

GP Relocation Grants 2026 EOI Guidelines

Hunter New England and Central Coast Primary Health Network (HNECC PHN) through the [2023-2028 Strategic Plan](#) has a focus on increasing equity of access to primary health care services for those in the Hunter, New England and Central Coast geographical area.

Declining numbers of General Practitioners (GPs) in the rural and regional parts of the Hunter and New England, as the existing workforce retire and relocate out of the area, is adding pressure to the remaining GP workforce. This pressure also impacts Registrars by reducing the number of GP supervisors able to support training.

HNECC PHN is making available ten (10) x \$10,000 ex GST GP Relocation Grants via an Expression of Interest, to support General Practices (meaning General Practices and Aboriginal Controlled Community Health Organisations (ACCHOs) or Aboriginal Medical Services) to secure relocation of a GP to regional and rural areas of the HNECC PHN geographical region from outside the HNECC region. Practices may retain final year Registrars to a permanent GP position to be eligible.

The EOI is only open to General Practices located in 17 rural LGAs within HNECC PHN boundary:

- **North West Slopes:** Moree Plains, Gwydir, Narrabri, Gunnedah, Tamworth Regional, Liverpool Plains
- **Northern Tablelands:** Tenterfield, Inverell, Glen Innes Severn, Armidale Regional, Uralla, Walcha
- **Upper Hunter:** Upper Hunter Shire, Muswellbrook, Singleton, Dungog
- **Manning Great Lakes:** Mid Coast

The GP Relocation Grant is for funding that may be used by the practice as it sees fit to support the relocation of the GP to the practice. As a General Practice works through the recruitment process and identifies a potential candidate, they may use the Grant as a key negotiating tool and relocation incentive. This may include providing funds to assist the GP with any relocation expenses, or other associated costs.

To assist in the recruitment process, the PHN has recruitment resources available on our website: [Recruitment Webinars](#).

Selection Criteria

To be eligible, the recruited GP must be employed for a minimum three (3) days per week and a minimum of one year period as noted in their employment contract. HNECC PHN requires a copy of the signed employment contract **dated after 1st July 2026 and before 31st March 2027** as evidence.

HNECC PHN encourages General Practices who are either in negotiation with or who are actively undertaking recruitment activities to secure a GP to apply. The Grant requires the GP to relocate to the eligible practice and commence employment **between 1st July 2026 and 31st March 2027**.

The grant will be allocated and paid once the GP has commenced employment and is working physically on site in the practice on. HNECC PHN will confirm this.

Grants will be allocated based on the below assessment criteria:

- The General Practice including location is eligible
- Level of recruitment activities already undertaken by the Practice to secure a GP

- Exceptional circumstances that may be affecting equity of access to a GP for the local community or limiting availability of GPs in the practice or community
- Likelihood of recruitment occurring within the grant timeframe
- Priority to Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisations and Aboriginal Medical Services

Practices will need to ensure that they can meet any supervisory requirements.

Grant Process

The Expression of Interest will close at midnight on 30th October 2026. HNECC PHN will assess Applications based on the criteria, with ten (10) grants provisionally allocated.

Evidence Required and Payment Schedule for Successful Applicants

Once the grant is allocated and the practice has identified and recruited a GP, the General Practice must provide the requested documentary evidence including:

- Name of GP
- Contact details of GP
- Area from where the GP is relocating from
- Employment start date of the GP
- Employment Contract with the GP signed after 1st July 2026, for a **minimum three (3) days per week face to face service delivery** at the practice and for a **duration of a minimum of one year period**.
- GP Medical Board of Australia (MBA) Medical Practitioner registration number and Medical Benefit Schedule (MBS) Provider number

Upon the GP commencing work, a PHN representative will contact the GP directly to confirm employment has commenced and outline the opportunities the PHN has to support them in their employment. HNECC PHN will make payment of the full \$10,000 ex GST to the practice following this confirmation.

If by 31st March 2027, a GP has not commenced employment physically at the practice, HNECC PHN may rescind the Grant.

Eligibility

To be eligible to apply for a GP Relocation Grant, the General Practice must:

- Be a General Practice or Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation or Aboriginal Medical Service.
- Be located within one of the 17 rural LGAs within HNECC PHN boundary as listed above.
- Recruiting a relocating GP who is working outside of the HNECC PHN region or converting a final year Registrar to a permanent GP at the practice.
- The relocating GP must provide **face-to-face** general practice services in the new location within the HNECC PHN area.
- HNECC PHN will consider previous grant recipients on a case-by-case basis. HNECC PHN will give priority to practices that have not received previous HNECC PHN grant assistance.
- The PHN reserves the right to assess Grant eligibility based on the progression of recruitment, employment, and relocation by the practice and the GP, relative need of the area and/or practice, e.g. risk of closure, and to allocate the Grant, as necessary.

Ineligibility

- General Practices that do not meet the GP Relocation Grant eligibility criteria or deemed not eligible by HNECC PHN.
- General Practices that have not fully complied with any previous HNECC PHN funding contract commitments including performance and reporting.
- General Practices that are located outside of the HNECC PHN area and identified LGA's.
- General Practices already receiving GP recruitment funding from other sources, including any HNECC PHN recruitment grants in progress.
- Activities not conducted within the Grant period, including retrospective costs and employment.
- General Practices without an ABN and without appropriate insurances.
- General Practices that are planning on closing or selling within the next 12 months or are under administration.
- NSW State Government-funded primary health care services, including services of Local Health Districts and Local Government Area councils.

Terms and conditions

The following terms and conditions will apply to all successful grantees:

- HNECC PHN Terms and Conditions will apply.
- Applicants must be a General Practice (including Aboriginal Controlled Community Health Organisation).
- Only one (1) GP Relocation Grant is available per eligible General Practice.

If HNECC PHN deems the practice to be non-compliant with the terms of the Grant, the practice will be ineligible for further HNECC PHN workforce grants for a period of 12 months.

How to apply

Practices must submit as Expression of Interest in the HNECC PHN SmartyGrants portal, by the closing date.

HNECC PHN reserves the right to close the Grant round if HNECC PHN prior to the advertised closing date or extend the Grant closing date if funds are still available.

HNECC PHN may contact Applicants to discuss their eligibility and ability to meet the Grant criteria. This will constitute part of HNECC PHN's Grant assessment.

HNECC PHN requires successful applicants to sign a Grant Agreement with HNECC PHN that outlines-payment, terms and conditions, and reporting and/or evidence required at each stage.

For more information contact:

HNECC PHN Grants at grants@thephn.com.au

HNECC PHN Workforce Team at workforce@thephn.com.au