

“Strengthening Early Intervention” Suicide Prevention Grants Program 2026

Grant Guidelines

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

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](#).

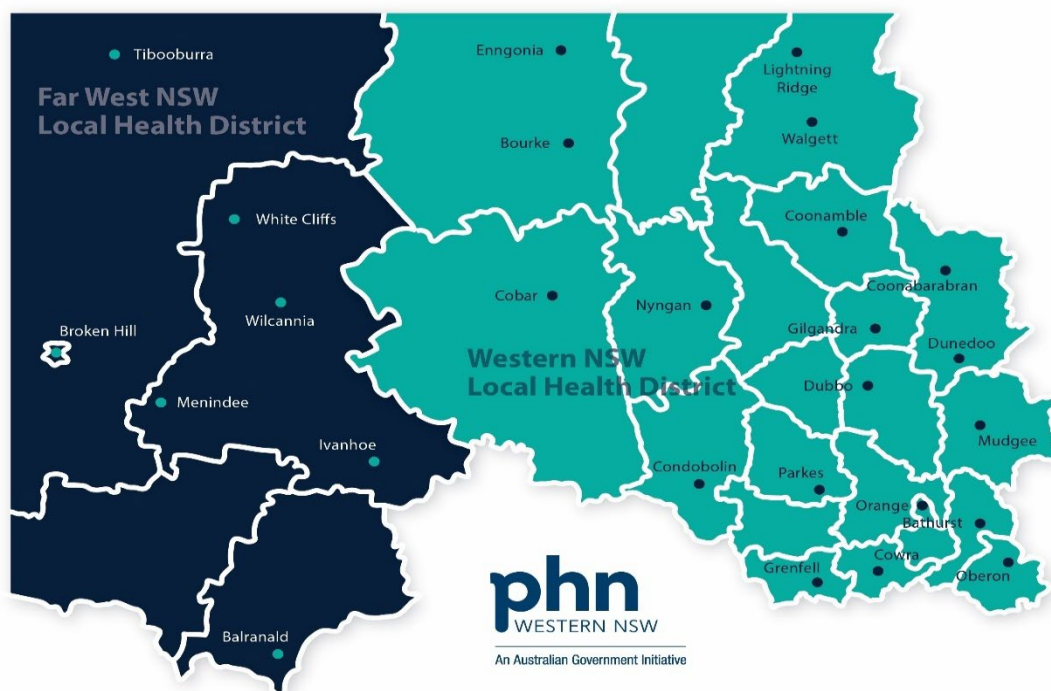


FIGURE 1 - WNSW PHN GEOGRAPHICAL FOOTPRINT

2. Program Background

Western NSW Primary Health Network (WNSW PHN) is delivering the “Strengthening Early Intervention” Suicide Prevention Grants Program to support community-based, non-clinical activities that help recognise distress earlier, strengthen local support pathways, and promote wellbeing across the Western NSW region.

Many communities across Western NSW experience barriers to accessing timely, culturally responsive, and place-based supports for people experiencing distress, particularly outside traditional clinical or health service settings. Community organisations, local groups, and informal networks are often the first to notice early signs of distress and can play a key role in providing early support and connection before issues escalate.

This program provides one-off grants to enable communities to deliver practical activities that respond to local needs, complement existing services, and strengthen protective factors such as connection, belonging, cultural identity, and wellbeing.

3. Key Grants Details

Initiatives We’re Looking to Fund

WNSW PHN is inviting grant applications that focus on early intervention, suicide prevention, community development, and wellbeing. Priority will be given to initiatives that aim to:

- Support earlier recognition of suicide distress and suicide risk.
- Strengthen local support pathways (connecting individuals, community support, and services).
- Enable community-led and culturally responsive initiatives that reflect local needs.
- Enhance protective factors (e.g., social connection, belonging, cultural identity, wellbeing).

Eligible activities include (but are not limited to)

- Education, training, or awareness activities related to suicide prevention and early intervention.
- Community workshops or forums focused on suicide awareness, connection, and help-seeking.
- Outreach activities or events supporting engagement in priority locations or populations.
- Community-led activities that promote connection and wellbeing (e.g., sport, arts, cultural, or social initiatives).
- Cultural activities that strengthen identity, connection, and protective factors.
- Mentoring or peer-based support activities, including tailored programs for young people.

Expected Outcomes

Funded activities are expected to contribute to:

- Increased opportunities for earlier support and connection within communities.
- Strengthened local pathways between community supports and existing services.

- Community-led responses that reflect local priorities, including culturally responsive approaches where relevant.

4. Grant Funding Details

Funding of up to \$15,000 (excluding GST) per eligible applicant/project.

Funds can be used for

- Implementation of proposed activity to achieve the intended outcomes.
- Direct costs required to deliver approved activity (e.g., venue hire, materials, facilitation costs).
- Purchase of resources (up to \$1,500 per item with a total cap of \$3,000).

Funds cannot be used for

- Clinical treatment, medical costs, or clinical service delivery.
- Vehicle purchase.
- Grant preparation costs.
- Information and Communication Technology (ICT) equipment.
- Ongoing staff wages or salaries not directly related to delivery of the approved activity.
- Retrospective items / activities.
- Cost incurred in the preparation of your grant application or related documents.

Grant Timeline

Grant Applications Open:	20 April 2026
Grant Applications Close*:	11 May 2026 <i>(or when funds are fully exhausted)</i>
Grants Awarded:	29 May 2026
Activities completed by:	28 May 2027
Acquittal by:	25 June 2027

- *The Grants applications received will be assessed on a rolling basis during the grant round period, and is considered open until funds are exhausted.*
- *WNSW PHN will publish any changes to the closing date (including early closure due to full allocation of funds) on its website and through grant communications channels.*

5. Eligibility Criteria

To be eligible for funding, applicants must:

- Demonstrate a local presence and/or active service delivery footprint within the Western NSW PHN region.
- Be one of the following:
 - Registered not-for-profit organisation, charity, or incorporated community organisation.
 - Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisation (ACCHO) or Aboriginal-led organisation.

- Local government entity, school, or education provider proposing a community-based suicide prevention or wellbeing activity.
- Youth, cultural, sporting, or community group that is incorporated or auspiced by an eligible organisation for the purposes of managing grant funds.
- Hold Public Liability Insurance for the duration of proposed activities (\$10 million minimum).

Where activities involve Aboriginal communities or First Nations participants, applicants must demonstrate appropriate consultation, partnerships, or cultural governance arrangements relevant to the work proposed.

Meeting eligibility criteria does not guarantee funding, as applications will be competitively assessed.

6. Deliverables

Activity Deliverables

- Delivery of suicide prevention or mental health activity as proposed and agreed in Grant Agreement.

Reporting and Administrative Requirements

While WNSW PHN is committed to reducing the administrative burden for organisations that successfully secure grant funding, there is also a community responsibility to ensure that limited resources are used effectively, efficiently, and as agreed.

Accordingly, the following commitments/deliverables will be required from grant recipients:

1. Maintain financial records and provide documentation upon request. .
2. Submit an Activity Summary and Financial Acquittal Report, as outlined in the Grant Agreement.
3. Ensure compliance with Working With Children Check requirements, where applicable.
4. Acknowledge WNSW PHN in promotions and activity materials where relevant (as specified in the Grant Agreement).
5. Hold Public Liability Insurance for the duration of proposed activities (\$10 million minimum).

7. Grant Conditions

1. WNSW PHN reserves the right to award all, part, or none of the grant funding available.
2. Successful applicants will be required to enter into a Grant Agreement with WNSW PHN.
3. Applicants must disclose potential or perceived conflicts of interest.
4. Breaches of grant conditions or the Grant Agreement may result in grant recovery.
5. Successful grants may be publicly listed on the WNSW PHN website.
6. Applicants must comply with Working With Children Check requirements where applicable.
7. The grant round may close earlier than the published closing date if funds are fully allocated.
8. Applicants must acknowledge WNSW PHN in promotions.

8. Assessment Criteria

Applications will be assessed and evaluated based on:

1. Submission of a fully completed application.
2. Meet the eligibility criteria outlined in Section 5.
3. Alignment with the grant objectives and capacity to meet the expected deliverables.

No.	Evaluation Criteria	Weight
1.	Relevance and Community Need: Clear local need and alignment to program objectives (as per Section 3 of the Guidelines).	30%
2.	Capability and Delivery Approach: Practical plan to deliver within timeframe; suitable governance and delivery arrangements.	20%
3.	Community Leadership and Engagement: Demonstrates community involvement/leadership and appropriate partnerships, where relevant.	20%
4.	Cultural Safety and Accessibility: Approach is culturally responsive and accessible to intended participants (including with Aboriginal communities).	20%
5.	Value for Money: Proposed budget is reasonable, clearly linked to deliverables, and appropriate for a \$15,000 grant.	10%

TABLE 1 - EVALUATION CRITERIA

9. Grant Application

To apply for grant funding:

1. Review these Grant Guidelines and ensure all eligibility criteria is met.
2. Understand and accept all conditions.
3. Please complete the [Application Form](#) and provide all required information and declarations.
4. Submit the application by the published closing date or earlier if the grant round closes due to full allocation of funds.

10. Further Information

For further information, please contact:

Ben Brien

Acting Program Manager - Suicide Prevention

Western NSW Primary Health Network (WNSW PHN)

Phone: 0409 502 097

Email: Ben.Brien@wnswphn.org.au

cc: suicideprevention@wnswphn.org.au