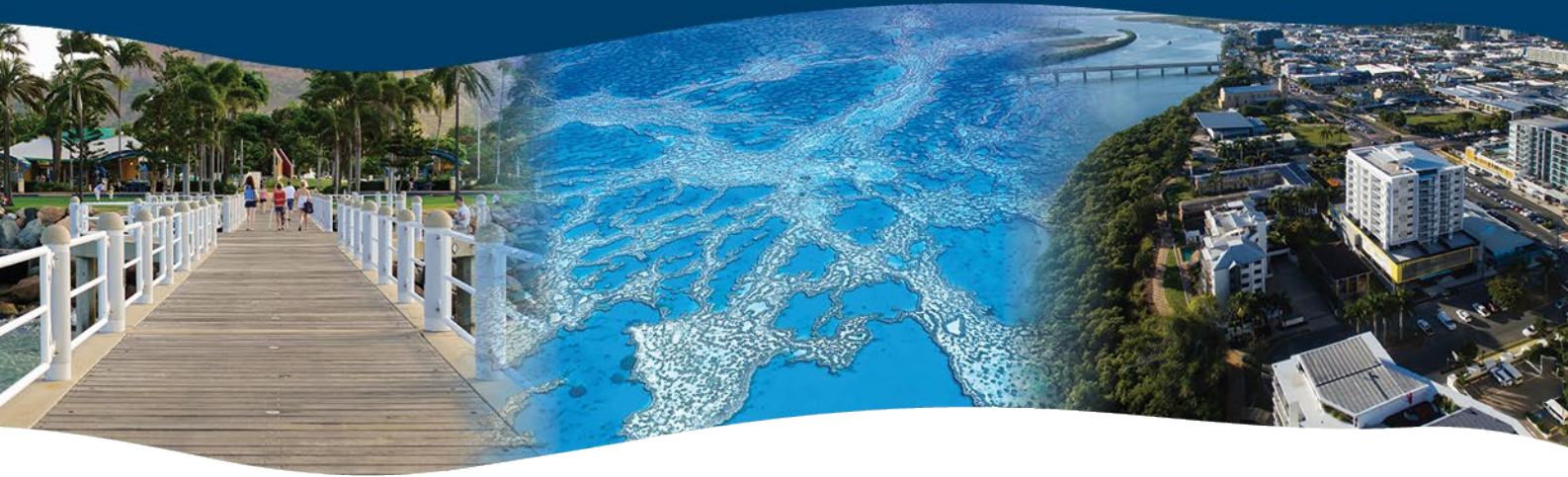




Northern Queensland Primary Health Network

Activity Work Plan

PHN Pilots and Targeted Programs

2025/26 – 2028/29

Updated August 2026



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-LARC - 1 - PHN commissioning long-acting reversible contraception (LARC) Centres of Excellence (CoE)

Activity priorities and description

Program key priority areas

Population Health.

Aim of activity

To increase access to high-quality, long-acting reversible contraception (LARC) counselling, insertion and removal services for women, girls, and gender diverse people across Queensland. The project will strengthen the primary care workforce by establishing a LARC Centre of Excellence that provides a rapid referral pathway, accredited training, and outreach support.

Description of activity

Northern Queensland Primary Health Network (NQPHN) will:

- Implement an intake and rapid referral pathway for health professionals.
- Deliver no-cost counselling and LARC insertion/removal services (with Medicare Benefits Schedule (MBS) used for clinical service delivery; grant funds for admin/training only).
- Provide accredited LARC training for health professionals (with consistent protocols and eligibility requirements).
- Deliver continuous learning supports and promote Australian Contraception and Abortion Primary Care Practitioner Support Network (AusCAPPS) participation.
- Plan and deliver outreach across regional, rural, and remote areas for both training and service delivery.
- Maintain governance requirements.
- Align clinical practice with relevant guidance and patient education/pain management options.

PP&TP-PPH - 1 - Preventative Healthcare for Cairns and Far North Queensland Communities

Activity priorities and description

Program key priority areas

Other – Chronic conditions.

Aim of activity

To commission locally tailored preventive health services and health promotion activities that reduce the disproportionate burden of preventable chronic conditions and cancer in Cairns and Far North Queensland. Grant funding will be used to improve access to preventive healthcare (including cancer screening) and strengthen health literacy and engagement with preventive services, particularly for communities in remote and remote areas.

Description of activity

Northern Queensland Primary Health Network (NQPHN) will:

- Promote health education and improve access to preventive healthcare (via cancer screening) in Cairns and Far North Queensland, particularly to increase participation for people in remote and rural areas.
- Commission and coordinate preventive healthcare to increase access to cervical and skin cancer screening in Cairns and Far North Queensland, focusing on priority groups such as rural and remote communities and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

This will be completed through:

- Outreach screening clinics in communities with limited access.
- Workforce training and upskilling.
- Supporting the purchase of up-to-date cancer screening equipment.
- A coordinated communications/marketing approach to increase awareness and participation.

NQPHN will work with providers to:

- Build workforce capability by coordinating training, mentoring, and access to specialist clinical support; helping practices meet competency and quality expectations.
- Monitor quality, outcomes, and equity using key performance indicators and holding regular contract meetings to improve delivery.

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 (GP) Clinics in primary care settings. Funding will be provided to administer and manage the program on behalf of the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing, in line with the objectives of the program, including entering into agreements with successful GP 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 such as allied health and nurse practitioners, associated equipment, resources, training, and education.

Description of activity

Northern Queensland Primary Health Network (NQPHN) will:

- Recruit specialised staff, including nurse practitioners/nurse navigators, and allied health professionals.
- Support pelvic physiotherapy areas and associated equipment.
- Develop new information/support resources and care pathways.
- Train/upskill 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, & 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 coordination of health responses by providing outreach holistic and integrated health care to women, children, and young people who have been experiencing family, domestic, and sexual violence (FDSV) and are residing in crisis or temporary accommodation.

By improving access and coordination of health services for individuals within shelter 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 utilising crisis or temporary accommodation and services as a result of FDSV.
- Undertake a codesign between shelter staff and clinician service providers, to develop a model that will see general practitioners, practice nurses, and nurse practitioners provide clinical services, referral, and navigation to this priority population.
- Clinicians will provide services on-site, within shelters, and community in Cairns and surrounds.
- Mental health services will be provided as required and as per referral from visiting clinicians.
- Coordination of services will be provided in collaboration between the shelter and visiting clinical service
- 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

Population Health.

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 Northern Queensland Primary Health Network (NQPHN) region. 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 after-hours supports.

Description of activity

NQPHN will:

- Recruit and retain staff to support the implementation of initiatives identified through the approved Activity Work Plan.
- Continue to collaborate with key stakeholders to facilitate primary care workforce palliative care and end-of-life care in partnership with specialist palliative care units and other providers through identified programs.
- Commission Palliative Care Queensland to deliver the Far North Queensland Palliative Care Forum and Good Life, Good Death Expo 2026.
- Continue to undertake mapping exercises, engaging residential aged care homes (RACHs) in-service trainings, and collate existing palliative care services and networks across the NQPHN region.
- Coordinate with specialist palliative care units, both local Hospital and Health Services (HHS) based 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 – e.g. join and seek speaking opportunities at community events to increase awareness of the greater choice for at home palliative care, 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 throughout 2026-27.
- Continue to support engaged communities to lead and support a compassionate community concept/model to best support community identified needs.

