initiative developed in consultation with GPs and service providers.

“PHNs have been established with the key objectives of increasing the efficiency and effectiveness of primary health services for patients, particularly those at risk of poor health outcomes, and improving coordination of care to ensure patients receive the right care in the right place at the right time,” she said.

“As stipulated by the Commonwealth Government, the after-hours funding objective for PHNs is to support and build workforce capacity to provide more holistic after hours care for their community.

“Country WA PHN cannot use these funds outside of the program guidelines, which means we cannot duplicate or replicate services covered under PIP funding.”

Ms Richardson said the PHN recognised that some GP after hour practices would find it difficult to operate with just the PIP funding.

“We have engaged with GPs in the regions on this topic and it has been identified as an important topic,” Ms Richardson said.

“We are committed to working with GPs and the Commonwealth, who administer PIP, to support after hour practices who operate solely under PIP funding.”



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Ms Richardson said consultation was continuing across regional WA regarding the delivery of after-hours care.

In the Midwest, Country WA PHN released an Expression of Interest in May for non-PIP eligible after-hour services to meet areas of identified need including;

- after-hour GP services to aged care facilities
- after-hour GP services to disadvantaged/at risk groups

GPs who would like more information about after hours funding can contact After Hours Program Coordinator Krystyna Cieslawski via Krystyna.Cieslawski@wapha.org.au

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For more information:

Brian Oliver

Senior Corporate Communications Adviser

WA Primary Health Alliance

Tel: 08 6272 4913

Email: brian.oliver@wapha.org.au