

Northern Queensland Primary Health Network

Activity Work Plan

PHN Pilots and Targeted Programs

2023/24-2027/28



NQPHN acknowledges the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as Australia's First Nation Peoples and the Traditional Custodians of this land. We respect their continued connection to land and sea, country, kin, and community. We also pay our respect to their Elders past, present, and emerging as the custodians of knowledge and lore.



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Disclaimer

All activities captured in this Activity Work Plan are identified in the Joint Regional Needs Assessment conducted by Northern Queensland Primary Health Network and have been approved by the Department of Health, Disability, and Ageing.

PP&TP-GP – 1 - PHN Strengthening Medicare – General Practice Grants Program

Activity priorities and description

Program key priority areas

Workforce.

Aim of activity

Northern Queensland Primary Health Network (NQPHN) will support and participate, as directed by the Department of Health, Disability, and Ageing (DHDA), in the evaluation of the Strengthening Medicare – General Practice Grants Program.

This will include establishing, administering, and managing the General Practice Grants Program within the program guidelines for all eligible general practices in the NQPHN region.

The program provides one-off grants to support general practices in expanding patient access and improving quality primary care.

Description of activity

- Administer and manage the Strengthening Medicare - General Practice Grants Program
- All general practices, as identified by DHDA, are invited to participate in the Strengthening Medicare - General Practice Grants Program.
- Manage the execution of Deed of Grants, monitor grant implementation, submission of outcome reports, and financial acquittals for each participating general practice.

PP&TP-EPP – 1 – PHN Endometriosis and Pelvic Pain GP Clinics

Activity priorities and description

Program key priority areas

Population Health.

Aim of activity

The Program provides funding to support the establishment of targeted Endometriosis and Pelvic Pain General Practice clinics in primary care settings. Funding will be provided to administer and manage the program on behalf of the Department, in line with the objectives of the program, including entering into agreements with successful general practice clinics. The aim of the program is to alleviate the burden of endometriosis and pelvic pain to patients through targeted activity including recruitment of specialist staff including allied health and nurse practitioners, associated equipment, resources, training, and education.

Description of activity

NQPHN will perform the below activities.

- Recruitment of specialised staff, including nurse practitioner/nurse navigator, and allied health professionals.
- Pelvic physiotherapy areas and associated equipment.
- Development of new information/support resources and care pathways.
- Training/upskilling of staff and other general practitioners in endometriosis and pelvic pain management.

PP&TP-DVP – 1 – PHN Supporting Outreach Healthcare for Victim-Survivors of Family, Domestic, and Sexual Violence Pilot

Activity priorities and description

Program key priority areas

Population Health.

Aim of activity

The pilot aims to reduce barriers to accessing support and improve the coordination of health responses by providing outreach holistic and integrated health care to women, children, and young people experiencing family, domestic, and sexual violence (FDSV) and are residing in crisis or temporary accommodation.

By improving access and the coordination of health services for individuals within shelters or crisis accommodation, the aim is to reduce barriers and provide holistic, trauma-informed, and culturally appropriate care and support for victim-survivors across the sector.

Description of activity

- Develop and trial a place-based, integrated model of care that increases access to high-quality, holistic, primary care for women, children, and young people using crisis or temporary accommodation and services as a result of FDSV.
- Codesign will be undertaken between shelter staff and clinician service providers, to develop a model that will see general practitioners, practice nurses, and nurse practitioners provide clinical services, referrals, and navigation to this priority population
- Clinicians will provide services on site/within shelters in Cairns and surrounds.
- Mental health services will be provided, as required, and as per referrals from visiting clinicians.
- The coordination of services will be provided in collaboration between the shelter and visiting clinical services.
- Service providers were identified at the point of grant application and will be commissioned by NQPHN to provide high quality, innovative, locally relevant, and clinically and cost-effective primary health care.
- Activities will not duplicate or compete with existing services, including private businesses and other government-funded services.

PP&TP-GCPC - 1 - Greater Choice for At Home Palliative Care (GCfAHPC) Project

Activity priorities and description

Program key priority areas

PHN Pilots and Targeted Programs


Aim of activity

The overall aim of this activity is to increase awareness of, and facilitate and coordinate access to, safe and quality palliative and end of life care at home across the NQPHN catchment. With specific objectives as below:

- Improve awareness and access to safe, quality palliative care at home and support end-of-life care systems and practices in the community.
- Enable the right care, at the right time and in the right place to reduce unnecessary hospitalisation.
- Generate and use data to support continuous improvement of services across sectors. Use available technologies to support flexible and responsive palliative care at home including afterhours supports.

Description of activity

- Recruitment and retention of staff to support implementation of initiatives identified through the approved Activity Work Plan.
- Continue to collaborate with the Program of Experience in Palliative Care Approach (PEPA) to facilitate primary care workforce palliative care and end-of-life care observational placements at specialist palliative care units.
- Commission Palliative Care Queensland to deliver the Far North Queensland Palliative Care Forum and Good Life, Good Death Expo 2025.
- Update, in 2025, the Palliative Care needs assessment across the NQPHN region.
- Continue to undertake mapping exercises, residential aged care homes (RACHs) in-service trainings with PallConsult, and collate existing palliative care services and networks across the NQPHN region.
- Ongoing collaboration with specialist palliative care units, both local Hospital and Health Services (HHSs) and state services to address identified needs and priority activities and trainings to facilitate and coordinate improved access to, and integration of, palliative care services at home and on country.
- Continue to explore opportunities, which would include joining and seeking speaking opportunities at community events to increase awareness of the Greater Choice for At Home Palliative Care (GCfAHPC) program, available palliative care services in the local area and signpost to resources, Advance Care Planning, and facilitate and coordinate access to, safe and quality palliative and end of life care at home across the NQPHN region across 2025 to 2026.

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- Continue to support compassionate health connectors in supporting and signposting families affected by life limiting illnesses to access services through leading the NQ Compassionate Communities Connectors Network.
 - Scope collaboration with the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia with a view to establish the NQ Community Pharmacy Palliative Support Network and co-facilitate primary workforce development training for general practitioners, RACHs, and pharmacists as well as continuing supports to community pharmacists.

