Australian Government
Department of Health and Aged Care

Fact Sheet: Workforce Incentive Program - Practice Stream (WIP-PS)

What is the Workforce Incentive Program – Practice Stream (WIP-PS)?

The WIP-PS provides financial incentives for eligible general practices to support multidisciplinary, team-based models of care across Modified Monash (MM) regions 1-7.

The financial incentives are paid directly to the practice. The incentives aim to help with the costs of engaging nurses, midwives, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health workers and practitioners and eligible allied health professionals as part of a multidisciplinary team.

There are many benefits of multidisciplinary team-based care models including improved patient outcomes, prevention of disease and cost-effective care.

What are the eligibility requirements for a general practice to participate in WIP-PS?

To be eligible to participate in the WIP-PS, a general practice (including Aboriginal Medical Services and Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Services) must meet all of the following requirements:

- be a general practice as defined by the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (RACGP);
- be accredited, or registered for accreditation, as a general practice against the RACGP Standards for general practices (the RACGP Standards);
- Noting that a general practice must be accredited (or registered with the aim of becoming accredited within 12 months of registration).
- employ at least one full-time or part-time GP;
- engage at least one eligible health professional; and
- maintain at least $10 million in public liability insurance.

Refer to the Guidelines for the full list of requirements under the WIP-PS.

Eligible health professionals

Eligible health professional types under the WIP-PS include nurse practitioners, registered nurses, midwives, enrolled nurses, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander practitioners and workers. Allied health professional types include audiologists, chiropractors, diabetes educators, dietitians/nutritionists, exercise physiologists, occupational therapists, orthoptists, orthotists/prosthetists, osteopaths, paramedics, pharmacists (non-dispensing

role),physiotherapists, podiatrists, psychologists, social workers and speech pathologists. Extra requirements apply for some professional types - refer to the Guidelines.

All health professionals must hold the minimum qualifications set out in the Guidelines and maintain the required level of professional indemnity insurance.

Ineligible services/activities

The following services are not eligible:

- Medical Deputising Services that directly arrange for medical practitioners to provide after-hours services to patients of practice principals during the absence of, and at the request of the practice principals; and
- After-hours services that provide care outside the normal opening hours of a general practice. This applies whether or not the service deputises for other general practices; and provides care within or outside the practice.

WIP-PS payments

Services Australia calculate and administer the payments for the Department of Health and Aged Care (Health) each quarter in February, May, August and November.

The amount paid to each eligible general practice depends on the following factors:

- Practice size measured in Standardised Whole Patient Equivalent (SWPE);
- practice location;
- type of practice;
- type of eligible health professionals engaged;
- average weekly hours worked by eligible health professionals at the practice over the quarter; and
- loadings applicable (loading by MM region and DVA concession status)

Please note: A 50% increase is applied to the SWPE values of Aboriginal Medical Services and Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Services.

Exact incentive amounts are based on individual practice information and calculated once a practice applies for WIP-PS payments through Services Australia. For application processes see *Applying for WIP-PS section* below.

Indicative Payment Amounts and rural loadings

A practice may be eligible to receive incentive payments of up to $130,000 per year per practice (before rural loadings and indexation are applied). Indexation will be applied each year from 2024-25, commencing in August 2024.

The incentives are not intended to cover the whole cost of engaging eligible health professionals. The table below outlines the indicative incentive amounts.

Table 1: Indicative annual incentive amounts based on Standardised Whole Patient Equivalent (SWPE) values

SWPE value	Minimum average number of hours per week for full incentive payment	Annual incentive amount* for combined nurse practitioner, registered nurse, midwife, and allied health professionals	Annual incentive amount* for combined enrolled nurse, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health worker, or Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health practitioners
1000	12 hours 40 minutes	$32,500	$16,250
2000	25 hours 20 minutes	$65,000	$32,500
3000	38 hours	$97,500	$48,750
4000	50 hours 40 minutes	$130,000	$65,000

*Indexation will be applied to payments from 2024-25

Rural loadings are available on top of incentive payments as follows:

- 0% for MM 1 and MM 2;
- 30% for MM 3;
- 40% for MM 4 and MM 5; and
- 60% for MM 6 and MM 7.

Applying for WIP-PS

A practice owner can apply at any time to join the WIP-PS either:

- online through Health Professional Online Services (HPOS) using a Provider Digital Access (PRODA) account; or
- by completing the Practice Incentives application form (IP001) and faxing to Incentive Programs with the required supporting documents.

For more information on payment administration and how to apply for the WIP-PS, please see the Services Australia website below.

More Information

Workforce Incentive Program – Practice Stream:

www.health.gov.au/our-work/workforce-incentive-program/practice-stream

Services Australia:

www.servicesaustralia.gov.au/workforce-incentive-program-wip-practice-stream

Contact Details

For more information, contact Services Australia through [Incentive Programs](#).