

Disaster Recovery Workforce Support Grant



4 April 2025

Applications Open

28 April 2025

Applications Close

→ Overview

Gold Coast Primary Health Network (GCPHN) is inviting general practices, pharmacies, and allied health providers in the GCPHN region to apply for grants of **up to \$5,000 per practice**. This funding aims to support workforce retention in areas affected by ex-Cyclone Alfred and can be used for additional wages, extended operating hours, locum support, and incentives for practitioners, so businesses could open to provide access to vital healthcare services for the Gold Coast community (especially vulnerable populations) impacted by the disaster.

→ Who we are

Gold Coast Primary Health Network (GCPHN) is an independent, not-for-profit organisation - one of 31 Primary Health Networks established by the Australian Government Department of Health in 2015.

We play an instrumental role working with the health sector and Gold Coast community to improve health services for residents by:

- Identifying the health needs of local residents and designing solutions to meet those needs. This includes identifying gaps and establishing new health services.
- Funding health organisations to provide local health services across a range of areas including mental health, alcohol and other drugs, aged and palliative care, persistent pain, suicide prevention, cancer screening, immunisation, improving Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health and supporting general practices in quality improvement.
- Helping the health system work better together for patients and their families. This includes supporting health professionals, including general practitioners, to improve the quality of patient care.

→ Grant Objectives

Continuity of Care

Ensure continuity of healthcare services in disaster-affected areas by supporting practices with staffing costs.

Practitioner Wellbeing

Reduce workforce strain and clinician burnout through locum support and financial incentives for displaced practitioners.

→ Eligible Activities

- Hiring additional staff to maintain operations or manage increased demand following ex-Cyclone Alfred. This includes short-term clinical, administrative, auxiliary, and security personnel as needed.
- Covering additional/overtime staffing costs in accordance with current award rates. E.g., staff worked over the weekend to clean-up, protect vaccines etc so the practice could open as planned on Monday.
- Extending opening hours (e.g., evenings and weekends) to improve access for disaster-affected patients or clients.
- Funding wages for extended hours to support increased service demand.
- Supporting travel expenses for practitioners commuting due to displacement.

→ Out of Scope

- Repairs or maintenance
- Replacing equipment (e.g, fridges for vaccine)
- Purchasing equipment (e.g., generators)



Eligible Applicants

Applicants must be primary healthcare providers within the GCPHN region and meet the following criteria:

- Directly impacted by Tropical Cyclone Alfred (5-12 March 2025)
- Providing health services to vulnerable populations



Application Process How to Apply

- 1 Read through the **Disaster Recovery Workforce Support Grant Guidelines** (this document) prior to beginning the application.
- 2 Applicants submit online application with relevant supporting documents by 28 April 2025. [Please use this online application form.](#)
- 3 GCPHN acknowledges receipt of application submission via email.
- 4 Applications are presented to the selection committee for review and selection of successful applicants.
- 5 All applicants are notified of successful or unsuccessful outcome via email by 9 May 2025.
- 6 Successful applicants will enter into a Funding Agreement with GCPHN, followed by the release of funds.

Evaluation Criteria

Applications will be assessed based on:

Demonstrated impact – How the disaster-affected service delivery and staff.

Workforce retention – How the grant will help sustain staffing and prevent burnout.

Expenditure date - How funding can be expended promptly, with reporting and acquittal processes completed by 15 June 2025

The Application must clearly demonstrate:

- the services and benefits provided to the public during the weather event, above and beyond 'business as usual'.
- the grant funding is for activities not covered under normal business operating costs or recouped through patient charging/bulk billing.

Notification of Outcome

All applicants will be advised of the outcome of their application via email, by 9 May 2025. Successful applicants will receive a GCPHN Service Agreement to be signed before the release of funds.

Evaluation Criteria

Criteria		Weighting
Supports grant objectives	Does the application meet one or more of the grant program objectives?	25%
Demonstrates community need and support.	How has the applicant provided a specific service to benefit the disaster-affected community?	25%
	What were the community implications of undertaking/not undertaking this activity services, especially for vulnerable populations?	20%
Capacity and sustainability	How does the grant help sustain staffing and prevent burnout will support your business.	25%
	Does the budget accurately reflect the scope of the application?	5%

Acquittal and Evaluation Report

The Acquittal and Evaluation Report Form (to be provided to successful applicants, will require the recipient to upload evidence such as:

- Grant funding expenditure (e.g., invoices, receipts, payslips).
- Completed Acquittal documentation.
- Brief written summary of grant funding expenditure.
- Quantifiable data (where applicable - e.g., number of patients seen, additional hours worked etc)

Once the form has been submitted, GCPHN may issue an invoice to recoup unspent funds.

All information for acquittal and reporting must be submitted by 15 June 2025.

