

Vaccination for Vulnerable Persons Grant for Primary Health Care Providers – Round 4

Grant Guidelines

Western Health Alliance Limited (WHAL)
trading as
Western NSW Primary Health Network (WNSW PHN)

September 2024

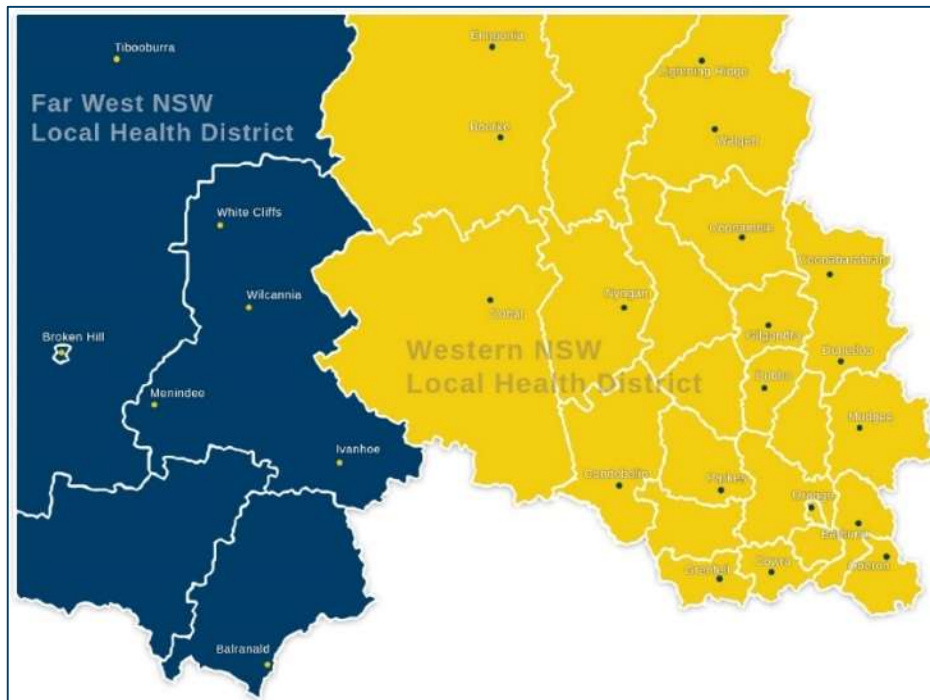
Grant Guidelines

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Background

Western NSW Primary Health Network (WNSW PHN) is one of 31 Primary Health Networks established to support frontline health services and increase the efficiency and effectiveness of primary health care. Our focus is patients who are at risk of poor health outcomes and working to improve the coordination of their care, so they receive the right care in the right place at the right time. We work closely with key stakeholders including general practice, other health care providers, Local Health Districts, hospitals, and the broader community to align services with the health needs of the region. WNSW PHN is a not-for-profit organisation primarily funded by the Australian Government. Our region covers both Far West and Western NSW Local Health Districts.



Our region covers a total area of 433,379 square kilometres. The total population is estimated to be over 309,900 people, with 18.5% over the age of 65 years (ABS, 2016). Approximately 10.5% of people in our region identify as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander.

Our Vision

Supporting, strengthening, and shaping a world class person-centred primary health care system in Western NSW.

Priority Areas

- Aboriginal Health
- Chronic and Complex Care
- Older Person Care
- Maternal and Child Health
- Mental Health and Substance Abuse
- Risk Factors/Prevention
- Workforce
- Access to Services
- Coordination, Integration, Collaboration

The WNSW PHN's Strategic Plan is the foundation for our vision, purpose, values, and goals.

Grant Overview

WNSW PHN is re-establishing a grants program that will not only address immediate support needs for providers (GPs/pharmacies), but also increase the vaccination rates for vulnerable populations.

The grant will support general practices and pharmacies to ensure continuity of COVID-19 and flu vaccinations for vulnerable groups and increase health literacy among vaccine hesitant patients.

Grant Funding

The total value for each grant is \$10,000 excl GST and will be paid as follows to successful applicants:

- \$ 5,000 excl GST on execution of grant.
- \$ 5,000 excl GST on meeting reporting requirements.

Eligibility

To be eligible for these grants the applicants must meet the below criteria:

1. Be a general practice, community health, public health unit or pharmacy located within the WNSW PHN Region (see map above under 'Background').
2. The applicant must be registered with the relevant governing bodies ie. AHPRA.
3. The applicant must be an authorised immunisation provider and comply with NSW Health Legislation.

4. The applicant must hold relevant insurances:
 - a. Public Liability Insurance (minimum coverage \$10 million)
 - b. Workers Compensation Insurance (if applicable)
 - c. Professional Indemnity Insurance (if applicable)
5. The applicant must not have applied for the Vaccination for Vulnerable Persons Grant for Primary Health Care Providers 2024 in July 2024.

Conditions of Funding

1. Only fully completed applications (inclusive of activity budget and signed declaration) within stated timelines (see 'Timeline of the Grant' will be considered).
2. The grant application is subject to review and approval by the WNSW PHN evaluation panel prior to confirmation of grant funding.
3. The applicant must confirm the contents of the application are to the best of their knowledge accurate, complete and do not contain any false, misleading, or deceptive misrepresentation, claims or statements.
4. The applicant must confirm that the organisation is financially viable and able to manage the funding within the timeframe and within budget.
5. If the applicant's completed budget indicates an amount less than the grant funding amount (see Grant Funding page 3), WNSW PHN, have the right to reduce the funding amount in line with the budgeted value.
6. The applicant agrees that the evaluation decision is final, and no correspondence will be entered into.
7. The applicant understands and accepts that information provided in the application will be stored by WNSW PHN in various formats, including hard copy and or electronic.
8. The applicant confirms that the application does not duplicate existing funding, service delivery or ongoing operational costs.
9. The applicant agrees to contact WNSW PHN should they become aware of any changes to information contained in the application.
10. The applicant understands that the application does not create a legal or binding commitment.
11. If the application is successful, the applicant acknowledges that:
 - a. The organisation will be asked to sign a Grant Agreement with the WNSW PHN;
 - b. The organisation will be asked to sign a statement stating they have used the funds in accordance with their application;
 - c. The organisation will provide reports to the WNSW PHN in accordance with their grant agreement; and

- d. The organisation agrees to maintain adequate insurance for the duration of this grant agreement and provide WNSW PHN with proof when requested.
12. The applicant understands if the conditions of the funding are not complied with:
 - a. The WNSW PHN will recover the funds allocated; and
 - b. The WNSW PHN may terminate the Grant Agreement with the applicant.
13. The applicant must have read the WHAL General Grant Conditions and ensure the conditions are followed.
14. The applicant must have read this Grant Guidelines document.
15. The practice is responsible for any costs incurred in excess of the approved funding provided.

Eligible Activities

This Grant offers general practice and pharmacy support for the unplanned additional costs incurred during COVID-19 and to identify vulnerable populations and non-Medicare eligible patients using data quality activities and undertaking work to improve vaccination status.

Examples of vulnerable groups include, but not limited to, the following:

- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples;
- Older people;
- People with chronic conditions;
- CALD communities;
- People who are homeless or at risk of homelessness;
- People with a disability; and,
- Children 5-11 years old with diagnosed complex health conditions.

This includes anyone from the groups outlined above who is not up to date with their COVID-19 and flu vaccinations and/or those who are not vaccinated at all.

Eligible costs and activities in scope for this Grant include:

- Improving health literacy in COVID-19 and flu vaccine hesitant populations (e.g. having conversations with patients identified as vaccine hesitant about the benefits of vaccination and, where possible, assist them to access the vaccine).
- Projected time to identify vulnerable population groups in your clinical software that are under vaccinated and recall to discuss vaccination.
- Connecting vulnerable populations to a COVID-19 and flu vaccine provider.
- Enhancing continuity of care during emergencies and natural disasters (e.g., continuing to service patients who are housebound).

- Deliver COVID-19 and flu vaccination pop-up clinics to vulnerable population groups (i.e., homeless, CALD groups etc).
- Training of additional or existing staff to meet the increased demand for COVID-19 and flu care and vaccination clinics.
- Setting up COVID-19 health systems (e.g., INCA, Clinical Contact Point, and telehealth video consultations).

Any health advice is only to be provided by registered AHPRA health practitioners.

What this grant cannot be used for

Costs covered by the Medicare Benefits Schedule or applications relating to infrastructure are out of scope for this grant and will not be successful.

Reporting Requirements

On the 30th of the month preceding execution of the grant agreement, each organisation must submit the provided data document to report:

- 20 conversations per month with people identified as part of a vulnerable group;
- A minimum of 10 conversations with people identified as CALD;
- The number of conversations per vulnerable group;
- The number of vaccines by type (Flu and/or COVID-19); and,
- A minimum of one good news story

Timeline of the Grant

An indicative timeline is outlined below. WNSW PHN reserves the right to change the proposed timeline.

Activity	Date
Applications open	Friday, 6 th September 2024
Closing date for applications	When funds have been exhausted
Evaluation of Grant Applications	As applications received
Grant awarded	Within 15 business days of applications received
Grant commences	On execution of grant agreement
Initial Payment	After execution of grant agreement
Activity End	Friday, 29 th November 2024
Final date for Submission of Reporting	Friday, 6 th December 2024
Final Payment (after submission of reporting)	Wednesday, 11 th December 2024

Application Process

Sign and submit your completed Grant Application Form via WNSW PHN website <https://wnswphn.org.au/tenders>.

Applications will remain open until funds are exhausted, or the WNSW PHN closes off applications via the WNSW PHN website.

Each section of the application must be completed, including your budget and declaration. Only the information provided in the Application Form will be used to assess applications.

Applicants should be aware that WNSW PHN reserves the right to award all, some, or none of the components of an applicant's proposal.

Frequently Asked Questions

Are the grants per organisation or per site?

The grants are per site, i.e., if a GP or pharmacy group has more than one site, they can apply once for each site, but only if they did not apply for this site in July 2024.

What can the grant funds be used to cover?

The grant funds cannot be used to purchase COVID-19 related equipment. The funds are only for vaccinating people from vulnerable groups and/or conversations with people from the vulnerable groups about COVID-19 vaccines.

How long does the conversation need to be?

Conversation length does not need to be specified, it must include information about COVID-19 and/or flu vaccination and benefits for the patient.

Does the conversation have to happen face-to-face, or can it be via telehealth?

The conversation can be either face-to-face or via telehealth.

If I vaccinate someone from this cohort, can I still bill the COVID-19 MBS item number? Yes, you are still able to bill the MBS item number, remembering that all COVID-19 vaccination item numbers must be bulk billed. You cannot bill for conversations.

What is a good news story?

A good news story is a description of a patient or family who was positively impacted by the conversation about COVID-19 vaccines.

e.g. We managed to get a whole family vaccinated for the first time, who were very hesitant after we had a conversation with the youngest daughter about whether she would like a booster.

What evidence do I need to have available if requested?

Grant recipients may be asked to show receipts, paid invoices, or other proof of expense, upon request. You do not need to send receipts or quotes with the grant application.

Contact Details

For more information, please contact:

WNSW PHN Grants Team

Email: grants@wnswphn.org.au

Ph: 1300 699 167