

## Opioid Dependence Treatment (ODT) Incentive Grants 2026

### Grant Applications Guidelines

Western NSW Primary Health Network (WNSW PHN)

March 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 commit 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**

**Nyirrupa**

**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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## 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%). 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. Background - Opioid Dependence Treatment (ODT) Incentive

WNSW PHN is supporting the Opioid Dependence Treatment (ODT) Incentive which aims to increase the accessibility of ODT for people across the WNSW PHN region and reduce morbidity, mortality and health burdens associated with Opioid Dependence. This incentive seeks to increase the undertaking of the Opioid and Treatment Accreditation Course (OTAC) for General Practitioners (GPs) and Nurse Practitioners (NPs) in the region, subsequently increasing the number of accredited prescribers.

Opioid Treatment Accreditation Course (OTAC) allows medical and nurse practitioners to learn about the safe prescription of opioid pharmacotherapies (methadone and buprenorphine) for opioid dependence, as well as supporting accreditation for them as prescribers for opioid pharmacotherapies. Opioid dependence is a chronic, debilitating condition and ODT can significantly reduce associated mortality and is listed within the Essential Medicine List by the World Health Organisation. Currently across the WNSW PHN region there are limited number of GPs accredited and prescribing ODT, paired with high demand for access to ODT, placing significant pressure on hospital outpatient clinics and risking patients missing out on treatment altogether.

This Grant aims to contribute to addressing the unmet need in ODT through eliminating barriers that may otherwise reduce uptake of prescribing. This will be achieved through the provision of funds to enable GPs and NPs to participate in a one-day OTAC training course organised with OTEP (Opioid Dependence Treatment Education Program) to be run on Saturday the 9<sup>th</sup> of May 2026 in Dubbo, as well as reimbursement for their time to complete the associated half-day placement.

## 3. Key Grant Incentive Details

Applications are invited from interested and eligible practitioners (GPs and NPs) working within the WNSW PHN region to conduct activities based on the Grant scope and objectives.

### What are my Requirements if I am Awarded a Grant?

Eligible GPs and NPs who are awarded grants will be required to attend the one-day OTAC in Dubbo on **Saturday the 9th of May 2026**. These practitioners are then required to complete the required half day placement as part of accreditation with an Addiction Medicine Specialist or Existing Accredited Prescriber. The WNSW PHN will aid successful practitioners to link in with an Addiction Medicine Specialist or Accredited Prescriber to undertake placement. Placement can be undertaken in person or virtually (in consultation with WNSW PHN).

Grant recipients will also be required to commence the prescribing of ODT to at least 2 clients within 6 months following accreditation. Evidence of this activity will need to be provided to the WNSW PHN.

Additional ongoing support will be provided to grant recipients in the form of access to a regular Community of Practice (COP) led by an Addiction Medicine Specialist alongside other practitioners prescribing ODT in the region.

## 4. Grant Funding Details

Funding of up to \$3000 per applicant, varying based on need (greater travel requirements will equate to a greater grant value).

### Funds can be used for

- Travel and accommodation costs associated with OTAC attendance in Dubbo (in alignment with ATO rates). Accommodation at \$170.00 per night for a maximum of 2 nights (where participants are located greater than 300km distance), and 88c/km. Flights (where participants are located greater than 600km distance) which will be the reimbursement of an economy airfare which reflects the lowest reasonable fare at the time of booking up to a maximum of \$1000 reimbursement.
- Wages forgone to complete the associated required half-day placement following attendance at the OTAC (calculated at \$180 per hour for General Practitioners and \$100 per hour for Nurse Practitioners for a maximum of 4 hours).

### Funds cannot be used for

- Other activities not listed above
- Personal gain of funds

### Grant Timeline

Grant Applications Open:	13 March 2026
Grant Applications Close:	16 April 2026
Grants Awarded:	23 April 2026
Activity Completion:	01 February 2027

## 5. Eligibility Criteria

To be eligible for funding, applicants must:

- Be able attend and complete the Incentive activities and deliverables at the prescribed dates and timeframes
- Be currently practising within the Western NSW PHN region
- Have a valid ABN (or employer practice ABN) and registration with AHPRA as a Nurse Practitioner or General Practitioner
- Hold Professional Indemnity and Public Liability Insurance for the duration of the proposed activities (minimum \$10 million coverage).

*Note:* Applicants must demonstrate a commitment to cultural safety, inclusivity, and community engagement through equitable and non-discriminatory practice.

## 6. Deliverables

- Attendance and completion of the OTAC in Dubbo to be held on the 9<sup>th</sup> of May 2026.
- Completion of the associated required half-day placement with an Addiction Medicine Specialist or Existing Accredited Prescriber.

- Commencement of ODT prescribing for at least 2 clients within 6 months of receiving accreditation (Accreditation must be finalised within the 2026 calendar year).
- Optional attendance at an ODT COP established to support prescribers within the WNSW PHN region.

## Reporting Requirements

1. Evidence of appropriate insurance coverage.
2. Evidence of appropriate registration.
3. End of year activity report (due February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2027).
4. End of incentive participant survey.
5. Applicants will be reimbursed for travel costs following provision claim form and receipts for eligible travel and accommodation expenses.
6. Applicants will be reimbursed for wages forgone to attend a half-day placement following provision of evidence of completion of the placement (i.e. an email confirmation from the Addiction Medicine Specialist or Existing Accredited Prescriber, or provision of OTAC Accreditation Certificate) and submission of complete tax invoice.

## 7. Grant Conditions

1. WNSW PHN reserves the right to award all, part, or none of the Funding.
2. Successful applicants will be required to enter into an Agreement with WNSW PHN.
3. Applicants must disclose potential or perceived conflicts of interest.
4. Breaches of terms may result in funding recovery.
5. Successful Programs may be publicly listed on the WNSW PHN website.
6. Applicant must ensure compliance with working with children checks.
7. Applicant must have all promotional material approved by WNSWPHN and acknowledge WNSW PHN in promotions.
8. If a grant payment is made and the recipient does not attend the required OTAC training, and no alternative arrangements have been approved by WNSW PHN, the recipient must refund the full grant amount to WNSW PHN.

## 8. Assessment Criteria

Applications will be evaluated and approved based on:

- Submission of a fully completed application.
- Meeting all eligibility requirements in Section 5.
- Capacity to fulfil the deliverables and required time Frames
- Commitment to supporting ODT access in the region.
- Workforce need and potential community impact.

Availability of funding, with grants awarded until the program budget is fully allocated.

## 9. Grant Application

To apply for Grant funding:

1. Review and accept all conditions.
2. Submit application on or before the 16<sup>th</sup> of April 2026.
3. Complete the Application Form: [HERE](#) or use the QR Code:



## 10. Further Information

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