



Primary Source Medicare Locals - Transition

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[19 Medicare Locals have been given the green light but Victoria is on amber](#)

following the Federal Minister for Health and Ageing Nicola Roxon releasing details today about the successful candidates in the first tranche for the new primary health care organisations. These 19 Medicare Locals cover more than one third of the Network.

The successful candidates for the first round of Medicare Locals cover urban, rural and regional areas throughout Australia. The approved Medicare Locals are:

<p>NSW: Western Sydney Hunter Urban New England Murrumbidgee</p>	<p>Vic: Four approved and to be announced</p>	<p>Qld: Metro North Metro South West Moreton/Oxley Townsville/Mackay Gold Coast</p>
<p>SA: Central Adelaide Country North</p>	<p>WA: North Metro Country South West</p>	<p>TAS ACT</p>

Four applications have been approved in Victoria and will be announced within a week.

The following is a summary by AGPN's CEO David Butt:

- At least one metro and one rural from each State [plus ACT and Tasmania]
- 22 bids from the first tranche will receive feedback that they did not adequately meet the criteria and need

National Forum

Australia's premier primary health care forum

16-19 November 2011
Melbourne Convention Exhibition Centre

Call for abstracts go to:

[Australian General Practice Network \(AGPN\) - Forum Program](#)

[Click here to view the events calendar.](#)

to resubmit. Each one will be given feedback specific to their proposals.

- Five Medicare Locals were not covered by bids in the first round:
 - Far West in NSW;
 - Frankston-Peninsula in VIC;
 - Loddon Mallee Murray in VIC;
 - Country South in SA; and
 - the Northern Territory.
- The additional Medicare Locals are:
 - In NSW, Northern Sydney split into Northern Sydney and North Eastern Sydney
 - In Victoria – subject to further discussions with the Baillieu Government this week
 - In WA, Country North split into Kimberley-Pilbara and Goldfields-Mid West, and South Metro split into Rockingham-Kwinana-Peel and Bentley-Armadale
 - There will be some further refinement of boundaries, with new maps to be issued shortly.

[First Medicare Locals to continue primary health care reform](#) – statement from the Minister for Health and Ageing, Nicola Roxon.

Ready for transition – tranche 1

A framework has been drafted to assist Medicare Locals to assess readiness and actions required to make the transition. This is focused on the first 100 days from signing of contracts and over the first year. It is based upon the objectives of Medicare Locals and the key capabilities required across a number of domains.

It is hoped that approved Medicare Local applicants in Tranche 1 will take up the opportunity to participate in the self assessment and interview process. Apart from the direct benefits to individual Medicare Locals it will enable collective needs to be identified to guide the work of the transition team and pilot the process before the next two tranches are announced.

ITA feedback and re-submission

Transition team members are available to provide support to applicants who are now preparing to revise submissions based on feedback from the Department of Health and Ageing This is an important step in the transition process and applicants are strongly urged to gain whatever support is available. For those requiring independent facilitation of partnerships the service has been expanded to include a panel of skilled people available to contract for this purpose. Contact the Transition team for further information.

Governance Master Class and Leadership Development Program

The two day Governance Master Class on 16 and 17 June provides an opportunity to work with peers to raise

awareness of best practice not-for-profit governance and explore the challenges and opportunities facing Medicare Locals. The master class has been designed to incorporate robust discussion, lessons from the latest research and activities to facilitate sharing. [Register now.](#)

The Australian Graduate School of Management has been commissioned to run this Master Class and to pilot an individual leadership development program for the Boards and Executive teams of the first tranche of Medicare Locals. Each of the first tranche Medicare Locals will be offered one day with the AGSM team on a tailored program of governance skills, and leadership development to suit their local needs. The schedule will be determined by each Medicare Local depending upon their establishment plan and appointments to Boards.

National Stakeholder Roundtable

The roundtable event for national peak and professional bodies will be held on 29 June 2011 in Canberra. The purposes of the event are to inform national organisations about the progress of Medicare Local implementation, identify the benefits for both National organisations and Medicare Locals in becoming engaged in this process and to share ideas about how this may be achieved.

Sample Company Objects

Some Medicare Local applicants have already received charity status from the Australian Taxation Office [ATO]. Sample company objects from these organisations are available to view at:
<http://agpn.com.au/medicarelocaltransition/governance/company-objects>

Clinical Governance Framework

A session led by Professor Jeffrey Braithwaite on next steps to build materials to support the Clinical Governance Framework, will be held during the Governance Master Class in June. A small working party will be established, involving the first tranche of Medicare Locals to inform this development work.

Nominations open for the National Primary Health Care Awards

Australia's primary health service providers will now be able to achieve well earned recognition and rewards for outstanding performance through the inaugural [**HESTA Primary Health Care Awards**](#).

HESTA in conjunction with AGPN created these awards to mark excellence in primary health care.

ME Bank has provided \$30,000 in prize money for the awards which will culminate in an awards dinner at the AGPN's National Forum on Wednesday 16 November, to which finalists will be flown.

HESTA CEO Ms Anne-Marie Corboy said the awards were designed to recognise innovation and leadership.

"These are two fundamental elements of a skilled and responsive health workforce," Ms Corboy said.

AGPN CEO David Butt said the awards were timely in light of the incredible health reform agenda facing this sector.

"These awards recognise the role of all those who are usually the first the community turns to when they are sick or injured," Mr Butt said.

There are three categories for nominations:

Young leader

Individual distinction

Team excellence

Nominations can be made online at <http://www.phcawards.com.au/>



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