

# Drought (and Extreme Weather Events) - Suicide Prevention Grants - Guidelines

In Australia, suicide is a leading cause of death for people aged 18-44. The suicide rate in remote areas is almost double that of major cities.

With forecasted high temperatures and low rain, drought conditions are expected leading into 2024, impacting rural communities already recovering from previous adverse events.

Droughts are known to induce post-traumatic stress disorder, anxiety, and depression. This is because drought can:

- reduce agricultural production
- increase financial hardship
- degrade the environment
- reduce employment opportunities.

Communities affected by drought, drought affected, or drought declared, require **proactive** support to provide suicide prevention activities to improve their resilience and wellbeing as we lead into Summer 2023 – 2024.

Hunter New England and Central Coast Primary Health Network (the PHN) is offering Drought Suicide Prevention Grants to encourage communities to increase community preparedness.

Funding of between \$10 000 ex GST and \$30 000 ex GST can be applied for, for prevention and intervention activities such as:

- Drought and extreme weather preparedness sessions
- Counselling for recovery and resilience due to drought and extreme weather
- Gatekeeper/ first responder / volunteer mental health training and resilience workshops
- Training to build suicide prevention capacity in the community.

The grant submissions will have a strong emphasis on community suicide prevention or intervention activities, aimed to address the specific needs of the cohorts outlined in the HNECC PHN Core Needs Assessment.

[HNECC-Core-Needs-Assessment-22-25-Summary.pdf \(imgix.net\)](#)

Target geographical areas include those that are deemed drought affected or drought/ intense drought declared within the Hunter New England and Central Coast region, using the Department of Primary Industries drought indicator **AND be classified as MMM3 and above.**

[Department of Primary Industries - Enhanced Drought Information Systems Web Portal \(nsw.gov.au\)](#)

Grant funding is not ongoing, and activities are to be completed prior to 30<sup>th</sup> November 2024 and final reporting completed by 31<sup>st</sup> December 2024.

## Selection Criteria

Grant applications will be assessed by a panel, with a ranking system used based on the criteria and value for money determination, as well as spread of projects throughout the drought affected/declared HNECC region. Selection criteria includes:

- Description of your activity or project and the intended benefit or aims.
- How the activity or project addresses the needs of the drought affected community to assist in suicide prevention.
- What and how other organisations or community are involved in the activity. (Partnerships to be supported by signed letters of support).
- Outline of a high-level plan, with objectives, timeline and budget that shows efficient and effective use of funds.
- Demonstrated capacity to carry out the proposed activities.

## What can be funded

Funding is for time limited grants as there is no ongoing funding available.

Grant activities that meet the selection criteria must take place in regions deemed to have been drought affected or drought declared as per the Department of Primary Industries, and within the Hunter New England and Central Coast region. The current mapping is available on the link below.

[Department of Primary Industries - Enhanced Drought Information Systems Web Portal \(nsw.gov.au\)](https://www.nsw.gov.au/primary-industries/drought)

### AND

Be classified on the Monash Modified Model as MMM3 and above.

[Health Workforce Locator | Australian Government Department of Health and Aged Care](#)

## What cannot be funded

Projects already receiving funding from other sources.

Activities and projects not carried out in the grant period (grant period being from when an agreement is signed and prior to December 2024), or retrospective costs.

Capital items and costs not directly associated with the grant activity.

An organisation that does not hold appropriate insurances and an ABN.

An organisation that does not demonstrate capability via qualified staff, contractors or partners.

Activities not in the HNECC PHN geographical region, or activities targeting people not residing in the HNECC PHN geographical area.

Activities deemed business as usual.

Political activities, personal expenses or activities deemed harmful to the community or environment.

Activities deemed not eligible by HNECC PHN or judged to not meet the criteria of the grant.

## How to apply

Applications are open via completion of the online form on the PHN grants portal, SmartyGrants and close Monday 8<sup>th</sup> January 2024.

HNECC PHN reserves the right to close the grant round if all grants have been awarded prior to the closing date or extend the grant closing date if funds are still available.

Applicants may be contacted to discuss their eligibility and ability to meet the grant criteria. This will constitute part of the grant assessment.

Successful applicants will be required to sign a grant agreement outlining any staged payments and milestones, terms and conditions and evidence or reporting required at each stage. A copy of insurances (Certificate of Currency) may be required if successful, dependent on the nature of the activity.

## Eligibility

Organisations will be those who are working within the Hunter, New England and Central Coast geographical area that the PHN covers.

All applicants are required to have a valid ABN.

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

All applicants must agree to meet reporting requirements.

Councils are eligible to apply.

## Terms and conditions

The following terms and conditions will apply to all successful grantees:

- HNECC PHN Terms and Conditions will apply.
- Applicants must have a valid ABN number.
- Only 1 grant per organisation will be allocated.
- Partnerships are highly encouraged but only 1 lead organisation (the applicant) is permitted.
- Applications that do not meet the criteria will not be eligible.
- Grant funding will be paid to the applicant as per their grant agreement and will include reporting requirements that may be linked to split payments.
- Successful applicants will be required to sign a grant agreement with payment made as a Recipient Created Tax Invoice.
- All conflicts of interest are to be declared.

If you have any questions regarding these grants, please contact the PHN Grants team on [grants@thephn.com.au](mailto:grants@thephn.com.au).