



GP After Hours Support Initiative Round 2 Guidelines (Urgent Care Services) 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 primary care providers.

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

The first round is open to GP practices and pharmacies to apply for grants to provide after-hours primary health care. This round will close on 10 September 2021.

Following on from stakeholder consultations on the Urgent Care Centre Feasibility Report, the second round is open to GP practices and those primary care services linked to the provision of after-hours urgent primary care to apply for grants to establish and operate urgent after-hours care services.

Successful applicants in round 1 are eligible to apply for further funding in Round 2.

To support their application, Round 2 applicants are eligible to apply to the Hospital Avoidance Co-Investment Fund.

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 2 of the Initiative, Urgent Care Services

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.

Defining Urgent Care Services

Urgent care is care for unforeseen, episodic, non-life, non-limb threatening conditions requiring immediate medical attention to prevent further, potentially serious, deterioration in health. Urgent care services may or may not require access to diagnostic support.

Eligibility and Exclusions

Eligible applicants

To be eligible to apply for grant funding, the applicant must:

- Have an Australian Business Number (ABN) and be registered for Goods and Services Tax (GST);
- Be a general practice or accredited private hospital or be a primary care service linked to a general practice through an agreed referral process
- Have been operating continuously since 31 January 2021, currently operating and providing services to Tasmanians.
- Provide two person contact details; and
- Not be subject to any legal action or proceeding, including bankruptcy or liquidation.

Applicants must be currently providing or be able to demonstrate plans (through a Business case) to provide in hours and after hours (including weekend) services.

Applications from consortia are encouraged but will be considered as a single application.

Exclusions

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

Services to be provided

- Treatment of appropriate urgent care 'walk in' patient presentations during after-hours (sociable and unsociable).
- Treatment of patients in need of immediate but not life-threatening illness or injury, by a qualified medical practitioner, or Nurse Practitioner (under the supervision of a qualified medical practitioner) and/or
- treatment of patients in need of an urgent primary care service as referred by a qualified medical practitioner, or Nurse Practitioner.
- Treatment summaries to be provided to patients' normal treating GP

In addition, applicants must demonstrate that their facility has or is planned to have,

- appropriate, monitored waiting area.
- multiple, private examination rooms.
- appropriate nurse and administrative support.
- protocols for the transfer of patients to a hospital emergency department as appropriate.

- any other amenities as specified by the Department required to ensure the delivery of safe clinical services.

Funding

The Tasmanian Government will administer the payment of all funds by way of grant. The Tasmanian Government's obligation to make any grant payment 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:

- the appropriate financial acquittal of grant funds;
- that grant funds are used for the approved purpose; and
- compliance with all Commonwealth, State and Local Government requirements.

All grants are exclusive of GST.

- Grants of up to \$250,000 to eligible, successful applicants.

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 initiative 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 initiative 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

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.

Costs associated with accessing diagnostic services after hours, where these services are not available in the practice (as applicable to service model outlined in the Business Plan).

Consideration will also be given to initiatives that address the ability to meet Government to provide better, more accessible care in community-based health settings.

Exclusions

- Health practitioner services for which MBS item numbers are raised.
- Leasing or purchase of vehicles
- Capital infrastructure
- Conference fees and expenses and any other professional development costs
- Any other cost not directly related to the provision of services

Applications process

Applications for the first round 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 must be in writing and provide;

- A **detailed business case** including but not limited to
 - geographical area to be served
 - services to be provided
 - supporting infrastructure/services as applicable
 - staffing model
 - opening hours
 - fee structure
 - Benefits
 - Cost
 - Risks and mitigation strategies
 - identified interdependencies
 - implementation plan, (including timeframe to commencement of service delivery, marketing etc.)
 - A list of medical conditions able to be safely treated

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

Applications will be assessed on a competitive basis having regard to,

- Eligibility
- Value for money (assessed through submission of a Business case)
- Innovation in service delivery (assessed through submission of a Business case)

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 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 or by phoning 6777 4276.