

Allied Health Cyber Security Compliance Support Grants 2025 EOI Guidelines

Hunter New England Central Coast Primary Health Network (PHN) recognises small to medium sized businesses are increasingly targets of cyber threats due to limited resources and potentially immature security controls.

To support small and medium sized private Allied Health providers, the PHN are making available 20 grants via the Allied Health Cyber Security Compliance Support Grant round.

Allied Health providers will work with a cyber security consultant to support implementation of a **security framework** specifically designed to protect small to medium businesses. The **framework** known as **SMB1001**, developed by Dynamic Standards International (DSI), offers a practical cybersecurity framework tailored to small businesses. This framework provides a clear pathway to improve cyber maturity without overburdening small to medium size business owners.

This initiative will aim to uplift cybersecurity maturity, reduce third-party risk exposure, and ensure alignment with national privacy obligations.

This initiative is targeted towards allied health private practice owners or IT Managers who agree to work with the PHN's consultant towards achieving the security framework standard.

An EOI for the grants will be open with 10 small and 10 medium sized private Allied Health providers offered a set amount of consulting hours as part of a package to support implementation of recommended changes to meet the standard.

NOTE: A co-payment of \$200 ex GST will be required as a commitment to participation. The \$200 will be used towards one additional hour of IT support with the consultant engaged for this initiative.

As a requirement of this grant the Allied Health provider must agree to share information with the engaged consultant.

Cyber Security Compliance Support Package:

Successful applicants will receive a package covering:

- Cost of purchasing SMB 1001 Framework (pre-paid for the Allied Health provider by the PHN).
- Mandatory attendance at a virtual education session to support implementation (approx. 1 hour)
- Remote tailored support from an expert IT consultant paid by the PHN (minimum of 7 hours, exact hours will be depending on needs and determined by the PHN and consultant). Note that a co-payment for an additional hour will be required to be paid for by the applicant of \$200 ex GST.
- Access to planning templates, guides and online support tools.
- Practical tips to implement digital change into your practice.

Not included

- Additional support IT requests outside the scope of this program.
- Recommended subscriptions, IT or other technical equipment.
- Incident response to security issues and remediation

Eligibility:

This opportunity will be available to 20 small (1 to 5) staff and medium (6 to 15) Allied Health providers who will be assessed by the quality of responses in the EOI. Before progressing a more detailed screening to determine suitability for the program will be undertaken including minimum technical compliance.

You will need to demonstrate that your private allied health practice:

- Is a private small (1 to 5 staff) or medium (6 to 15 staff) Allied Health provider operating and delivering services to the Hunter New England Central Coast region
- At least 1 allied health professional works in the practice as specified by Allied Health Professions Australia (ahpa.com.au)
- Has a desire and readiness by the practice owner to implement digital security change
- Is willing to attend and engage with education
- Shows commitment to invest in recommended software/hardware to support the implementation (at own cost)
- Agree to completion of both the PHN's Allied Health Digital Maturity Assessment and SAVI (Sustainability and Viability Initiative) Allied health assessment which will be available in September 2025
- **Pass minimal technical compliance** requirements to undertake the initiative. (If short listed, an assessment of this will be conducted and form part of the eligibility of the grant)
- Agree to complete all project evaluations
- Committed to attend group online check in sessions and education offered during the supporting period from 1 October 2025 to March 2026 .
- Applicants are required to co-fund \$200 ex GST as an additional consultant hour as a commitment to participation

NOTE: No funding will be paid to the successful Allied Health provider. The grant is for provision of pre-paid services only.

Terms & Conditions

The following PHN terms and conditions will apply:

- The Expression of Interest (EOI) must be submitted by the applicant (owner or IT Manager or person responsible for IT).
- All conflicts of interest are to be declared.
- The PHN will not directly reimburse any associated costs involved in completing the training or undertaking the standards.
- An EOI does not guarantee a grant. Assessment of EOI's will be based on meeting the criteria and responses to the questions in the EOI. Successful applicants will be notified.
- Applicants must agree for their details to be supplied to the consultant to allow contact to carry out the grant activities.
- Applicants from private Allied Health providers who intend on closing within the next 12 months or from applicants who are not intending to remain in the employment or ownership of the organisation for the next 12 months are ineligible.
- Successful applicants will sign a Letter of Agreement to acknowledge the terms and conditions of the grant.
- Applicants must have a valid ABN number.
- Applicants can only submit one (1) application per ABN (including multi-site providers)
- HNECC PHN Terms and Conditions will apply.
- Applications that do not meet the criteria will not be eligible.
- Applicants are to notify the PHN immediately and prior to any training or consultation if circumstances have changed and they are unable to complete.

Ineligible:

Previous funding recipients are eligible only if they have fully complied with any previous PHN funding contract commitments including reporting and acquittal requirements.

Expression of Interest (EOI) Process:

Eligible private small and medium sized Allied Health providers are invited to complete an Expression of Interest, via SmartyGrants.

The EOI will close when the allocation of grants has been exhausted. The PHN reserves the right to extend the advertised closing date of the EOI if grants are still available.

Applications will be assessed against the criteria and as deemed by the subject matter experts within the PHN.

Applicants will be contacted to discuss their eligibility and ability to meet the criteria. This includes completing a technical compliance survey. This will constitute part of the assessment.

For more information contact:

Contact grants@thephn.com.au