

## Local Suicide Prevention Grant and Pitch Event Guidelines

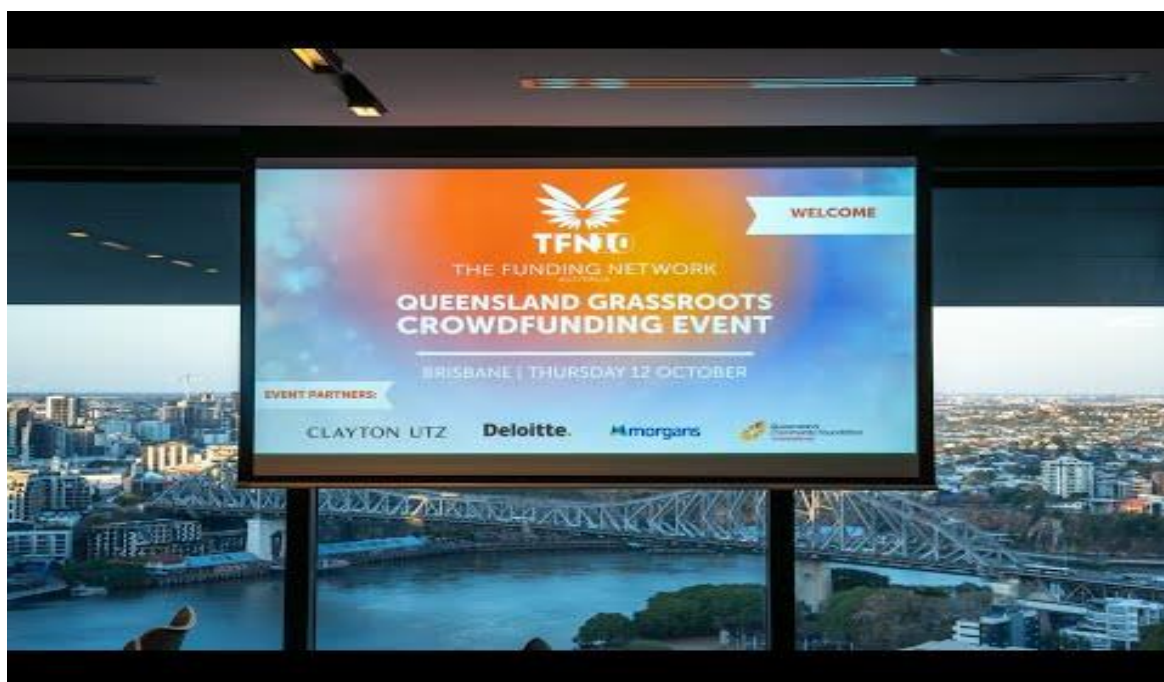
### Does your organisation have an innovative suicide prevention program that will benefit the community?

Hunter, New England and Central Coast Primary Health Network (HNECC PHN) is providing funding to four local suicide prevention projects, one in each of the four regions: Hunter, New England, Central Coast and Manning/ Mid Coast.

Funding will be provided from two sources: a grant of **\$150 000 ex GST** to each of the four successful applicants, plus **additional funding** via two Pitch (crowd funding) Events at which the four successful applicants will present and pitch to secure a share of an additional funding pool (total of \$300 000 ex GST) via audience contributions.

The live crowdfunding events (Pitch Events) are hosted by The Funding Network (TFN) and create a dynamic energy in the room, where each audience members vote, and contributions provides more funds to support the program they feel best addresses the community needs. Funds will be provided by the PHN, with no additional monies being sought from audience members.

To see how TFN host live crowdfunding events, visit: [https://youtu.be/H-rA3j\\_7eWc?si=P0A6lj2kcH\\_CKdUm](https://youtu.be/H-rA3j_7eWc?si=P0A6lj2kcH_CKdUm).



The Pitch Events will be held in Lake Macquarie and Tamworth in **April 2024**, with all four successful organisations sharing their story and raising vital program funds to put their local touch on suicide prevention projects.

We are seeking applications for these grants incorporating the pitch event presentation, from organisations.

Applications **must** cover the following four key areas:

- Address issues of equity of access to mental health and suicide prevention services.
- Utilise the Dynamic Simulation Modelling Project [findings](#) to complement services already being delivered within HNECC PHN – Aftercare, postvention, safety planning etc.
- Identify and address the needs of the Priority Groups outlined in the PHN [Core Needs Assessment](#).
- Pilot innovative solutions to suicide prevention, with the potential for expansion as well as long-term sustainability (seed funding).

The [Australian Institute of Health and Welfare](#) reports that the greatest number of deaths by suicide occurred in the Hunter New England and Central Coast PHN region (181), which has also had the highest number of deaths since 2016, compared to other PHN regions.

The grant applications **must focus on suicide prevention or intervention** and address the four key areas outlined above.

The four organisations chosen to progress to the Pitch Night will receive a **minimum of \$150,000 for their program**, as well as pitch **coaching workshops** provided by The Funding Network (TFN)\*. TFN will ensure that you are ‘pitch ready’ to maximise the opportunity to secure additional funding that these events bring. The exact allocations for each project will be determined by audience contributions.

*\*The Funding Network (TFN) supports grassroots non-profits, local organisations and early-stage social enterprises that directly help people in need and have the potential to create positive change for individuals, communities and society over the long term.*

## Selection Criteria

Grant applications will be assessed by a panel, with a ranking system used based on the criteria and value for money determination.

One program will be selected from each of the four regions, to ensure spread across the HNECC PHN regions: Hunter, New England, Central Coast and Manning / Mid-Coast.

Assessment criteria includes:

<p><b>Vision and Capacity</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Innovative</li> <li>• Inclusive, culturally safe and responsive</li> <li>• Addresses a need and the four core focus areas</li> <li>• Supporting research or evidence</li> <li>• Organisation capability and governance</li> </ul>
<p><b>Partnerships, Impact, Sustainability</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Demonstration of scalability with additional funds</li> <li>• Return on investment or impact, sustainability</li> <li>• Partnerships or collaboration</li> <li>• Deliverable and achievable within the timeframe</li> <li>• Sound financial evaluation</li> <li>• Impact, outcomes, evaluation</li> </ul>

## What can be funded?

Allocated funds for the four successful applicant's programs will not be ongoing and are time limited funds for projects spanning from mid May, 2024 until June 30, 2025.

1. HNECC PHN are only accepting applications from organisations operating within Hunter, New England and Central Coast regions and [LGAs](#).
2. Suitable organisations must submit a project valued at approximately \$150,000 ex GST. As further funds are available via the pitch events, an outline of how you would utilise these funds (expand your program, upscale, additional scope, etc) is required. Applications are accepted from any organisation that has a primary focus and project for which they are seeking funding, that clearly addresses the purpose and criteria of the grant.
3. Organisations applying must have a strong understanding of the priority groups identified as having high rates of mental illness, intentional self-harm and suicide within the PHN Core Needs Assessment and the findings from the Dynamic Simulation Model findings report, and how their program contributes to the reduction of suicide rates in the region.
4. Only one project/ pitch will be successful from each of the core regions: Hunter, New England, Central Coast and Manning / Mid-Coast, within the PHN catchment region. The activities proposed from any additional funding from the Pitch Events may be in a different location within the HNECC region than the main program and/or with different partners.
5. Evidence of **existing** service delivery and community connection within proposed project locations is a requirement.
6. Organisations applying and presenting must be familiar with the [Mindframe](#) guidelines ensuring safe communication of mental ill-health and suicide.
7. Each applicant **must be endorsed by an advocate**, who is willing to provide a statement of support on the application form. If the organisation is selected, **that advocate will also speak briefly** in support of the organisation at the event and make the first pledge amount to that pitch project. This could be a health consumer, a member of your Board or similar, a local community member or someone with a lived experience willing to advocate on behalf of the program.
8. The reasonable travel costs associated with the organisation representative(s) and advocate attending the pitch events can be included in the project budget as this is a mandatory requirement of the grant.

## What cannot be funded?

1. Activities and programs not carried out in the funding period (funding period is once the grant agreement is executed and signed in May 2024 up until June 30, 2025), or retrospective costs.
2. Capital items or works and costs not directly associated with the project.
3. Applications that include advocacy campaigns, religious or political campaigns, crisis appeals, overseas aid, or health research applications from individuals.
4. An organisation that does not hold appropriate insurances and an ABN.
5. An organisation that does not demonstrate capability via qualified staff, contractors, or partners.
6. Activities not in the HNECC PHN geographical region, or activities targeting people not residing in the HNECC PHN geographical area.
7. Activities deemed business as usual. Innovative, pilot programs are encouraged.
8. Activities deemed not eligible by HNECC PHN or judged to not meet the selection criteria or address the four key areas.

## How to apply

Applications are open via completion of the online form on the PHN grants portal, Smarty Grants and close **5.00pm Wednesday, 7 February 2024**.

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

Short listed applicants will be required to submit a detailed activity plan and budget for assessment prior to selecting the final successful projects.

Successful applicants will be required to sign a HNECC PHN agreement outlining payments and milestones, terms and conditions and evidence or reporting required at each stage. A copy of relevant insurances will be required if successful, dependent on the nature of the activity.

Successful applicants must attend the two pitch events.

## Eligibility

Organisations will be those who are working within the Hunter, New England and Central Coast geographical area that HNECC PHN covers.

Previous funding recipients are eligible only if they have fully complied with any previous PHN funding contract commitments including reporting and acquittal requirements.

## Terms and conditions

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

- HNECC PHN Terms and Conditions will apply.
- Applicants must have a valid ABN number.
- Only one grant submission per organisation will be accepted.
- Partnerships are highly encouraged but only one lead organisation (the applicant) is permitted.
- Applications that do not meet the criteria will not be eligible.
- Funding will be paid to the applicant as per their agreement and will include reporting requirements that may be linked to split payments.
- Successful applicants will receive a minimum of \$150 000 ex GST. There is no guarantee of additional funding as this is reliant on audience contributions at the pitch events.
- Payments will be made as a Recipient Created Tax Invoice.
- All conflicts of interest are to be declared.

**NOTE: Failure to attend and present (pitch) at the two live Pitch Events in April 2024 at Lake Macquarie and Tamworth will result in a forfeit of all grant funding.**

If you have any questions regarding the grant application, please contact Francesca Groves, Suicide Prevention Regional Response Coordinator, at [fgroves@thephn.com.au](mailto:fgroves@thephn.com.au).