

**Expression of Interest**

# **Multidisciplinary Team Approach - Type 2 Diabetes in Primary Care**

**Application Information**

**October 2024**





# Invitation

Wentworth Healthcare is seeking **Credentialed Diabetes Educators** and **Accredited Practising Dietitians** to participate in a pilot project focused on supporting patients with type 2 diabetes through a multidisciplinary team approach with 4-8 small/solo general practices in the eastern side of the Penrith local government area.

## About Wentworth Healthcare

Wentworth Healthcare, provider of the Nepean Blue Mountains Primary Health Network (PHN), is a not-for profit organisation which works to improve health and wellbeing for the people in the Nepean Blue Mountains region. This includes the Blue Mountains, Hawkesbury, Lithgow and Penrith local government areas (LGAs).



Wentworth Healthcare's mission is to empower general practice and other healthcare professionals to deliver high-quality, accessible and integrated primary healthcare that meets the needs of our community.

In 2015, Wentworth Healthcare was selected by the Australian Government to operate the PHN in the Nepean Blue Mountains region. The key objectives of PHNs are to:

- increase the efficiency and effectiveness of health services for patients, particularly those at risk of poor health outcomes
- improve coordination of care to ensure patients receive the right care in the right place at the right time.

For more information on Wentworth Healthcare and the Nepean Blue Mountains region visit [www.nbmphn.com.au](http://www.nbmphn.com.au).



# About this Opportunity

## In Brief

The Department of Health and Aged Care's 10-year Primary Health Care Plan outlines the importance of multidisciplinary teams (MDT) in primary care. An MDT is a group of health professionals who may be part of different professions or businesses, who work together to coordinate care for a patient. Allied Health Professionals (AHPs) are an important part of collaborative primary care for many patients, particularly for those with complex or chronic conditions such as type 2 diabetes.

Wentworth Healthcare's aim is to demonstrate and evaluate the use of MDT care in a primary healthcare setting, through its pilot project to improve care coordination of patients with type 2 diabetes in the eastern Penrith LGA (which includes suburbs such as St Marys, North St Marys, Colyton, St Clair).

## Who Can Apply?

**Credentialed Diabetes Educators** and **Accredited Practising Dietitians** meeting the following eligibility criteria:

- accredited with the appropriate professional governing body (i.e. Australian Diabetes Educators Association and/or Dietitians Australia);
- working in private practice;
- experience working in a primary healthcare setting, either within any of the LGAs of the Nepean Blue Mountains region (i.e. Penrith, Blue Mountains, Hawkesbury and Lithgow LGAs) or outside the region;
- willingness to work in the eastern Penrith (e.g. St Marys, North St Marys, Colyton, St Clair) to provide services;
- have appropriate insurance and indemnity coverage including:
  - Public Liability Insurance of up to \$20 million;
  - Professional Indemnity insurance; and
  - workers compensation insurance to an amount required by law;
- have a current NSW driver's license.

## Requirements to Participate in the MDT Pilot Project

The model of care will be developed through a co-design process with the selected AHPs and the participating general practices (GPs). This will include communication methods, co-location agreements, frequency of service provision by the AHPs, roles and responsibilities, etc.

It is the intention to set up the MDT model through a healthcare neighbourhood approach by engaging appropriate AHPs who are in the immediate area, where possible. This project is aimed at supporting the local market, particularly those who are already engaged in the eastern Penrith/Penrith community. If commissioning AHPs from eastern Penrith is not possible, the project will commission AHPs in the surrounding LGAs who are willing to travel to eastern Penrith to provide their services



As a part of this pilot, the Credentialed Diabetes Educators and Accredited Practising Dietitians will be required to:

- participate in the co-design of the model of care with GPs of the 4-8 participating general practices in eastern Penrith and other relevant individuals, before service delivery commences;
- co-locate in the participating general practices for the agreed number of clinic days/sessions;
- conduct initial assessments of and deliver care through individual and group sessions to patients with Type 2 Diabetes of participating general practices;
- write required clinical reports;
- work in collaboration with other care team members (i.e. other AHPs and GPs) through team meetings, case conferencing, shared medical appointments, secure messaging and other agreed methods;
- participate in up-skilling workshops;
- attend regular team meetings with Wentworth Healthcare, other AHPs and GPs to review and evaluate the MDT pilot model;
- provide regular written progress reports, including data, to Wentworth Healthcare;
- participate in annual reviews of the MDT model;
- participate in a national evaluation of the pilot project.

## Duration of the MDT Pilot

**Co-design phase:** anticipated to start in early December 2024 and ends in February or March 2025.

**Service delivery phase:** starts in February or March 2025 and ends on 30 June 2027.

## Funding

To receive funding the successful applicants must enter into a contract with Wentworth Healthcare. Funding will cover the following:

- participation in the co-design of the MDT model at a rate of \$120/hour;
- service delivery at agreed general practice(s) at a rate of \$130/hour;
- MDT meeting time with Wentworth Healthcare at a rate of \$120/hour;
- participation in the evaluation of MDT model at a rate of \$120/hour.

Commissioned AHPs cannot bill MBS items during paid clinic hours but can bill MBS for case conferencing that will occur outside of the clinic hours.



## Background Information

Wentworth Healthcare's 2023 Needs Assessment identified that the Nepean Blue Mountains region has a growing population of over 387,496 people, with the Penrith LGA projected to have an increase in population of 1.13% annually from 216,075 in 2021 to 270,477 2041. On average patients in the Nepean Blue Mountains region have 2.9 chronic diseases and have visited their GP 23.9 times in the last 3 years.

The 2024 State of the Nation Report by Diabetes Australia has indicated that between 2013 and 2023, the number of people diagnosed with diabetes (all types) rose by 32% across Australia. The report expressed an urgent need to do more to prevent and promote remission of type 2 diabetes and indicates that trends affecting vulnerable communities show no signs of slowing. It highly recommends the development and use of integrated models of care that support a multidisciplinary diabetes care team, inclusive of general practice, Credentialed Diabetes Educators and other AHPs

The 2023 Needs Assessment identified that 4.51% of the Nepean Blue Mountains population had a coded diagnosis of type 2 diabetes. This has increased from 4.34% in 2022 and 4.37% in 2021, demonstrating a significant need in the region. Lithgow and Penrith LGAs have some of the highest rates of diabetes and diabetes-related hospitalisations in the region. 2023 Primary Sense data from our solo and small practices indicated that 70% of Diabetes diagnoses are in the Penrith and St Marys Statistical Area 3 (SA3).

Further, the eastern side of Penrith, including suburbs such as North St Marys, St. Marys, Oxley Park, Colyton, Penrith, Werrington and Cambridge Park, has some of the lowest Socio-Economic Indexes for Areas (SEIFA) scores in the Penrith LGA. Cost appears to be a significant barrier to accessing health care in the region with only 44.9% of people in Penrith LGA with private health insurance (as of 2014/5) which is indicative that access to AHPs for people in the region can be cost prohibitive.

## Conflicts of Interest (including related parties)

A conflict of interest (inclusive of a perceived conflict of interest) may exist if Wentworth Healthcare staff, Board member, Member organisation, any member of a Wentworth Healthcare advisory panel or expert committee, and/or the applicant or any of its personnel:

- has a relationship (whether professional, commercial or personal) with a party who is able to influence the application assessment process;
- has a relationship with, or interest in, an organisation, which is likely to interfere with or restrict the applicant in carrying out the proposed activities fairly and independently; or
- has a relationship with, or interest in, an organisation from which they will receive personal gain as a result of the granting of funding.

The Funding Agreement between the Australian Government and Wentworth Healthcare strictly regulates Wentworth Healthcare's ability to pay grant funds or transfer assets to Related Parties and certain other persons without the Department's prior written consent.

A 'Related Party' is defined as:

- a) an entity that controls or has significant influence over Wentworth Healthcare at any time;
- b) an entity that Wentworth Healthcare controls or has significant influence over at any time;



- c) a person who is a member of Wentworth Healthcare Board or governing body;
- d) a member of the Board of an entity referred to a or b above;
- e) a member of Wentworth Healthcare Personnel, other than in their capacity as an employee; or
- f) a spouse or immediate family member of:
  - i. a member of Wentworth Healthcare's Personnel; or
  - ii. a person specified in c) or d) above, who is not themselves an employee of Wentworth Healthcare.

Applicants will be required to declare as part of their application, existing actual or perceived conflicts of interest or; that to the best of their knowledge there is no actual or perceived conflict of interest, including in relation to the examples above.

## Application Period

**EOI opens:** **Wednesday, 16 October 2024, 9.00 am**

**Information Session:** **Monday, 14 October 2024, 6.00 – 6.45 pm**

**EOI closes:** **Wednesday, 13 November 2024, 5.00 pm**

Please note applications must be lodged by 5 pm, 13 November 2024. No late applications will be accepted, except at the absolute discretion of Wentworth Healthcare.

### Questions and Answers during the application period:

Please submit any questions about the EOI in writing to [alliedhealth@nbmphn.com.au](mailto:alliedhealth@nbmphn.com.au) – answers will be provided in a PDF on the website and we strongly encourage you to check it regularly for updates during the application period.

The information session above will be recorded and put onto our website for those who could not attend.

## Evaluation Process

All applications will be formally evaluated by an Evaluation Panel. Shortlisted applicants may be required to attend an interview.

## How To Apply

Please submit your expression of interest on [our website](#) by filling out the form and acknowledging that you have read the information and eligibility requirements in this document. **Submit by 5 pm on 13 November 2024.**