



**PRIMARY  
HEALTH  
NETWORK**

## **Psychosocial Grants 2024**

**Do you have an innovative idea or a new style of psychosocial program that is evidenced based and non-clinical and will assist in increasing individual and community wellbeing?**

# Psychosocial Grants Guidelines

Recurring disaster trauma throughout the Hunter New England Central Coast Primary Health Network (HNECC) regions and all of NSW has taken its toll on communities in profound ways. Losses have been multiple – loss of connectedness to each other, loss of homes and livelihoods, even loss of life. The impacts include feeling disoriented, powerless, distressed, isolated, and less able to deal with stress in usual ways. This is then magnified through the accumulative effects of multiple disasters in these regions including bushfires, drought, floods and the COVID 19 pandemic effects.

Community cohesion, resilience and participation in the form of informal social connectedness (such as having contact with friends, family and neighbours), and civic engagement (such as participating in organised community activities) appear to play an important role, influencing mental health outcomes.

The DOTE Report The DOTE Report (Dropping Off The Edge advisor group, comprising experts in research, policy and community practice and experts from the University of Canberra) has identified disproportionate distribution of disadvantage within NSW including locations within the HNECC PHN region such as Tamworth West, Tuncurry, Beresfield-Hexham, Moree, Taree, Cessnock, Inverell, Wingham, Muswellbrook, Narrabri, Raymond Terrace and Tenterfield.

The PHN will make available **\$1 million** in funding for psychosocial grants for **evidence based non-clinical** psychosocial programs that will assist in increasing individual and community wellbeing, providing much needed low intensity mental health options. All local government areas of the HNECC PHN region will be eligible.

To view the HNECC PHN region [click here](#)

Applications will be sought from organisations who have the capacity to deliver evidenced based non-clinical innovative and/or new styles of mental health and well-being programs that will assist in:

- promoting mental health awareness
- reducing stigma and discrimination
- supporting recovery and social inclusion
- preventing mental disorders

Grants will be one off and time limited to meet community need and run through until 30th June 2025. There is no ongoing funding available.

The \$1 000 000 will fund grants within the HNECC region. Each grant recipient will be funded between \$50,000-\$200,000.

**Successful applications must clearly demonstrate the benefit to those residing within the Hunter, New England and Central Coast region as the main priority as this is the region the PHN is funded to provide services to.**

We will be looking for projects, pilots and programs that embrace the general criteria and align with the PHN strategic plan, particularly our priority of increasing equity of access to primary care.

The PHN is also committed to supporting priority populations within the region which includes:

- First Nations
- Culturally and linguistically diverse
- People living with a disability
- Older Persons
- Children and young people
- Rural and remote communities

Projects that support these populations will be favourably considered as will those that target disadvantaged communities.

## Guidelines

There are two levels of grants that can be applied for:

Grant Level	Grant Range
Tier 1	\$100,000 - \$200,000
Tier 2	\$50,000 - \$100,000
Total Grant Pool	\$1,000,000

Grants open 29<sup>th</sup> April 2024. Grants close **5.00pm 31<sup>st</sup> May 2024.**

Projects to commence in June 2024 and be complete by 30<sup>th</sup> June 2025.

Reporting is due 1 month after completion and is a mandatory condition of the grant.

### Selection Criteria

The PHN are only accepting applications from organisations with an ABN and who demonstrate that their project will prioritise the Hunter, New England and Central Coast regions and LGAs. This PHN region should be the focus however this does not exclude delivery outside of the region. Explain to us how this project will benefit the residents of the Hunter, New England and Central Coast PHN region.

Organisations applying must have a strong understanding of the priority groups identified and how their program/project contributes to the increase of **equity to access** of primary care. Partnerships or established connections into the selected cohort will be highly regarded, where the voice of the patient is amplified.

Grant applications will be assessed by a panel, with a ranking system used based on the grant criteria.

General Assessment criteria for all grants includes:

<p><b>Vision and Capacity</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Genuinely innovative</li> <li>• Inclusive, culturally safe and responsive</li> <li>• Addresses an identified need in the selected community/cohort backed by clear evidence</li> <li>• Availability of supporting research or evidence</li> <li>• Organisation capability and governance</li> </ul>
<p><b>Partnerships, Impact, Sustainability</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Demonstration of scalability</li> <li>• Return on investment or impact and/or sustainability</li> <li>• Partnerships, collaboration, community support</li> <li>• Deliverable and achievable within the timeframe</li> <li>• Sound financial evaluation</li> <li>• Impact, outcomes, evaluation</li> <li>• Risk mitigation</li> </ul>

## **Application Process – general criteria to be addressed.**

What is the idea or project you are proposing and the evidence to support this?

What will be the impact of implementing this project and when will this impact become a reality?

Describe your organisation and the experience it can demonstrate in implementing similar types of activities or projects? If you will be needing to rely on external resources outside of your organisation to implement the project, please describe these.

Provide a detailed marketing and communication plan.

If you have partners, please provide signed letters of support from them.

Amaze us and tell us your story, whilst providing solid evidence of your ability to achieve your goals and your relationship with the people you are trying to assist.

For both Tier 1 and Tier 2 applications, a project plan and budget are required for initial assessment. Short listed applicants may progress to an interview stage.

## **What cannot be funded?**

1. Activities and programs not carried out in the funding period (funding period is once the grant agreement is executed and signed up until project end), or retrospective costs.
2. Major capital items, real estate, vehicles, major construction or works and costs not directly associated with the project.
3. Applications that include religious or political campaigns, crisis appeals, overseas aid.
4. An organisation that does not hold appropriate insurances and an ABN.
5. An organisation that does not uphold Australian Privacy Policy and associated laws and regulations.
6. An organisation that does not demonstrate capability via qualified staff, contractors, or partners.
7. Activities deemed business as usual. Innovative, pilot programs are encouraged.
8. Activities deemed not eligible by HNECC PHN or judged to not meet the selection criteria or address the guiding principles.
9. Costs incurred in the preparation of a grant application or related documentation.
10. Costs associated with the financial acquittal of grant expenditure (excluding evaluation).
11. Existing overheads and ongoing administrative costs such as electricity, phone, rent, non-related salaries.

## **How to apply**

Applications are open via completion of the online form on the PHN grants portal, Smarty Grants and close **31<sup>st</sup> May 2024**.

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

Short listed applicants may be contacted to arrange an interview (Tier 1 and 2) and to submit a detailed activity plan, budget and annual financial statements for assessment prior to selecting the final successful projects.

Successful applicants will be required to sign a HNECC PHN agreement outlining payments and milestones, terms and conditions and evidence or reporting required at each stage. A copy of relevant insurances will be required if successful, dependent on the nature of the activity.

Successful applicants may receive a funding offer for a different grant level based on assessment.

## Eligibility

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

As allocated funds will not be ongoing, funding is for time limited projects.

One grant will be awarded per organisation across all tiers however an organisation can submit multiple applications.

Projects must ensure that they do not duplicate services or programs that are already available to the target cohort.

The applicant is to demonstrate that they are financially viable and that the grant funds sought will not be used to pay for any of the applicant's business as usual running costs. Short listed organisations may be subject to additional due diligence prior to any grant being awarded.

Successful grantees may be required to participate in a shared learning through collaboration forum. Participants will be required to share learnings, challenges, success and impacts with interested stakeholders.

Councils and Local Health Districts may submit applications for consideration. Projects already receiving funding from other sources including Government funded are ineligible.

## Terms and conditions

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

- HNECC PHN Terms and Conditions will apply.
- Applicants must have a valid ABN number.
- Partnerships are highly encouraged but only one lead organisation (the applicant) is permitted.
- Applications that do not meet the criteria will not be eligible.
- Funding will be paid to the applicant as per their agreement and will include reporting requirements that may be linked to split payments.
- Payments will be made as a Recipient Created Tax Invoice.
- All conflicts of interest are to be declared.
- Multiple applications are permitted but only 1 grant per organisation will be provided.
- If your application is successful, we may ask you to verify expenditure against the project costs outlined in your application. We may seek supporting documents such as quotes and invoices for major costs.
- Not all expenditure in your application and project may be eligible for grant funding. The PHN makes the final decision on what is eligible expenditure and may give additional guidance if required.
- You must incur the project expenditure between the activity start date and agreement end date specified in an executed grant agreement with us for the expenditure to be deemed eligible.
- The applicant has or will develop and comply with child safety guidelines and policies for the project to the extent it involves people under the age of 18 years

Please direct any questions to [grants@thephn.com.au](mailto:grants@thephn.com.au)