



GP After Hours Support Initiative  
Round 1 Guidelines (General Practice and  
Pharmacy)  
2021

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# The Initiative

The GP After Hours Support Initiative aims to increase access to after-hours primary and urgent care services for Tasmanians regardless of where they live through different practice settings which may include community pharmacies, general practice and urgent care clinics.

The Initiative will be a grants process administered in two rounds.

The first round will be open to GP practices and pharmacies to apply for grants to provide after-hours primary health care.

The second round will be open to GP practices to apply for grants to establish and operate urgent care clinics. Successful applicants in round 1 are eligible to apply for further funding in Round 2.

The objective of the Initiative is to provide better, more accessible care in community-based health settings.

**This document provides guidance for applicants under Round 1 of the Scheme, GP practices and pharmacies.**

## Defining After Hours

The quantum of funds available under the Initiative are determined by the times during which after hours services will be available.

For the purposes of the Initiative, sociable after hour periods are defined as 6 pm through to 11 pm weeknights and 8am – 12 noon Saturday.

Unsociable after hour periods are defined as 11 pm through to 8 am weekdays, hours outside of 8 am and 12 noon Saturdays, and all-day Sunday and public holidays.

## Eligibility and Exclusions

### Eligible applicants

All general practices and community retail pharmacies in Tasmania with an ABN are eligible to apply. Applications from consortia of GP or pharmacy practices are permitted.

Particular requirements apply for different practice settings as follows.

- General practices must be accredited and the practitioners providing services must be a FRACGP or FACRRM or have access to on site supervision of same during the after-hours period.
- Pharmacies must be a retail community pharmacy with an accredited dispensing pharmacist on site during the after-hours period.

**NOTE:** Where GP practices or pharmacies are already providing after hours services, applications must be for an extension of existing after-hours service arrangements. The Initiative will not fund periods of after-hours service delivery currently offered by the provider.

Two contact persons must also be provided.

The Initiative will also not fund an application for an after-hours service that ceases after the opening date for applications, 5 August 2021.

## Exclusions

- Medical deputising services are not eligible to apply.
- Sub-contracting of services is not permitted

# Services to be provided

## Community Pharmacies

Supply of prescription only and other scheduled medicines

Minor ailment advice

Quality use of medicines advice to other health professionals

Wound care

Supply of Opioid Replacement Therapy

Vaccination

Blood pressure monitoring

Blood glucose monitoring

Smoking cessation

Weight management

Emergency contraception

Absence from work certificates

Return of unwanted medicines

Medical equipment hire

Bowel cancer screening

Needle and syringe program

Medication delivery

## General Practices

Direct face to face clinical care in consulting rooms with patients.

Clinical care directly to patients via video or telephone platforms.

## Funding

All grants are exclusive of GST.

- Grants of up to \$75,000 per pharmacy or GP practice for services provided 6 pm through to 11 pm weeknights **or** 8am-12 noon Saturday for a 12-month period and (sociable after-hours period)
- Grants of up to \$125,000 per pharmacy or GP practice for services provided within the period of 11 pm through to 8 am weekdays **or** 12 noon to 6pm Saturday, and all-day Sundays and public holidays for a 12-month period (unsociable after hour periods).

**Notes:** Applicants can only submit one application for grant funding, except in cases where multiple service locations are being operated under a single ABN. (Note: Within general practice this applies to standalone practices being operated under a single ABN only, not sole traders providing contracted services to different locations).

The receipt of funding from this program may be treated as income by the ATO. While grants are typically treated as assessable income for taxation purposes, how they are treated will depend on the recipient's particular circumstances. It is strongly recommended that potential applicants consider seeking independent advice about the possible tax implications for receiving the grant under the program from a tax advisor, financial advisor and/or the ATO, prior to submitting an application.

## Funding Period

Funds will be paid on execution of a Funding Agreement with the Department and be for 12 months from the dates of execution by both parties.

## Permissible uses of funds and exclusions

### All settings

Business/operational costs for after-hours opening period, including but not limited to access to security costs, professional indemnity insurances, rental costs, administrative costs, utility costs, consumable costs etc

### For community pharmacy settings only

Salary and salary on costs for an accredited dispensing pharmacist and pharmacy retail assistants are permissible uses of funds

### For general practice settings only

Salary and on costs for health practitioners unable to raise MBS item numbers for their services and or administrative or other non-clinical support including any consumables used in the afterhours period.

### Exclusions

- Health practitioners able to raise MBS item numbers for their services will be expected to bill patients according to their own practice policies through the Medical Benefits Schedule, including bulk billing (as applicable to the practice) and the charging of any gap fees (as applicable to the practice).
- Infrastructure costs
- Leasing or purchase of vehicles
- Capital equipment
- Conference fees and expenses and any other professional development costs
- Any other cost not directly related to the provision of after-hours services

## Applications process

Applications for the first round will open 5 August 2021 and will close, 5pm Friday, 10 September 2021. (The Department of Health reserves the right to extend the funding round/period if required).

Applications for Round 2 will open 24 August 2021.

Applications should be made using a prescribed format/template that is available from the website at <https://www.health.tas.gov.au/gpafterhourssupportinitiative> or on request via email on [primaryhealth.caregrants@health.tas.gov.au](mailto:primaryhealth.caregrants@health.tas.gov.au)

Applications will be acknowledged by return email.

Late applications will not be accepted.

Applications must be in writing and provide;

- relevant information on the practice/pharmacy

- Information on existing after-hours arrangements (as applicable)
- Information on the amount of funding requested
- Detailed information on how funds will be expended
- Information on how patients will be advised of the introduction or extension of after-hours services.

## Assessment of applications

Applications will be assessed against the following evaluation criteria:

- (a) Compliance Criteria in accordance with the Eligibility and Exclusions requirements outlined in this document. Applications that do not meet the criteria will not be considered further.
- (b) Qualitative and Quantitative Criteria:  
Applications will be assessed on a competitive basis having regard to,
  - Value for money
  - Innovation in service delivery

## Administration and contact details

Successful applicants will be required to enter into a grant arrangement based on Tasmanian Government standard terms and conditions.

The Department of Health will require data from successful applicants to evaluate the impact of the service.

More information and queries can be directed to [primaryhealth.caregrants@health.tas.gov.au](mailto:primaryhealth.caregrants@health.tas.gov.au)