

Expedited Specialist Pathway Recruitment Grants EOI - 2025

The 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 care services for those in the Hunter, New England and Central Coast geographical area.

With declining numbers of general practitioners in the rural and regional parts of the Hunter and New England as the existing workforce retire and relocate out of the area, and a shortage of GP's reported in all regions, increased pressure is being added to the remaining workforce.

To supplement the workforce, HNECC PHN is working to secure International Medical Graduates (IMG) for general practice from New Zealand, United Kingdom and Ireland via the Expedited Specialist Pathway to work in General Practices, Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisations (ACCHOs) and Aboriginal Medical Services (AMSs) within the HNECC PHN region.

HNECC PHN is making available ten (10) Expedited Specialist Pathway Recruitment Grants for practices to use as an incentive to assist in the attraction and retention of IMGs via the Expedited Specialist Pathway.

The whole amount of the grant is to be paid to the secured IMG; the practice is not eligible for any financial remuneration from the grant.

For more information on the Expedited Specialist Pathways please see the link below:

[Medical Board of Australia - Expedited Specialist pathway](#)

Selection Criteria

The Expedited Specialist Pathway grants will be allocated via expression of interest from practices in the HNECC region who are:

1: Eligible to accept and want to secure an IMG from the United Kingdom, Ireland, or New Zealand via the Expedited Specialist Pathway.

OR

2: Already have secured a yet-to-commence International Medical Graduate from the United Kingdom, Ireland, or New Zealand via the Expedited Specialist Pathway.

Please ensure that the practice can meet the eligibility criteria which is available on the website (link below) which includes being able to supervise the IMG for the required 6 months. Please read fully the information on the link below:

[Medical Board of Australia - Supervised practice for international medical graduates guidelines](#)

Grant Funding

The available grants are for funding that **MUST** be passed onto the recruited IMG as an incentive to work in the practice. It is **NOT** a payment to the practice.

The Grant payment would be allocated by the following process:

1. Grants provisionally allocated to practices (being General Practices, AMSs or ACCHOs) who are eligible and want to secure an IMG and/or has secured an IMG who would be commencing with the practice by 30th June 2026.
2. Grant agreement is executed upon evidence being supplied that the practice has secured an IMG via the program. Once the grant is allocated, the practice will need to provide proof of

employment upon the signing of the new IMG. It is recommended that they are contracted for a minimum of one-year full time employment.

3. \$5,000 ex GST payment paid to the practice to pass onto the IMG once they commence employment. The IMG payments must be outlined in the employment contract and a copy of the signed contract supplied to the HNECC PHN.
4. After 6 months of IMG employment: practice is to provide evidence of retention via six (6) months of de-identified MBS billings to receive the final \$5,000 ex GST payment, paid to the practice to pass onto the IMG once they complete the required 6 months supervision.

If the practice is deemed to be non-compliant with the terms of the grant and payments, they will be ineligible to apply for further HNECC PHN workforce grants for a period of up to 12 months.

Eligibility

To be eligible to apply for the grants, the applicant must:

- Be a General Practice, AMS or ACCHO physically located within the HNECC PHN region and able to meet the eligibility requirements for an IMG.
- Have secured an IMG or is willing to accept an IMG via the Expedited Specialist Pathway, who will deliver face to face services at the practice.
- It is recommended that the IMG commit to working a minimum of 12 months full time.
- Recruited IMGs are relocating from **New Zealand, United Kingdom or Ireland** only via the Expedited Specialist Pathway.
- Recruited IMGs are general practitioners only.
- The General Practice must provide documentary evidence of the IMG recruitment and retention. Documentary evidence includes a copy of the signed employment contract and evidence of retention via six (6) months of de-identified MBS billings.

Previous recipients of HNECC PHN support for GP recruitment including GP Relocation and Retention Grants will be considered on a case-by-case basis. Priority will be given to practices that have not received previous assistance.

Not Eligible

- NSW state government funded primary health care services (LHDs and councils are ineligible).
- General Practices/ACCHO's/AMSs that are located outside of the HNECC PHN operating area and/or not delivering services to the those in the HNECC PHN region.
- Practices who have not fully complied with any previous PHN funding contract commitments including reporting.
- Practices already receiving funding from other sources for GP recruitment.
- Activities including recruitment not carried out in the grant period and retrospective costs.
- Practices that cannot meet Expedited Specialist pathway supervision requirements as outlined by AHPRA.
- Applicants without the appropriate insurances and an ABN.
- Practices deemed not eligible by HNECC PHN.

Terms and conditions

Funding is available for recruitment that commences between September 2025 and June 2026 subject to meeting eligibility criteria.

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

- HNECC PHN Terms and Conditions will apply,

- Applicants must be a General Practice, Aboriginal Medical Service or Aboriginal Controlled Community Health Organisation.
- Applicants must obtain appropriate insurances and provide certificates of currency.
- If a recruited IMG leaves employment before the specified grant period, they will be required to pay the grant back to HNECC PHN.

How to apply

Applications are open via completion of the EOI online form on the PHN grants portal, SmartyGrants and close 31st May 2026 or when all grants have been allocated (whichever comes first). Allocation will be on a first in basis.

HNECC PHN reserves the right to close the grant round if all grants have been awarded prior to the closing date or extend the grant closing date if funds are still available.

Applicants may be contacted to discuss their eligibility and ability to meet the grant criteria. This will constitute part of the grant assessment.

Successful applicants will be required to sign a grant agreement outlining staged payments and milestones, terms and conditions and evidence or reporting required at each stage.

For more information contact:

Contact grants@thephn.com.au