

Nurse Immunisation Scholarships

Expression of Interest (EOI) and Guidelines

1. Overview – What are we looking for?

This expression of interest (EOI) is for the provision of the Nurse Immunisation Scholarship across the Gold Coast Region.

Gold Coast Primary Health Network (GCPHN) is currently seeking EOIs from **general practice nurses** (Registered Nurse Division 1 or Enrolled Nurse Division 2) who are willing to complete a fully funded and accredited [Health Education Services Australia \(HESA\)](#) immunisation course.

2. About Gold Coast Primary Health Network (GCPHN):

GCPHN is an independent, not-for-profit company, one of 31 Primary Health Networks established by the Australian Government on July 1, 2015, to identify the health needs of local communities and fund and improve primary health services, to keep people well and out of hospital. We work closely with public, private and non-government organisations in the primary healthcare sector and across the acute care sector to improve the health and well-being of the Gold Coast.

GCPHN's vision is to **“Build on world class health system for the Gold Coast”**.

Our strategic goals include:

- **Improve coordination of care** to ensure patients receive the right care, at the right place, at the right time and by the right person.
- **Increase efficiency and effectiveness** of medical services particularly for those at risk of poor health outcomes.
- **Engaging with stakeholders to improve our health system.** Actively engage and advocate for general practice and other stakeholders to facilitate improvement in our local health systems.
- **Being an accountable organisation.** Operate as a high performing, efficient and accountable organisation.

3. Background:

One of GCPHN's planned focus areas for 2024 is to build capacity and capability of the primary healthcare workforce, in vaccination management particularly for vulnerable groups but also ensure immunisation management is addressed across the age continuum for all Gold Coast population groups. Support the critical role of nurses in general practice in the delivery of vaccinations recommended in the [Immunisation Schedule Queensland](#).

With vaccinations being a safe and effective way to protect our most vulnerable population from serious, preventable diseases, it is essential to educate our community and to increase uptake to avoid disease from spreading, “herd immunity” occurs and offers indirect protection to:

- Unvaccinated people including children too young to be vaccinated.
- People unable to be vaccinated for valid medical reasons.
- People for whom vaccination has not been fully effective.

- The more people vaccinated in communities, the less likely that vaccine preventable diseases will spread (DoHAC).

Further, in QLD, under the provisions of the [Medicines and Poisons Act 2019](#) and [Medicines and Poisons \(Medicines\) Regulation 2021](#) both qualified EN's and RN's can administer vaccinations in general practice, but only on a doctor's oral or written instruction and under the supervision of a doctor or registered nurse. Enrolled and registered nurses, must ensure they adhere to their scope of practice for their profession, please refer to [Administration of vaccines – Scope of practice for healthcare professionals](#), or [Nursing and Midwifery Board \(NMBA\)](#).

4. Scholarship Eligibility:

To be eligible for this scholarship, nurses must:

- Hold current AHPRA registered nurse (Division 1) or enrolled nurse (Division 2) qualification.
- Currently work in a Gold Coast General Practice/s and provide immunisations as part of your role.
- Have not successfully completed a HESA accredited immunisation course previously.
- Agree to have their details supplied to the training provider for enrolment purposes and to allow the training provider to notify GCPHN on the enrolment status.
- If unable to meet the course requirements (see section 4, Models of Service), the next available eligible person on the waitlist will be offered the scholarship.

5. Models of Service:

In addition to the immunisation training course, general practice nurses are expected to design and deliver a quality improvement (QI) program to engage practice patients in the one of the chosen population groups outlined below, to promote vaccine awareness and the uptake of vaccinations to improve health outcomes.

- childhood immunisations (0-5yrs)
- adult immunisations vaccinations
- pregnant woman
- COVID/Influenza immunisations

This could include identifying patients due for vaccination your chosen target cohort, reminding patients to receive vaccination by usual communication methods within the general practice, having conversations with vaccine hesitant patients, and engaging with vaccine hesitant patients to have a conversation with their healthcare provider. Support and direction for the QI activity can be provided by the GCPHN QI Project Officer

Successful applicants will be required to complete the following activities:

- Sign and return a Nurse Immunisation Scholarship agreement to GCPHN that outlines the terms and conditions of the scholarship prior to course enrolment.
- Enrol in an accredited immunisation course within a **four-week timeframe** from execution of the Nurse Immunisation Scholarship agreement.
- Complete the accredited immunisation course by no later than **2nd December 2024**.
- Commit to completing an immunisation QI activity in your place of employment with a focus on either childhood, adult, pregnancy or COVID vaccinations and provide the QI action plan to GCPHN on commencement and completion of the QI activity (template provided)

- Attend a [Gold Coast Public Health Unit \(GCPHU\) community immunisation clinic](#), to observe the vaccination process for a range of consumers and the extensive skills that GCPHU nurses have in supporting a seamless, person-centred approach to vaccination.
- Provide evidence of successful completion of the immunisation course with a copy of the certificate to GCPHN.
- Complete an onboarding survey before commencement of the course and an evaluation survey on conclusion of the course (provided by GCPHN).
- Commit to completing the deliverables outlined in the Nurse Immunisation Scholarship agreement.
- Subscribe to GCPHN publications including the Nurse in General Practice (NiGP) email network. This includes contributing to the NiGP email network through sharing information and connecting with your nursing colleagues across Primary Health Care on the Gold Coast.

6. What the Scholarship includes:

- GCPHN will fund an accredited HESA immunisation course from the following Registered Training Organisations:
 - [Australian Catholic University](#)
 - [Australian College of Nursing](#)
 - The Benchmark Group:
 - [Immunisation Clinical Pathway \(EN's/RN's\)](#)
 - [Immunisation Endorsement Pathway \(RN's only\)](#)
- GCPHN will fund a one-off payment of \$1,132.00 to scholarship recipients at completion of the course to support the time taken to complete the course. Proof of course completion (certificate) and an invoice for the above amount (template provided) needs to be submitted to GCPHN along with completion of the deliverables outlined in the Nurse Immunisation Scholarship agreement.
- Dedicated support from a QI Project Officer to implement an immunisation quality improvement (QI) activity in your practice.
- Opportunity to attend a Gold Coast Public Health Unit (GCPHU) vaccination clinic, (30mins – 3hrs duration) to observe the vaccination process for a range of consumers and gain exposure to the extensive skills that GCPHU nurses have in supporting a seamless, person-centred approach to vaccination.

7. Discontinuation of the Course:

If an applicant who has been awarded a scholarship fails to attend the course or needs to discontinue the course, the applicant will be required to reimburse GCPHN the full cost of the course.

If personal or exceptional circumstances prevent an applicant from starting or completing the course within the designated time limit, they are to discuss options with GCPHN.

8. Privacy Policy and Information Management:

GCPHN collects personal information for the purpose of assisting its activities and functions in the primary health care sector. If your contact details are collected, they may be used to forward information and notifications from GCPHN. In some circumstances we may provide information to our funding agency (Department of Health and Aged Care) or to service providers that enter legal contracts with us which are bound by confidentiality. A link to GCPHN Privacy policy can be found [here](#).

Please find [here](#) the guiding principles that encompass the intent of the Gold Coast Primary Health Network's (GCPHN) Information Management Policy Framework (IMPF).

9. Timeline:

Milestone:	Due by:
EOI Released	7 May 2024
Deadline for EOI applications	17 May 2024
Acceptance and return of this scholarship agreement to GCPHN	1 June 2024
Enrolment into accredited immunisation course	1 July 2024
Touchpoint meeting (phone/virtual) with QI Project Officer	Early September 2024
Final meeting (phone/virtual) with QI Project Officer	Early December 2024
Final date for completion of course	
Final date for submission of invoice	16 December 2024

10. How to Apply:

Please complete EOI scholarship application [here](#).

Applications close: 5.00pm on Friday 17th May 2024.

Scholarships will be granted on a **first in basis to eligible applicants**.

Please direct any questions relating to this EOI through to Krystal Lyons on 5612 5408 or via email practicesupprt@gcphn.com.au.