



Australian Government
Department of Health

Practice Incentives Program Quality Improvement Incentive Fact Sheet

**Aboriginal Community Controlled Health
Services and other Indigenous Australian's
Health Programme funded organisations**

1. What is the Practice Incentives Program Quality Improvement Incentive?

The Practice Incentives Program (PIP) Quality Improvement (QI) Incentive is a payment to general practice, Aboriginal and Community Controlled Health Services (ACCHS) and other organisations funded under the Indigenous Australians' Health Programme (IAHP) that participate in quality improvement to improve patient outcomes and deliver best practice care.

2. Will ACCHS and other IAHP funded organisations be eligible to apply for the PIP QI Incentive?

ACCHS and other IAHP funded organisations will be eligible to apply for the PIP QI Incentive if they are eligible for the PIP and report on the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander National Key Performance Indicators (nKPIs) to the Department of Health.

The eligibility requirements for ACCHS and other IAHP funded organisations differ slightly to those of general practices.

To be eligible to receive the PIP QI Incentive payment ACCHS and other IAHP funded organisations funded for the delivery of primary health care services will continue to provide data against the nKPIs, within their existing arrangement with the Department of Health.

The eligibility requirements as detailed in the [PIP QI Incentive Guidelines](#) are:

Be eligible for PIP

- ACCHS and other IAHP funded organisations wishing to participate in the PIP QI Incentive must be registered for the overarching Practice Incentive Program (PIP) prior to registering for the PIP QI Incentive. ACCHS and other IAHP organisations can register for the PIP on the [Department of Human Services website](#).

Register for the PIP QI Incentive

- ACCHS and other IAHP funded organisations can register for the PIP QI Incentive on the [Department of Human Services website](#). The PIP QI Incentive is administered by the Department of Human Services on behalf of the Department of Health.

Report on the nKPIs to the Department of Health

- ACCHS and other IAHP funded organisations currently provide nKPI data to the Department of Health and will continue to do this as part of their PIP QI Incentive eligibility requirement. ACCHS and other IAHP funded organisations will continue to report on a six monthly basis.

Undertake quality improvement activities within their existing arrangement with the Department of Health

- ACCHS and other IAHP funded organisations have a well-established system of using primary health data to undertake quality improvement activities within Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities and will continue to do this as part of their PIP QI Incentive eligibility requirement.

3. When can ACCHS and other IAHP organisations register for the PIP QI Incentive?

The PIP QI Incentive commenced 1 August 2019. General practices, ACCHS and other IAHP funded organisations are able to register for the incentive from 1 August 2019 on Health Professional Online Services (HPOS). The first quarter payments (covering 1 August to 30 October 2019) will be made in November 2019. Participation in the PIP QI Incentive is voluntary and practices, ACCHS and other IAHP funded organisations may withdraw from the incentive at any time.

In order to apply for the PIP QI Incentive, follow the steps available on the [Department of Human Services website](#).

4. Do ACCHS and other IAHP funded organisations have to submit data to their local PHN?

No, ACCHS already have a well-established system of integrating the collection of primary health data with quality improvement. This includes reporting against the nKPIs. This information assists ACCHS to improve and maintain high quality clinical practice and service delivery of primary health care and health outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.

It is up to the discretion of the ACCHS or other IAHP funded organisations if they choose to share their data with their local PHN, however this is not required for them to be eligible to receive the PIP QI Incentive payment.

5. Do ACCHS and other IAHP organisations have to participate in quality improvement activities in partnership with their local PHN for the purposes of the PIP QI Incentive?

No, as ACCHS and other IAHP funded organisations already have a well-established system of integrating the collection of primary health data with quality improvement they are not required to participate in continuous quality improvement in partnership with their local PHN.

In order to be eligible to receive the PIP QI Incentive payment, ACCHS and other IAHP funded organisations must undertake quality improvement activities within their existing arrangement with the Department of Health.

6. Can ACCHS and other IAHP organisations still work with their local PHNs for non-PIP QI related purposes?

Yes, ACCHS and other IAHP organisations are welcome to work with their local PHN on data-driven quality improvement, and PHNs would welcome this engagement.

PHNs are well positioned to assist in providing local support and enabling collaboration between neighbouring practices. Through PHNs engagement with their communities, they are able to identify and address gaps within their communities.

If ACCHS or other IAHP funded organisations choose to work with their local PHN on data driven-quality improvement it is important to discuss what these data sharing arrangements would look like as the type of data shared may differ to what ACCHS or other IAHP funded organisations currently share under their current grant funding agreements. You can locate and contact your local PHN [here](#).

7. What is the current arrangement that ACCHS and other IAHP funded organisations have with the Department of Health?

Currently, ACCHS and other IAHP funded organisations are required under their grant funding agreements to report nKPI data via the Health Data Portal every six months and will continue to do this as part of the PIP QI Incentive eligibility requirement.

8. What information does the Department of Health receive from ACCHS and other IAHP funded organisations specifically for the purposes of the PIP QI Incentive?

There is no additional data reporting requirements for ACCHS. The Department of Health will provide a list of the names of ACCHS and other IAHP funded organisations who met the nKPI reporting obligation by 15 February and 15 August each year to Department of Human Services to enable the PIP QI Incentive payment.

9. How will the Department of Health know if an ACCHS or another IAHP funded organisation has met their eligibility requirements for the PIP QI Incentive?

In order for the Department of Health to authorise payments each quarter, the list of ACCHS and other IAHP funded organisations that have registered for the PIP QI Incentive through HPOS (provided by the Department of Human Services) will be cross-referenced with the list of ACCHS or other IAHP organisation that have met the requirement of reporting on the nKPIs. Reporting on the nKPIs is a requirement of receiving IAHP primary health care grant funding. Upon validation, the Department of Human Services will pay eligible organisations the PIP QI Incentive payment.

10. Will ACCHS and other IAHP funded organisations receive their PIP QI Incentive payment quarterly?

Yes, even though ACCHS and other IAHP funded organisations are required to report on the nKPIs on a six monthly basis within their existing arrangement with the Department of Health, they will still receive their payment on a quarterly basis. This is in accordance with the [PIP QI Guidelines](#).

The payment months for the PIP QI Incentive are:

- November
- February
- May
- August

11. What if ACCHS or other IAHP funded organisations fail to submit their six monthly nKPI data?

If ACCHS or other IAHP funded organisations do not submit their nKPI data by the dates specified for their six monthly reporting requirements, they will not be eligible to receive a PIP QI Incentive payment for the two relevant PIP QI quarters (unless they have been granted an exemption – see next question). These quarters are detailed in the [PIP QI Guidelines](#).

12. Will ACCHS and other IAHP funded organisations still receive their PIP QI Incentive payment if they have been granted an exemption under their IAHP funding arrangement?

Yes, if an ACCHS or other IAHP funded organisation is granted an exemption by the Department of Health from submitting the nKPI data they will still be eligible to receive their PIP QI Incentive payment, provided they continue to meet their other requirements under the IAHP funding arrangement and the PIP QI Incentive (as outlined in the PIP QI Guidelines).

13. What Incentives are no longer available?

With the commencement of PIP QI, the following four Incentives are no longer available:

- Asthma Incentive
- Diabetes Incentive
- Cervical Screening Incentive
- Quality Prescribing Incentive

14. What Incentives are remaining?

The following eight PIP Incentives will remain:

- eHealth Incentive
- After Hours Incentive
- Rural Loading Incentive
- Teaching Payment
- Indigenous Health Incentive
- Procedural General Practitioner Payment
- General Practitioner Aged Care Access Incentive
- PIP QI Incentive