



Grant Opportunity - Guidance Document

Overview of Program

Capital Health Network (CHN) ACT's Primary Health Network is commissioning after hours access to General Practice services to support winter preparedness for at risk populations in the ACT.

Problem Statement

CHN's 2024 After Hours Health Needs Assessment (the Needs Assessment) identified significant gaps in after-hours primary health services preventing consumers from accessing affordable and appropriate services. It found that these service gaps place a disproportionate burden on vulnerable populations, more specifically low-income families, older adults, and people with chronic conditions ([2024-After-Hours-Needs-Assessment.pdf.](#)).

The Needs Assessment highlighted that access to GP after-hours services in the ACT was significantly lower than the national average, with a rate of 21.7 per 100 people compared with 29.5 per 100 people nationally. Additionally, consumer consultations indicated long wait times for after-hours appointments with GPs, where the practice operated after hours, and out of pocket costs impacting their ability to access after-hours appointments ([2024-After-Hours-Needs-Assessment.pdf.](#))

Opportunity on offer

CHN is offering grants to eligible General Practices willing to extend their opening hours in May and June, leading up to winter. This targeted funding will enhance ACT's general practice winter preparedness by extending appointment availability during the after-hours period.



Objective of the Grant

The allocated funding is intended to support General Practices to implement activities that enhance patient access to after-hours appointments and address local service needs to prepare for the increased rate of respiratory viruses that occurs during winter. This will be achieved through the delivery of accessible, timely, and effective care for individuals outside standard operating hours. The grant will also support practices ensure vulnerable patient cohorts are offered access to influenza and COVID vaccinations, and are provided with an appropriate winter management plan, where clinically indicated. The overarching objective of this initiative is to reduce avoidable presentations to emergency departments during the winter period and to facilitate early engagement with primary care services for patients at increased risk of deterioration.

Eligibility criteria & what the grant can be used for

All ACT general practices are eligible to apply, should they be willing to extend their hours throughout May and June 2026. **Grant applications will be assessed by date of application until the funding allocation is exhausted.** Thus, we encourage those who wish to apply to please do so as soon as possible. To be eligible to receive funding, applicants must meet all the following requirements:

1. Be a general practice providing [primary care](#) as described by Department of Health Disability and Ageing.
2. Have an ABN.
3. Be registered for the purposes of GST.
4. Be located within the boundaries of the ACT.
5. Be willing to provide additional after hours appointment availability. For the purposes of this grant, after hours is defined as the sociable after hours between Monday to Friday from 6.00 pm to 11.00 pm, Saturdays from midday, all day on Sundays and all day on gazetted public holidays.
6. Required activities to be undertaken during the extended opening hours include vaccination clinics, chronic disease review, exacerbation care planning and access to after hours appointments. Applicants do not need to provide access to all activities, however, must provide at least one activity during the extended after hours period to be eligible for grant.
7. Nominate a key contact for grant communications.
8. Must not have received funding from another source to deliver or provide the same or similar after hours activities.



What the grant can be used for

Applicants are advised this is a **ONE-OFF** funding amount and is **NOT** available as ongoing funding, and no extensions to activities are possible.

The funding will be provided based on the number of additional hours per week the General Practice opens during the sociable after hours during the funding period (1 May – 30 June 2026).

- The funds provided are to be utilised by the General Practice to cover the cost of staff wages of administrative and nursing team members.
- A small communications budget is provided that allows the practice to inform their patient base of after hours appointment availability during this period.
- The completion of a QI Project including details and submission to CHN on the provided template

What the grant cannot be used for

The grant cannot be used to cover expenses or costs:

- Business-as-usual costs associated with operating a primary healthcare practice (e.g. utilities, rent, taxes, consumable products such as personal protective equipment, existing subscriptions or other existing recurrent costs for performing business-as-usual duties).
- For activities or purchases outside of the activity start date and activity completion date under this agreement.
- For the same activities or purchases that the grantee has received or will receive funding through another program.
- For major capital works, purchase of land and other retrospective costs or expenses.
- Remuneration costs for general practitioner wages or disbursements.



Funding available

This is a ONE-OFF funding amount and is NOT available for ongoing funding.

Total grant funding available \$396,600 GST Exclusive

The funding will be provided based on the number of hours that the General Practice is able to extend their hours per week during the funding period (1 May – 30 June 2026).

Purpose	Amount Provided
Patient Communication Budget	\$2,000 GST Exc
3-5 hours per week	\$5,000 GST Exc
6-10 hours per week	\$10,000 GST Exc
10 hours + per week	\$15,000 GST Exc
QI Project	\$5,000 GST Exc
Option 1	Grants available of \$7,000 (GST Inclusive) to facilitate an extension of hours 3-5 additional hours per week, including a communication budget of \$2000
Option 2	Grants available for \$12,000 (GST Inclusive) to facilitate an extension of hours of 6 to10 additional hours per week, including a communication budget of \$2000
Option 3	Grants available for \$17,000 (GST Inclusive) to facilitate an extension of hours over 10 additional hours per week, including a communication budget of \$2000
QI Option	QI Project \$5000 – completed specifically for 2026 Winter planning for at risk patient cohorts (for example Infants or Young Children, Older Adults, or people with Diabetes, COPD or Asthma). QI Projects must be new (not previously completed for Accreditation etc). Accordingly, QI project should be completed during funding period between May – June 2026 using a selected vulnerable patient population.



Clinical requirements

Successful applicants are required to provide appointments with General Practitioners during the sociable after hours period.

Each General Practice would be expected to utilise these appointments in order to facilitate influenza and COVID vaccines, review patients with diabetes, COPD and asthma to undertake exacerbation care planning, and provide regular appointments as needed for other patients during the afterhours period.

Administration and reporting requirements

- The Grantee agrees to provide an unaudited Financial Acquittal signed by the Grantee to verify the Grant was spent in accordance with the Grant Details.
- The Grantee agrees to spend the Grant for the purpose of undertaking the Activity only and agrees to meet all the eligibility requirements for the Program as set out in the Agreement.
- Following the Activity Completion date, the Grantee agrees to provide a final unaudited Financial Acquittal accompanied with a statutory declaration signed by the authorised person for the organisation, such as the practice principal, practice manager or practice owner.
- Changes in practice details must be reported to CHN.

Timelines and funding expiry

- 17 April 2026: Grant opportunity open
- 24 April 2026: Deadline for questions and queries
- 28 April 2026: Grant opportunity closes
- 04 May 2026: Funding agreements provided to successful grantees for execution
- 30 June 2026: Grant funds must be exhausted
- 31 July 2026: Financial Acquittal Report and if relevant, QI Activity report



How to apply

Please use the After hours Winter Preparedness Grant 2026 Grant Agreement form provided to apply for the grant.

For further information

For queries, please email grants@chnact.org.au