



Community Dialysis Unit Expression of Interest Fact Sheet

18 March 2024

Better Renal Services for First Nations Peoples Measure

The Australian Government is providing \$73.2 million for up to 30 four-chair dialysis units, and workforce accommodation, to provide life-saving health care to First Nations Australians with end-stage kidney disease. Sites have already been selected in 9 locations.

To ensure the Better Renal Services for First Nations Peoples Budget Measure (the Measure) is implemented in partnership with the Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Service (ACCHS) sector, the Department has established the Better Renal Services Steering Committee (the Steering Committee) to inform the selection and implementation of the remaining sites for dialysis units.

The Steering Committee is co-chaired by the National Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation (NACCHO) and the Department to ensure the purpose, intent and governance of the Steering Committee aligns with the Government's commitments under the National Agreement on Closing the Gap.

The initial role of the Committee is to recommend to the Minister for Health and Aged Care appropriate sites for the dialysis units and workforce accommodation, which will be based on a range of criteria.

Expression of Interest process

The aim of the expression of interested (EOI) process is to support communities to self-report information to assist the Steering Committee in recommending locations to receive a dialysis unit.

To apply for the EOI, the community will need to complete a form that requests information on the community's demographics, health status, current dialysis services, preferences for the location and design of the dialysis unit, readiness for the establishment and operation of the unit, and any other relevant information that the community wishes to share.

The EOI is voluntary and does not guarantee that a community will receive a dialysis unit. However, it is an opportunity for communities to have their voices heard and to provide valuable information to the committee to make decisions.

The EOI will close **19 April 2024** and can be accessed through the [Better Renal Services Steering Committee webpage](#) on the Department of Health and Aged Care website.

Any information about Communities is valuable. We encourage people to complete as much as they can. Please still submit your EOI even if you aren't able to complete all the

information requested. The Department will be in contact if the Steering Committee requires further information.

Once completed, the completed EOI forms should be emailed to the Better Renal Services Steering Committee Secretariat (BetterRenalServicesSecretariat@Health.gov.au).

Finalising the outcome of the EOI process

The EOI process and the Steering Committee's deliberations are expected to take several months. The aim is to have a final recommendation of sites by July 2024.

All communities that complete the information template will be provided with advice on the outcomes and decisions of the committee. This information will be published on the Steering Committee webpage for transparency.

If you have questions, please contact the Better Renal Services Secretariat by emailing BetterRenalServicesSecretariat@Health.gov.au.

Frequently Asked Questions

Will operational costs be included in the grant funding?

The grant can be used to pay for the construction or upgrading of infrastructure, purchasing of land, furnishings and dialysis equipment, and professional fees associated with undertaking the works. The grant does not cover the ongoing costs of running or maintaining the facilities and these will have to be funded from other sources.

Will the grant only be for nurse led haemodialysis, or can funding also be used to establish self-care or peritoneal dialysis?

Only nurse led haemodialysis units are eligible to be established under the measure.

Can communities submit an EOI for workforce accommodation infrastructure to support already established dialysis units?

Unfortunately, only projects that receive funding for a new or upgraded dialysis unit will also be eligible to apply for grant funding for workforce accommodation under the Measure.

Can communities still submit an EOI if the exact number of people who would access the dialysis service in the community is unknown?

Yes, please still submit the EOI form with as much information as possible. Estimated numbers are okay. The Steering Committee will reach out to discuss further if they require clarification or additional information.

Can communities discuss the form with someone from the Department or NACCHO before submitting it?

Yes. Please send an email to BetterRenalServicesSecretariat@Health.gov.au if you would like to set up a time to discuss your form over the phone.

Will someone be in contact regarding the submission once the EOI has been submitted?

Yes. All communities that complete the information template be provided with progress updates, as well as advice on the final outcomes and decisions of the Steering Committee.