

Hospital Avoidance Co-Investment Fund Guidelines

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Hospital Avoidance Co-Investment Fund

The Tasmanian Government has committed \$1.0 million for a Hospital Avoidance Co-Investment fund, to match private sector investment on a dollar-for-dollar basis to support capital upgrades for GPs and Primary Care providers who will improve or expand their facilities in order to deliver improved after-hours care. This is in addition to the \$3 million already announced for GPs to support after-hours service delivery.

Defining After Hours

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

To be eligible to apply, the applicant must have made an application to the GP After-hours Support Initiative under Round 2.

Funding and contribution

Grant Funding

The Tasmanian Government will administer the payment of all contributions by way of grant. The Tasmanian Government's obligation to make any contribution is subject to the Applicant entering into a grant arrangement with the Tasmanian Government on terms and conditions satisfactory to the Tasmanian Government. Those terms and conditions may vary depending on the proposed use of the grant funds. Without limitation, any grant of funds will be subject conditions which ensure:

- financial accountability for the use of grant funds and Applicant contributions
- that grant funds are used for the approved purpose;
- compliance with all Commonwealth, State and Local Government requirements;

A maximum amount of \$200,000 per successful application is available. While it is the intent that the Tasmanian Government will contribute funds on a 'dollar for dollar' basis, it any offer of grant funding will be at its discretion and based on its assessment of each Application.

Applicants can only submit one application for grant funding, except in cases where an Applicant operates multiple service locations.

The funds will be allocated on a dollar-for-dollar basis with funding recipients required to match any amount of Tasmanian Government funding.

For example, if the grant application is for \$200,000 the funding recipient must contribute funds of \$200,000 to a total of \$400,000.

Co-contributions will be in the form of evidence of capacity to make a direct cash injection or loan letter of offer from a financial institution.

In kind contributions will not be considered as a co-contribution.

Designated Use

Upon completion of the infrastructure project, the funding agreement will require the infrastructure to be used, consistent with the GP After-hours Support Initiative objectives, equivalent to the period of Tasmanian Government funding provided to a successful applicant under the GP After Hours Support Initiative Round 2.

Permissible uses of funds and exclusions

Permissible use of Funds

Consistent with the GP After-Hours Support Initiative objectives and aligned to applications made under Round 2:

- Direct construction and/or renovation on an existing building, or construction of a new addition where the new building would be functionally related. Costs could cover fit-out, labour and materials for builders, plumbers, electricians, etc.
- Fit-out for newly constructed extension to an existing premise as described above.
- Supply and installation of information and communication technology equipment (eg video conferencing equipment) including both hardware and software; for either specialist/allied health case management patient consultations or training/ health literacy purposes. Clinical software should be approved for connection to the My Health Record system and have the ability to upload Shared Health Summaries.
- Supply and installation (as appropriate) of medical and diagnostic equipment.
- Independent Project Management fees up to 5% of the total grant funding for the purpose of the project.
- Professional fees for the design of the infrastructure project.
- Professional fees for legal and accountancy advice relating directly to the infrastructure project; or Application fees for Development Approval, Building Permits and other building approval expenses.

Exclusions

The following types of activities will not be funded under the Fund:

- Constructing new premises to establish a new health facility service or business.
- Retrospective items or activities, including an infrastructure project that has been contracted, commenced or completed prior to the execution of a funding agreement.
- Ongoing operating (recurrent) costs (e.g. rent, utilities, salaries, maintenance, insurance).
- Ongoing annual fees for use of computer software or licenses.
- The purchase of consumables (other than a consumables pack that may be supplied with equipment on delivery).
- Purchasing or fitting out a mobile medical unit/vehicle.
- The purchase of existing premises, businesses or land.
- Travel and accommodation.
- Extending/fitting out premises for which the applicant does not have tenure as at the date the application is submitted.

- Provision of health services.
- Purchasing or leasing of motor vehicle.
- Medical deputising services.

Application Process

Applications will open 24 August 2021 and will close Tuesday 5 October 2021
(The Department of Health reserves the right to extend the funding round/period if required).

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

Applications will be acknowledged by return email.

Late applications will not be accepted.

Assessment of applications

Submissions will be assessed against the following criteria:

- The ability of the proposal to meet Government's objective to provide better, more accessible care in community-based health settings.
- The extent to which the proposal supports and integrates with the applicant's application under Round 2 of the GP After-Hours Support Initiative to achieve the Government's objectives, including commencement of after-hours services
- The extent to which the proposal addresses current capacity restraints in the health sector including staffing.
- Value for money.

Following receipt of submissions, the Department will undertake an assessment of each proposal against the criteria.

Applicants will be notified of the outcome of their application within 4 weeks of the closing date as specified in these guidelines or any variation as notified by the Department thereafter.

Administration and contact details

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

More information and queries can be directed to primaryhealth.caregrants@health.tas.gov.au