



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 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 under the National General Practice Accreditation Scheme; noting general practices must aim to become 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.
- Practices are not eligible to claim payment for any hours where they already receive financial support to employ or engage an eligible health professional, or if the financial support covers the services performed by an eligible health professional.

Support could include:

- Australian Government, or state/territory government funding;
- other private funding (e.g. funding from a parent organisation) or
- funding under other incentive programs.

This does not apply to Aboriginal Medical Services, Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Services, and state or territory government health clinics in rural and remote communities that:

- have an exemption under Section 19(2) of the *Health Insurance Act 1973*; or
- receive funding for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Workers, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Practitioners, or allied health professionals through Health.

WIP-PS payments

Services Australia calculate and administer the payments for the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing (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 \$140,947.36 per year per practice (before rural loadings).

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

	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	\$35,236.84	\$17,618.42
2000	25 hours 20 minutes	\$70,473.68	\$35,236.84
3000	38 hours	\$105,710.52	\$52,855.26
4000	50 hours 40 minutes	\$140,947.36	\$70,473.68

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 \(IP001\)](#) Practices must:

- provide the following supporting documentation (Practices can submit supporting documentation as an attachment to their application through HPOS or in a way accepted by Services Australia):
- an accreditation or registered for accreditation certificate from an approved accrediting agency;
- a Practice Incentives Practice ownership details and declaration form (IP008), for applications submitted through HPOS only; and
- other supporting documentation as per the requirements of the application form.

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](#).