EOI Guidelines

Expression of Interest

After-Hours GP-Led Clinic Models for the Dubbo Community

Market Sounding and Industry Engagement

Western NSW Primary Health Network (WNSW PHN)

October 2026

Acknowledgement of Country

Western NSW Primary Health Network (WNSW PHN) respectfully acknowledges First Nations people as the Traditional Custodians of the nations and countries on which we work, and commits to building relationships, respect and opportunities with all First Nations Peoples in our region. We pay respect to Elders past and present and extend recognition to all First Nations people reading this message. We respectfully acknowledge the following nations:

Wiradjuri
Gamilaraay / Gamilaroi / Kamilaroi
Wailwun
Wongaibon
Ngemba / Nyemba / Ngiyampaa
Murrawarri
Barkindji
Barindji
Barundji
Nyirrpa
Karenggapa
Wadigali
Wilyakali / Wiljali
Wandjiwalgu
Danggali
Muthi-Muthi
Kureinji
Gunu
Barranbinya
Bandjigali
Malyangaba
Dadi Dadi

We acknowledge Elders who are the knowledge holders, teachers and pioneers, the youth who are the hope for a brighter future and who will be the future leaders. We acknowledge and pay our respect to First Nations people who have gone before us and recognise their contribution to First Nations people and community.

WNSW PHN's Commitment to Reconciliation

WNSW PHN is committed to reconciliation and demonstrates its commitment by building meaningful, sustainable initiatives in partnership with First Nations communities that close the gap and achieve equitable health outcomes First Nations people. WNSW PHN is committed to leading this journey through its Innovate Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP), which is built on respect, relationships and opportunities. This reconciliation journey is grounded in truth telling, listening, learning, and partnering with First Nations communities.

You can find out more about WNSW PHN's commitment to reconciliation in its Innovate RAP **HERE**.

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EOI Guidelines

1. About the Western NSW Primary Health Network

The **Western NSW Primary Health Network (WNSW PHN)** is one of 31 Primary Health Networks across Australia, established to support frontline health services and increase the efficiency and effectiveness of primary health care. Our focus is people 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. WNSW PHN covers both Far West and Western NSW Local Health Districts across a total area of 433,379 square kilometres, making it the largest PHN in NSW (at 53.5%). (https://wnswphn.org.au/about-us/understanding-our-region/) The total population is estimated to be over 312,000 people, with 20.3% over the age of 65 years. Approximately 11.36% of people in the WNSW PHN region identify as First Nations (ABS, 2021).

The geographic region covered by WNSW PHN is captured in Figure 1 below. You can also check to see if you fall within the WNSW PHN region, using the PHN Location Map found **HERE**.

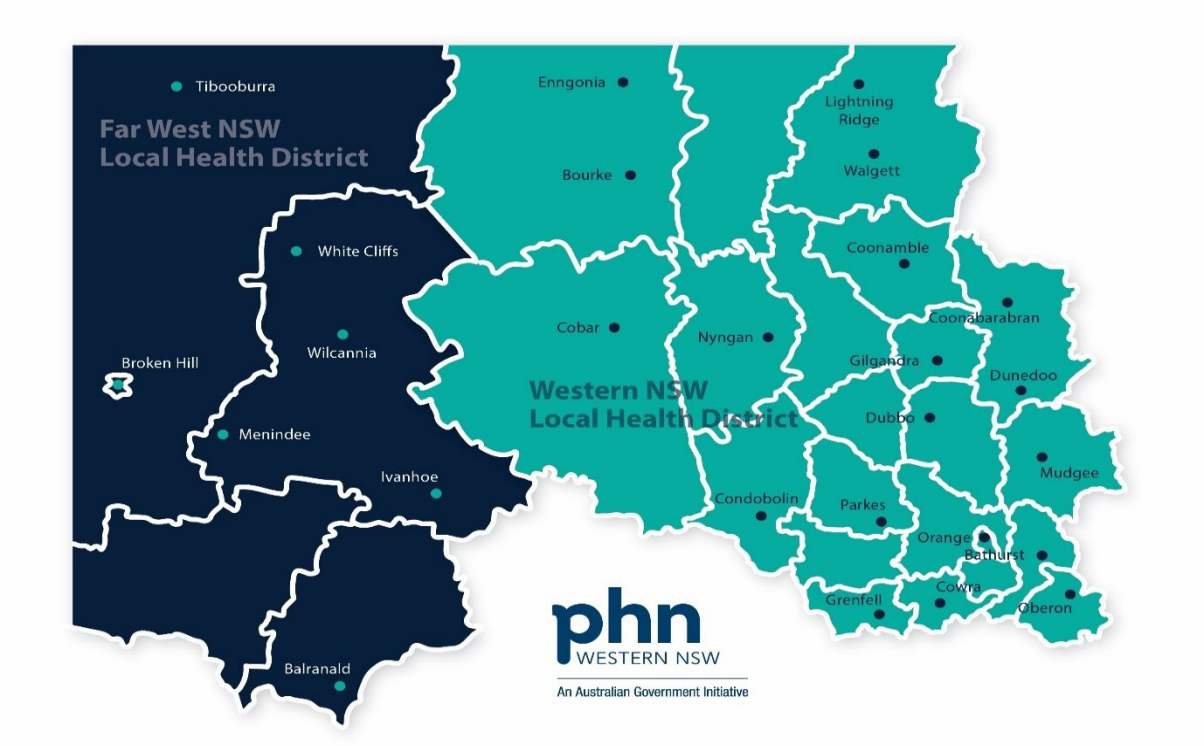


FIGURE 1 - WNSW PHN GEOGRAPHICAL FOOTPRINT

2. Introduction

WNSW PHN is undertaking this Expression of Interest (EOI) to identify general practices and other suitably qualified stakeholders willing to help strengthen existing GP-led after-hours clinics and services in Dubbo. This may include contributing workforce or operational support, as well as participating in collaborative planning to develop a safe, sustainable service for the whole Dubbo community.

WNSW PHN's immediate priority is to identify general practices and other organisations able to provide additional workforce or operational capacity to support existing local after-hours services. WNSW PHN also welcomes organisations willing to work alongside existing providers to coordinate services, address service gaps and participate in planning a sustainable longer-term approach. Responses may address one or more of these opportunities, based on the organisation's interest and capacity.

3. Background

WNSW PHN is exploring whether local providers have the interest, workforce and operational capacity to adapt, strengthen or complement existing after-hours services in Dubbo. This may include extending current clinic arrangements, coordinating services or developing partnerships between existing providers to improve whole-community access, workforce sustainability and safe, reliable after-hours service delivery.

Information gathered through this EOI will help WNSW PHN understand feasible local service arrangements, workforce constraints and opportunities for collaboration to inform future planning and service design.

WNSW PHN plays a key role in supporting local primary health care services to better meet the health needs of the community. An important element to this support includes enabling equitable access to primary care services in the after-hours period.

For the purposes of this EOI, after-hours primary health care is defined as accessible and effective care for people requiring either urgent or non-urgent treatment that cannot be provided during regular primary health care service hours.

It should not be a substitute for primary health care that could otherwise occur during regular business hours.

The after-hours period is defined as:

- before 8:00am and after 6:00pm weekdays;
- before 8:00am and after 12:00pm Saturdays; and
- all day Sundays and public holidays.

The key objectives of the After-Hours Primary Health Care Program are:

- develop regional responses to address the after-hours primary health care needs of local communities and support the after-hours primary health care workforce;
- promote coordination between services at a local level and support after-hours service providers to integrate care with a patient's usual primary care provider;
- address gaps in availability of after-hours primary health care services; and
- reduce non-urgent attendances at hospital emergency departments in the after-hours period.

4. Purpose of this EOI

The purpose of this EOI is to understand how existing Dubbo providers could work collaboratively to strengthen current after-hours primary care and contribute to practical, sustainable longer-term solutions. This may include providing GPs or other clinical workforce to support existing after-hours clinics, proposing complementary service approaches, forming partnerships, or contributing to local planning and problem-solving. The EOI aims to:

- Identify existing Dubbo providers interested in strengthening, extending, supporting or partnering in GP-led after-hours care that complements current clinics, services and referral pathways and is accessible to the whole Dubbo community.
- Understand the workforce capacity to support consistent and sustainable after-hours operations.
- Understand preferred approaches for extending or adapting existing clinics, strengthening workforce, infrastructure or referral arrangements, and supporting partnerships between existing providers.
- Inform future planning and service design, including opportunities for partnerships and sustainable longer-term solutions.

WNSW PHN will work collaboratively with existing commissioned service providers and relevant stakeholders to evaluate the current program, identify key learnings and assess service gaps. Information received through this EOI will also inform future service design and commissioning decisions.

Note: This EOI is a market sounding and industry engagement exercise only. It is not a request for tender, does not create a contractual relationship and does not guarantee funding, selection or participation in any future procurement opportunity.

5. Scope of Services (Indicative)

Respondents are asked to describe how their organisation could contribute to one or more of the following: supporting existing after-hours services and providers; providing GP or other clinical

workforce capacity; participating in locally led planning and problem-solving; or proposing practical service enhancements that complement and build on existing services.

Where a respondent proposes service delivery, the response should explain how the proposed arrangements would meet the applicable service requirements below and improve after-hours access for the Dubbo community.

- Must be accessible and available to all patients with no out-of- pocket costs
- Patient consultation notes are sent to their usual GP/practice to keep the patient's doctor informed and in case follow up is required
- Range of services may include treating minor injuries, pain management, wound care, fractures, lacerations, minor burns, abdominal pain, skin and soft-tissue infections.
- Proposed after-hours clinic arrangements should address the indicative operating periods below. Respondents should identify the periods they could reliably support and any workforce or operational constraints.

Day	Timeframe	Expectation
Monday to Friday	6:00 pm to 10:00 pm	Highly desired
Note: excluding public holidays Respondents should indicate which weekend and public holiday hours they could realistically and reliably support, including any preferred session length, workforce requirements and constraints.		
Saturday	1:00 pm to 9:00 pm	Minimum four-hour service period.
Sunday	9:00 am to 9:00 pm	Minimum four-hour service period.
Public holidays	9:00 am to 9:00 pm	Minimum four-hour service period.

WNSW PHN recognises workforce and service delivery constraints across regional communities. Respondents are not required to support all listed operating periods. Instead, applicants should identify the days, hours and service arrangements they can reliably provide.

Responses may include support for existing after-hours clinics, shared workforce arrangements or other appropriate local solutions. WNSW PHN is particularly interested in responses that demonstrate collaboration with existing providers and contribute to sustainable longer-term improvements in access.

6. Who should respond

Responses are welcome from existing Dubbo-based general practices, Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisations, Aboriginal Medical Services and other suitably qualified providers interested in strengthening, extending, supporting or partnering in safe and sustainable after-hours care that complements existing local clinics, services and referral pathways for the Dubbo community.

7. Information requested

The online EOI application will request concise information sufficient for WNSW PHN to understand respondent readiness and the feasibility of proposed service arrangements. Respondents should be prepared to provide where applicable:

- Organisation / practitioner details
- Professional registration and relevant clinical governance arrangements
- Current capacity, including to support existing after-hours services, opportunities to increase participation over time, and any workforce support required to sustain involvement.
- Maximum viable after-hours operating days, times and service arrangements that could be reliably sustained, including any workforce, infrastructure, financial or operational constraints.
- If applicable readiness to commence and any mobilisation requirements
- Partnerships, referral pathways or coordination arrangements that would support safe after-hours care and complement existing clinics, general practices, AMS/ACCHOs, Healthdirect and other local pathways.
- The role your organisation would be willing and able to play in strengthening after-hours GP-led care in Dubbo, including direct service delivery, workforce support, shared infrastructure, referral pathways, partnership arrangements or participation in local planning and collaborative problem-solving.
- Indicative funding support required to commence, sustain or scale the proposed role or service arrangement, including any assumptions about workforce, operating hours or partnership arrangements.

8. Disclaimer

This EOI is a market sounding and industry engagement exercise only. Participation is voluntary, and information provided may be used for planning, service design, market analysis, governance, audit, reporting and any future commissioning or procurement process. Participation does not create a contract, promise of funding, preferred provider status or entitlement to participate in any future process.

9. EOI conditions

a) This EOI is a market sounding and industry engagement process only. It is not a tender, grant offer or commitment to procure services.
b) Submission of an EOI does not create a contract, promise of funding, preferred provider status or entitlement to participate in any future process.
c) WNSW PHN may amend, extend, suspend, cancel or discontinue the EOI process at any time.
d) WNSW PHN may accept all, part or no response and may invite additional organisations to provide information.
e) WNSW PHN may seek clarification, verify information, undertake due diligence and contact referees or relevant third parties where the applicant has provided permission or where otherwise lawful.
f) Late or incomplete applications may be considered, at WNSW PHN's discretion.
g) Applicants are responsible for all costs associated with preparing and submitting an EOI. WNSW PHN will not reimburse those costs.
h) Applicants must ensure that information supplied is accurate, current and not misleading.
i) Applicants must disclose any actual, potential or perceived conflict of interest and describe how it will be managed.
j) Applicants must not engage in collusive, anti-competitive, deceptive or misleading conduct in connection with this EOI.
k) Applicants must not lobby WNSW PHN staff, Board members, advisers or evaluation participants in relation to the outcome of this EOI.
l) WNSW PHN may use information provided to support planning, service design, market analysis, governance, audit, reporting and any future commissioning or procurement process.
m) WNSW PHN will manage submitted information in accordance with applicable legal, privacy, confidentiality, audit and government reporting obligations. Applicants should clearly identify any commercially sensitive material.
n) Applications and accompanying documents may be retained by WNSW PHN for governance and recordkeeping purposes. Ownership of applicant background intellectual property remains unchanged.
o) Any future opportunity will be subject to separate approvals, available funding, service design, procurement requirements and execution of an appropriate written agreement.
p) WNSW PHN may publish or communicate general information about the EOI process but will not publicly identify unsuccessful respondents unless authorised or required by law.
q) Any addendum or clarification issued by WNSW PHN before the closing date will form part of these EOI Guidelines.

10. How to apply

To apply for this EOI:

1. Review these EOI Guidelines and the online application questions.
2. Complete the online application form in full.
3. Submit the application by 9:00 am (AEDT) on 06 November 2026.
4. Ensure all declarations and requested supporting information are included before submission.
5. Complete the Application Form HERE

11. Further information

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