



Perth North PHN Activity Work Plan

PHN Pilots and Targeted Programs

**Summary View
2022/2023 – 2025/2026**

**Presented to the Australian Government Department of Health
and Aged Care**



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PP&TP-GCPC 1000 - Greater Choice for At Home Palliative Care Project

Activity Title

Greater Choice for At Home Palliative Care Project

Activity Number

1000

Activity Status

Modified

PHN Program Key Priority Area

Aged Care

Aim of Activity

Improved awareness of local palliative care options and improved coordination of care and linkages across the sectors – health, aged care, primary care, palliative care – to support improved access to services at the end of life.

Description of Activity

The Greater Choice for At Home Palliative Care Program will recruit up to two Full Time Equivalent (FTE) staff members from 2022-23 to 2024-25.

The focus of the activity will be to:

- Increase general practitioner (GP) awareness of and linkage to existing palliative, community, and aged care services.
- Build capability of GPs to care for people requiring palliative care in the community, drawing on the available programs under the National Palliative Care Projects to avoid duplication and ensure a consistent and collaborative approach to building workforce capacity.
- Implement learning needs analysis (mapping) to identify areas of strength and areas for development in end-of-life care and palliative care and prioritise activity locations.
- Collaborate and work with key stakeholders, including state governments, local health networks, local governments to ensure that the activities link with / leverage existing services.
- Identify existing jurisdictional and national workforce education programs that

will address learning needs.

- Develop, in consultation with relevant stakeholders, communication processes across service providers, including how to access palliative care support and advice after-hours.
- Implement a palliative care related continuous quality improvement program for general practices.
- Participate in related Greater Choice initiative networks and workshops.

During 2022-23 to 2024-25, the project will focus on:

- Implementation of the Palliative Care Plan of activities identified when undertaking the 2021-22 needs assessment.
- Monitoring and evaluation of the Palliative Care Plan including collaboration and participation in the national evaluation which will be conducted by PwC on behalf of the Department of Health and Aged Care.
- Qualitative and quantitative data collection, outcome measurement and review, to inform quality improvement.
- Reporting Project outcomes.

Perth North PHN Needs Assessment

Priorities

Page reference

There is a need to increase access to at home palliative care services.	41
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Target Population Cohort

Primary care workforce - general practitioners, general practice staff and Aboriginal Health Service staff.

People living with (advanced) chronic disease whose needs may be better met by a palliative approach to care.

GPs, in their role as “generalist” palliative care providers.

Consultation

The PHN consulted with and continues to engage with a range of stakeholders in the planning and delivery of the Greater Choices for At Home palliative Care Program, including:

- GP Advisory Panel
- Community specialist Palliative Care Service Provider
- Palliative Care WA

- Home Care Package Providers
- WA Health End of Life and Palliative Care Advisory Committee
- Palliative and Supportive Care WA
- Palliative Care Outcome Collaborative
- Murrumbidgee PHN
- Palliative Care Australia
- CareSearch

Collaboration

Collaboration is ongoing with:

- Palliative and Supportive Care Education WA
- Program of Experience in the Palliative Approach
- Palliative and Supportive Care Education WA

Coverage

Perth North PHN

Activity Duration

Activity Start Date

1 March 2018

Activity End Date

30 October 2025

Activity Planned Expenditure

Funding Stream	FY 22 23	FY 23 24	FY 24 25
Greater Choice for At Home Palliative Care	\$421,882.49	\$300,000.00	\$300,000.00

PP&TP-GP 2000 - PHN Strengthening Medicare General Practice Grants Program

Activity Title

PHN Strengthening Medicare General Practice Grants Program

Activity Number

2000

Activity Status

New activity

PHN Program Key Priority Area

Population Health

Aim of Activity

To support general practice to make improvement to their practices, to expand patient access and support safe, and accessible, quality primary care.

This will be achieved through investment by the Australian Government Department of Health and Aged Care to eligible general practices and Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Services to invest in innovation, training, equipment and minor capital works, to improve patient access.

The investment is known as the Strengthening Medicare-General Practice Grants Program, with intended outcomes:

- Increase take-up of contemporary digital health solutions including video telehealth, secure data storage and interoperable software that supports seamless, secure communication of patient data.
- Increase the proportion of COVID Positive and other respiratory patients treated in a general practice setting (by increasing practices' capacity to treat more of these patients).
- Increase the number of accredited general practices.

Grants to general practices will be distributed by the Primary Health Network (PHN), who will establish, administer and manage the awarding of Strengthening Medicare Grants Program to accredited and non-accredited general practices.

Grants to eligible Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Services will be administered and managed through the National Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation (NACCHO).

Description of Activity

The Strengthening Medicare-General Practice Grants Program invites general practice to apply for one-off grants, based on practice size and accreditation status, to invest in innovation, training, equipment and minor capital works.

Grants of between \$25 and \$50K will be available to practices against one or more of these streams:

- Enhance Digital Health Capability – (IT hardware and software upgrades) to fast track the benefits of a more connected healthcare system in readiness to meet future standards.
- Upgrade Infection prevention/control arrangements – to ensure infectious respiratory disease (e.g., COVID, influenza) patients can be safely seen face to face, and/or
- Maintain and/or achieve Accreditation against the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners Standards for General Practice, under the General Practice Accreditation Scheme – to promote quality and safety in general practice.

Three tiers of funding for practices will be available through the grants program:

- Small practice tier (up to 6 FTE Medicare GPs) eligible for one-off grants - \$25,000.
- Medium practice tier (7 to less than 15 FTE Medicare GPs) eligible for one-off grants - \$35,000.
- Large practice tier (15+ FTE Medicare GPs) eligible for one-off grants - \$50,000.
- Unaccredited practices will only be eligible for one-off grants - \$25,000.

Individual practices will make the decision on what they will spend the grant monies (within the guidance provided).

The PHN will support the implementation of the Strengthening Medicare – General Practice Grants Program by:

- Opening of the grant opportunity to eligible general practices in the Country WA PHN.
- Promotion of the grant opportunity through existing channels of communication to general practices.
- Engaging a digital process for grant application and distribution of funds (using content from templates provided by the Department of Health and Aged Care) and leveraging the PHNs digital technology (SRM and ASPIRE).
- Managing enquiries and supporting general practice applicants using a range of

support content and tools throughout the application process.

- Recording and reporting on key monitoring metrics within the GP Grants Program in line with the Department of Health and Aged Care guidelines.
- Assisting the Department of Health and Aged Care in ad-hoc requests as required during the duration of the program.
- Advising and supporting the Department of Health and Aged Care on compliance against the program guidelines and provide support with information and insights.
- Obtaining end-of-program financial acquittals, financial declarations, and self-reported outcomes on the use of grant funding from general practice grant recipients and reporting to the Department of Health and Aged Care.
- Contributing to and supporting the Department of Health and Aged Care leading evaluation activities on conclusion of the GP Grant Program.

Perth North PHN Needs Assessment

Priorities

Page reference

Reduce non-urgent emergency department attendances and improve access to alternative services.	12
Improve coordinated and integrated care for people experiencing complex and severe mental health who can be managed in within primary care settings.	18
Increase childhood immunisation rates for regions not meeting national immunisation targets.	11
Support Aboriginal people to navigate the primary care system and access appropriate services.	34
Improve the management of chronic conditions for ageing populations and promote healthy ageing at home	41

Target Population Cohort

Royal Australian College of General Practitioners accredited and non-accredited general practices.

Indigenous Specific Comments

Eligible Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Services will be able to apply for the grants through the National Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation (NACCHO), who will administer and manage the program in relation to Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Services.

Consultation

The PHN will lead the local communication and engagement strategy targeted to practices and local GP peak bodies.

The PHN will also engage with Practice Principals and Practice Managers via Practice Assist and practice support teams to support the roll out of Grants.

Collaboration

The PHN will collaborate with the Department of Health and Aged Care, local GP peak bodies and general practices. Collaboration with GP Peak bodies to support the roll out of the grants to general practice.

Coverage

Country WA PHN region

Key Milestones

- Consultation process with RACF staff before May 2023.
- Prepare draft After Hours Plan for RACF by July 2023.
- Prepare draft of After Hours Plan for individual resident by July 2023.
- Preparation of education package for participating RACFs on after hours care options and processes for residents by December 2023.

Activity Duration

Activity Start Date

1 March 2023

Activity End Date

31 December 2024

Service Delivery Start Date

1 April 2023

Service Delivery End Date

30 June 2024

Activity Planned Expenditure

Funding Stream	FY 22 23	FY 23 24	FY 24 25
PHN Strengthening Medicare – General Practice Grants Program	\$7,005,995.68	\$692,573.95	\$0.00

PHN Strengthening Medicare – General Practice Grants Program - Admin	\$85,303.29	\$68,351.03	\$0.00
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