

Digital Health Training Champion Grants 2024 – EOI Guidelines

Hunter New England and Central Coast Primary Health Network (PHN) are implementing incentives and support to increase telehealth utilisation by general practice and allied health clinicians as part of the PHN Digital Health Strategy.

After undertaking a comprehensive digital health maturity assessment across the primary healthcare sector, the results indicated varying levels of utilisation of telehealth in practice.

The overall aim of these training grants is to improve health outcomes for the community by creating strong digital health foundations that support accessible, equitable, safe, efficient, and sustainable digitally enabled models of care.

The PHN have procured specialised training to enable primary health providers who completed the Digital Health Assessment the opportunity to upskill a staff member, a **digital health champion**, to better enable implementation and utilisation of digital health options within their service.

Train IT Medical has been funded by the PHN to provide eighty (80) education training places for eligible general practices and allied health providers located within the Hunter New England and Central Coast Primary Health Network (PHN) region to enable one (1) employee, the digital health champion, to participate.

Training outcomes will include strategies to implement and improve telehealth and digital health options within the service. Training will be a combination of online and face to face training.

For general practices, improving digital health complies with general practice accreditation requirements.

How to apply

The Expression of Interest (EOI) for the 80 Digital Health Champion training places will be managed through the online grants portal, SmartyGrants, **on a first in basis to eligible applicants**, with a waitlist taken in case any positions become available.

Eligible general practices and allied health providers can apply and nominate the employee who will be attending the training by providing:

- Name
- Position
- Phone number
- Email address

Permission must be given to share these contact details with Train IT Medical exclusively for the use of participating in the training.

Applications close on **8th May 2024 at 5.00pm** or when the allocation is exhausted but may be extended at the PHN's discretion.

The training will take place during June 2024 and comprise of **2 mandatory components**:

1. Six (6) online training modules (approximately 2-3 hours). This training includes
 - Reflective activities
 - Quality improvement activity (PDSA) for measuring outcomes
 - Formal evaluation
 - Formal training certificate which may be submitted to respective professional bodies as part of self-reported CPD hours.

2. A half day face to face workshop. Location of workshops will be confirmed but are scheduled to be held on the Central Coast, Newcastle, Armidale, and Tamworth.

Tentative Schedule (Subject to change)

DATE	WORKSHOP	LOCATION
Wed 5/6/24	Combined GP & Allied Health Workshop	Armidale
Thur 6/6/24	Combined GP & Allied Health Workshop	Tamworth
Tues 11/6/24	AM – Allied Health Event	Newcastle
Tues 11/6/24	PM – GP Event	Newcastle
Wed 12/6/24	AM – Allied Health Event	Ettalong
Wed 12/6/24	PM – GP Event	Ettalong

The applicant is to cover any associated costs involved in their nominee attending the face-to-face training including travel costs.

General practices who have not yet expended their Strengthening Medicare GP Grants may be able to apply associated costs involved to the Enhancing Digital Health Capabilities stream of the grants. Please refer to the Strengthening Medicare GP Grants guidelines and Examples of Investment Activities guide.

Terms and Conditions

Eligibility – eligible general practices and allied health providers will be those who are working within the Hunter, New England and Central Coast geographical area that the PHN covers **AND** who have completed the PHN Digital Health Maturity Assessment.

Allocation of training grants will be on a first in basis to eligible applicants. An application is not a guarantee of receiving a training grant. Successful applicants will be contacted and the training grant confirmed.

As there are limited places available, only one (1) training grant per eligible general practice business entity or allied health provider will be issued. Practices/providers with multiple sites can nominate one person for training who can then upskill others within the business.

If a nominated person is unable to attend the training, the applicant may send a substitute employee upon prior notification to the PHN.

Applicants may withdraw from the training with prior notice. The position will then be re-allocated to the next eligible applicant on the waitlist.

Applicants will be issued a Letter of Agreement outlining the terms and conditions of the training.

Applicants must agree for their nominee's details to be supplied to the training provider to allow contact for enrolment purposes.

Discontinuation of the course

If an applicant's nominee awarded a training position fails to attend the course or discontinues the course (without prior notice), the applicant may be required to reimburse the full amount of cost of the course to the PHN (\$700). If personal or exceptional circumstances prevent an applicant's nominee from starting or completing the course within the designated time limit, they are to discuss options with the PHN.

If you have any questions regarding the training, please contact the PHN Grants team on grants@thephn.com.au.