

Request for Quote (RFQ)

Mental Health Flexible Funding Review (PAC133)

Introduction

Capital Health Network (CHN) is the Primary Health Network (PHN) for the ACT. PHNs have been established by the Australian Government with the key objectives of:

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

Background

Capital Health Network (CHN) has received Flexible Mental Health and Suicide Prevention funding since 2016, from the Department of Health Disability and Ageing (DHDA), across six key objectives and priority areas across the mental health care stepped care continuum. The aim of this funding is to commission services to best meet the needs of the community and address local needs informed by the Needs Assessments and planning processes undertaken by CHN.

Since the introduction of this funding there have been significant changes within [Australia's mental health system](#) including policy reform, increasing complexity across service delivery systems, funding changes and heightened pressure to prioritise investment and maximise value from commissioned services.

These changes have led to impacts in the mental health service needs since the original mental health flexible funding allocation was granted. The recent [Primary Health Network Program Final Report](#) also highlighted the need for PHNs to strengthen their commissioning approaches, improve alignment with national priorities and ensure services are evidence based, outcomes focused and responsive to local community needs.

Problem Statement

These changes provide an opportunity to review existing mental health investments, service models and commissioning practices and consider any impacts of potential shifts in unmet needs, workforce availability, service supply and demand for these services.

This review must ensure alignment with ACT MHSP Regional Plan, CHNs Mental Health Outcomes Framework and the, while addressing gaps, duplication and inefficiencies across the system.

The purpose of this review is to guide an evidence-informed approach to CHNs future procurement decisions and to better ensure CHN can respond to changing needs, changes in funding models and national reforms.

PHNs are expected to plan for and promote integrated stepped care mental health services and follow the mental health guidance documents relating to the [Primary Mental Health Care Flexible Funding Pool](#).

Responsibilities To achieve the objectives of this review the successful applicant will be required to review the current Mental Health flexible funding requirements and respective guidance documents relating to the [Primary Mental Health Care Flexible Funding Pool](#) and address the requirements listed below:-

- leverage existing work already undertaken within the sector to avoid duplication and maximise prior engagements. This includes previous needs assessments, stakeholder consultations and data analysis the 2025-2030 ACT Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Regional Plan: [The Framework](#) and the associated Action, Implementation and Monitoring plan (in progress) and the [2025-2030 Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Outcomes Framework](#)
- conduct interviews/surveys to gather evidence, summarise and present results to support your recommendations
- identify low, medium, high intensity mental health service needs in the ACT excluding acute services not funded by the Commonwealth
- conduct an environmental scan of the current mental health and suicide prevention landscape in the ACT identify service gaps for respective population cohorts and present analysis of the priority service types and respective supports addressed through mental health and suicide prevention flexible funding
- review the evidence, current service models and alignment with population needs
- identify areas of current service model improvement and/or innovation
- provide CHN with a clear understanding of the changing needs and value for money and evidence-based recommendations identifying priority need to guide future investment
- streamline outcome measures from commissioned services with clear measurable outcomes that align and feed into national primary mental health care monitoring and reporting systems

Requirements

Translate findings into clear current or innovative service model considerations, including:

- Target populations
- Service scope and delivery approaches
- Integration and care pathways
- Outcome measures and performance expectations

References

- PHN Primary Mental Health Care Flexible Funding Pool Program Guidance for Low Intensity Mental Health Services for Early Intervention (2019)
- PHN Primary Mental Health Care Flexible Funding Pool Program Guidance for Stepped Care (2019)

Out of scope

- Service evaluation
- Acute services not funded by the Commonwealth
- As extensive consultation with mental health stakeholders has been conducted with outputs to be provided to the successful applicant, significant consultation for this project is not required

Expected Deliverables / Reporting Requirements

Deliverable	Month
Review, scoping commences	June 2026
Stakeholder interviews and input	July 2026
First draft report	Early-Aug 2026
Feedback	Mid-Aug 2026
Final report and recommendations	End-Aug 2026

Payment Schedule

Payment	Anticipated timing	%
Payment 1	On engagement of provider and provider verified bank details via *eftsure and on receipt of correctly rendered tax invoice from Supplier.	50%
Payment 2	Payment on receipt of correctly rendered tax invoice from Supplier and receipt and acceptance of the first draft report [Mid August 2026]	25%
Payment 3	Payment on receipt of correctly rendered tax invoice from Supplier and receipt and acceptance of the final report End [August 2026]	25%

*eftsure is bank verification software that helps CHN prevent payment fraud and securely pay our providers.

Timeline

RFQ Open: 18th May 2026

End of period for Questions: 5pm, 28th May 2026

RFQ Closes: 5pm, 3rd June 2026

[refer to 'RFQ Response form' for criteria]

1. Condition of quote

1.1 Purpose

This RFQ invites quotations from selected RFQ Respondents (Suppliers) for the provision of the services described in this document. All information provided in this RFQ and provided by CHN as part of the RFQ process is confidential and provided solely for the purpose of the RFQ and may not be used for any other purpose whatsoever without the written permission of CHN.

All information provided by a Supplier in response to this RFQ is considered commercial-in-confidence material and will be held, considered and disposed of in confidence, except to the extent required by law.

1.2 Quotation Accuracy

Before submitting a quotation, suppliers must:

- Examine all information relevant to the risks and contingencies and other circumstances affecting the quotation; and
- satisfy themselves:
 - a. that the price is correct; and
 - b. that it is financially and practically viable for them to enter and perform the contract.

1.3 Quotation Lodgement

Quotations (including all supporting information) must be received in full by the Closing Date. Suppliers should notify CHN in writing on or before the Closing Date and Time if they find any discrepancy, error or omission in this RFQ.

Suppliers are asked to complete and submit their responses using the Response Form provided.

1.4 Conflict of Interest

Suppliers must disclose any conflicts of interest in their quotation.

1.5 Social Procurement Approach and Not-For-Profit Approach

Suppliers must provide details of any Social Procurement practices and examples of previous Not-for-Profit participation. This includes discounts provided to not-for-profit.

1.6 Quotation Validity

It is not intended by CHN or the Supplier that an issue of an RFQ or a response to it commits, obligates or otherwise creates a legal relationship in respect to entering into a contract with that party. However, any quotation lodged with CHN will constitute an irrevocable offer by the Supplier, which remains open and capable of acceptance until six months from the RFQ closing date.

1.7 Acceptance of Quotation

CHN is not bound to accept any quotation. CHN shall not be in any circumstances responsible for any costs incurred by the Supplier in preparing and submitting a quotation. Acceptance of a quotation or part of a quotation will be subject to CHN and the successful Supplier entering into a written agreement and/or placing a Purchase Order.

1.8 References

Upon acceptance of quotation or proposal, CHN will notify the respondent when we wish to conduct reference checks from similar organisations specific to the services requested.

1.9 Notification

Following CHN's decision, all suppliers will be notified of the outcome of their submitted quotations. We ask that during the period of time between responding to the RFQ and communicated outcomes of the RFQ, the supplier does not contact CHN for updates on the process unless considered critical.

1.10 CHN Contact Person

All communications must be issued to the Contact Person listed.

RFQ Reference and Title	PAC133 Menal Health Flexible Funding Review
Key contact during RFQ process	Name: Mamta Porwal Email: tenders@chnact.org.au
Questions	Any questions relating to this RFQ should be addressed to Key contact person and sent via email.
Issue Date	18 May 2026
Closing Date	5:00pm AEDT, 3 June 2026
End of period for Questions	5:00pm AEDT, 28 May 2026
Lodgement instructions	Responses must be submitted on the Response Form provided and emailed to tenders@chnact.org.au by the closing date specified above. Email subject line to include: RFQ – PAC133