

# Multicultural Grants Program

Grant Guidelines 2026.

Western Health Alliance Limited (WHAL)

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**

**Nyirra**

**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](#).

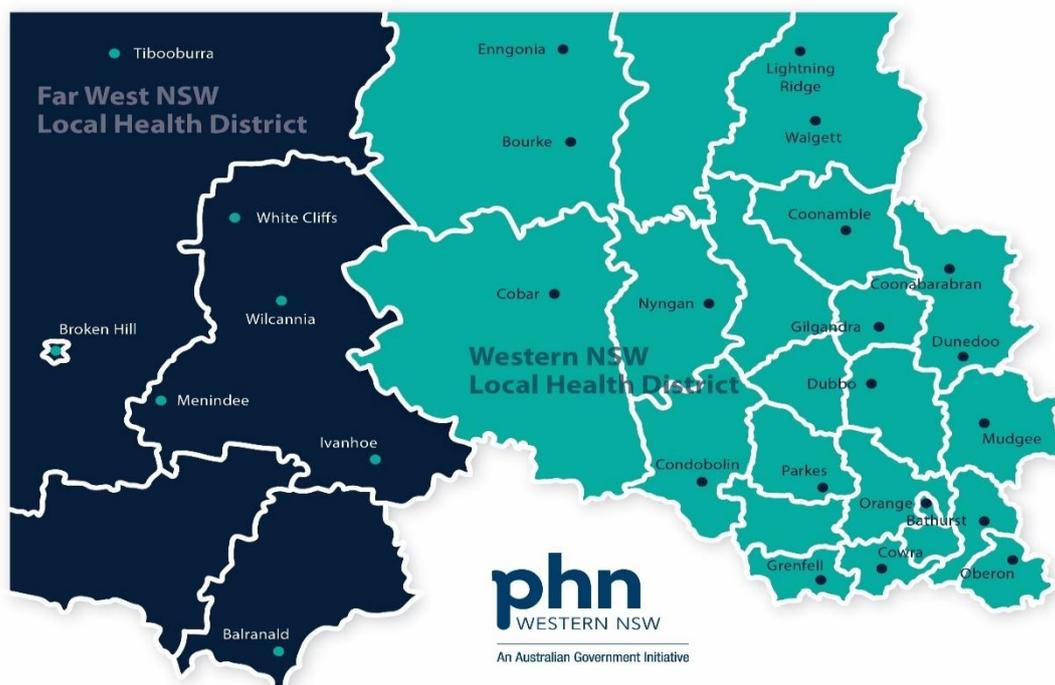


FIGURE 1 - WNSW PHN GEOGRAPHICAL FOOTPRINT

## 2. Program Background

The Western NSW PHN region has a relatively low proportion of Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) residents. In 2025, only 3.8% of the population were born in countries where English is not the main language, and just 0.3% of overseas-born residents reported limited or no English proficiency. Although cultural diversity is not widespread in the region, CALD communities still face unique challenges in accessing primary health care. Recognising these needs is essential to ensure fair planning and the provision of culturally appropriate, inclusive services. In areas with smaller CALD populations, accessing services and providers skilled in culturally responsive care can be even more difficult, potentially affecting health outcomes.

To address these needs, WNSW PHN is providing small, targeted grants to local community organisations aimed at improving primary care access and supporting mental health and wellbeing within CALD communities.

2.1 The largest CALD populations by number are found in the following LGAs:

- a) Dubbo Regional
- b) Orange
- c) Bathurst Regional

Together, 62.8% of all residents from predominantly non-English speaking countries in the WNSW PHN region live in these three areas.

2.2 The five most common countries of birth for CALD residents in Western NSW PHN are:

- a) India (2,209)
- b) Philippines (1,748)
- c) Nepal (1,303)
- d) China (707)
- e) Germany (685)

## 3. Key Grants Details

### Initiatives we're looking to fund

A range of activities and initiatives may be considered appropriate to support community-led wellbeing including, but not limited to:

- a) Culturally safe social connection activities that build knowledge and networks within CALD communities (e.g. community groups, playgroups, creative or wellbeing activities).
- b) Community led events or workshops that strengthen resilience and reduce stigma in particular mental health, that are delivered in culturally appropriate and in language ways.
- c) Community designed projects that support empowerment and capacity building, with active CALD community involvement.
- d) In language information and navigation support to improve awareness of local services Primary Health Care services and how to access them.

- e) Culturally appropriate health and wellbeing activities that support physical and mental health (e.g. exercise, movement, mindfulness, nutrition).
- f) Community education and practical skills programs on preventative health, mental health, and family wellbeing, tailored to CALD contexts.

Priority will be given to local organisations focusing on initiatives already supporting CALD communities and within identified LGAs where larger populations reside.

## 4. Grant Funding

Grant of up to \$10,000 will be made available to eligible organisations.

### 4.1 Funds can be used for

- a) Direct costs of delivering the proposed activity (i.e. cost of engaging a person/ service for community sessions/ catering and Materials for activities, hiring of venues / Stationary).
- b) Purchase of resources to support the proposed activity, up to a value of \$1,500 per item and a maximum total of \$5,000 (i.e. BBQ, sun shelter, etc)
- c) Purchase of large assets may be considered where an applicant can demonstrate where a whole community outcome can be demonstrated.

### 4.2 Funds cannot be used for

- a) Capital works, major infrastructure, or the purchase of vehicles
- b) Salaries and wages of staff.
- c) The preparation of grant application.

**Funds need to be expended, and activities completed by 30<sup>th</sup> June 2026.**

## 5. Grant Timelines

- |                              |                               |
|------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| a) Grant Applications Open:  | 13 March 2026                 |
| b) Grant Applications Close: | Ongoing until funds exhausted |
| c) Grants Awarded:           | Processed as received         |
| d) Activity Completion:      | 30 June 2026                  |

## 6. Eligibility

To be eligible for funding, applicants meet the following criteria:

- a) Applicants must be an organisation/business (including sports clubs, community groups, early childhood, schools) with an ABN.
- b) Demonstrate existing engagement with CALD communities, or a clear partnership with a trusted CALD or multicultural organisation.
- c) Be able to commence activities promptly and complete delivery by 30 June 2026.

- d) Applicants must be located within the Western NSW PHN region.
- e) Proposed activities must be delivered in communities within the WNSW PHN. Priority will be given to the Dubbo, Orange, and Bathurst regions.
- f) Proposed grant activities must be delivered at no cost to the community.

## 7. Deliverables

Whilst WNSW PHN is committed to reducing the administrative burden for organisations that are successful in securing grant funding, there is a community commitment to ensure limited resources are used effectively, efficiently and as agreed. As such, the following commitments/ deliverables will be required from Grant Recipients:

- a) The Grant Recipient will be required to maintain a record of fund expenditure and provide evidence of this expenditure if requested by WNSW PHN (this includes receipts, bank statements, account deposits). Failure to provide this evidence may result in the reimbursement of funds to WNSW PHN.
- b) The Grant Recipient will be required to submit an Activity Summary (describing outputs and outcomes/ impact achieved), Financial Report, and Financial Declaration in a format determined by WNSW PHN.

## 8. Grant Conditions

- a) WNSW PHN reserves the right to award all, some or none of the components of an applicant's proposal.
- b) WNSW PHN will only enter into an agreement with an organisation or individual with established legal status (e.g. under Corporations Law, Health Services Act, Trustee Act), or a natural person at least 18 years of age.
- c) Applicants must declare to WNSW PHN any matter or issue which is or may be perceived to be or may lead to a conflict of interest regarding their application.
- d) All grant activities must be delivered to community at no cost.
- e) Details of successful applications, including but not limited to recipient, activity overview, funding amount and activity outcomes, will be made public on the WNSW PHN website.
- f) Ensure any staff/volunteers conducting grant activities with minors have current working with children checks and can supply evidence to WNSW PHN if requested.
- g) All promotional material needs to acknowledge WNSW PHN.
- h) The Grant recipient must possess and maintain Public Liability Insurance (minimum \$10 million) for the duration of activity and present evidence of this insurance if requested by WNSW PHN.
- i) The proposed activity does not duplicate activities that are already funded or exist in community.
- j) Breach of these Grant Conditions and failure to meet Grant Deliverables may result in the requirement for the recipient to reimburse WNSW PHN all Grant funds.

## 9. Assessment Criteria

Applications will be evaluated based on:

- a. Submission of fully completed application.
- b. Meeting the eligibility criteria outlined in Section 6.
- c. Evaluation Criteria below: Applications will be assessed against the following criteria to ensure alignment with the objectives of the Multicultural Grants Program. Each criterion will be scored according to its assigned weight, with a total possible score of 100 points

| <b>Evaluation Criteria</b>        | <b>Weight %</b> |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------|
| Alignment with Program Objectives | 20              |
| Community Need & Target Group     | 20              |
| Proposed Activity & Outcomes      | 20              |
| Value for Money                   | 20              |
| Capacity to Deliver               | 20              |

## 10 Grant Application

To apply for grant funding:

1. Review and accept all conditions.
2. Complete the Application Form: [HERE](#) or use the QR Code below:



## 11. Further Information

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