



Primary Source

Medicare Locals - Transition

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From the Transition Project Team's, Terry Findlay

The long awaited release yesterday of the Medicare Local Invitation to Apply [ITA] Guidelines by the Prime Minister Julia Gillard and Minister for Health and Ageing Nicola Roxon, has given us a much needed timeline and framework for completing applications.

- **First tranche** applications for a start in July 2011 are **due by 5 April**
- **Second and third tranche** applications for a start in January and July 2012 are **due on 19 July**

The advice on ML boundaries is to use those published in December last year but be prepared to be flexible as some additional MLs may be created as a consequence of continued discussions through to April.

David Butt conducted a webinar for the network on the day of the release outlining the key aspects of the document. A recording is available at the [Members Section](#) of AGPN's website in the Chairs and CEO's section.

Latest resources published...

- **Clinical Governance Framework**

Strategic level framework built on the international best evidence and applied to the primary health care setting in Australia in the context of the development of Medicare Locals.

- **Transition & Redundancy Advice**

Generic advice from Williams, Love & Nicol that describes the implications for employment conditions depending on the transition pathway that is chosen by Divisions. This includes transfer of employment to Medicare Locals and redundancy implications under the Fair Work Act.

- **Accreditation Advice**

Advice from the three accrediting organisations on the steps that Divisions who are approaching accreditation during this transition period can take.

- **Going Concern Advice**



Speeches for the 2010 AGPN National Forum can be found at:

www.gpnetworkforum.com.au/forum-speeches

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

Generic advice from William, Love & Nicol about resolutions and declarations of solvency with particular regard to 'going concern' assumptions.

- **Model Constitution & Guidance Material**

A model constitution with guidance for Divisions about areas that they and their partners need to focus their attention on and make decisions consistent with the criteria in the ITA.

- **Independent Review Panel**

Information on the Panel of reviewers and the arrangements that Divisions can make if they wish to have their draft applications reviewed confidentially.

- **Facilitation and Mediation Service**

Medicare Locals demand a renewed focus on relationships, partnerships, and collaborations whatever and however you conceive them to be.

Facilitation, simply defined is about making things easier. It is a process, conducted by an independent person, the facilitator, that assists parties problem solve; not necessarily because they can't on their own, or because there is conflict per se, but maybe because it is difficult for them to see a starting point at the time, or because the history, the context, may suggest some barriers.

Mediation is similar in some senses. For example, it involves the use of an independent person. It is a confidential process and designed to make things easier; simply because it provides a less formal process than litigation or arbitration. It is different in the sense that it is a dispute resolution process; an effort to resolve an existing conflict.

Either way, they are both effective processes, and a normal part of relationship development and maintenance. To date, the services are being provided across four states, not necessarily because people are in conflict, often just because they need a way to make things a little easier.

Access to Transition Resources

Transition resources are available to Network members through two distinct websites, each site with its own login details [username and password].

Members Area of the AGPN Website (www.agpn.com.au)

Contains information and resources on:

- Population Health Profiles – produced by PHIDU; in Excel format (large file)
- ITA Support
 - Independent review panel
 - ITA workshop presentations
 - WA principles and guidelines for Medicare Local submissions
- Governance

- Clinical governance framework
- Template constitution and guidance material
- Partnerships and engagement
 - Free facilitation, negotiation, and mediation services
 - Community engagement – mini handbook
 - Stakeholder engagement standard and manual
 - Partnership self-assessment tool
- Organisational development
 - Master class program for 2011
- Change management
 - Practical guide to change management
- Other tools
 - KPMG transition toolkit

AGPN Forums (www.medicarelocaltransition.com.au)

Contains forums on:

- Generic legal and governance Q&A
- Advice on resolutions and declarations of solvency with particular regard to 'going concern' assumptions
- Advice on transfer of employment to Medicare Locals and redundancy implications under the Fair Work Act
- Advice on the process of accreditation during the transition period
- ITA Q&A

Please contact Matthew Pirani at mpirani@agpn.com.au if you are experiencing difficulty in accessing either website noting which site you are attempting to access.

Coming Up

The following resources are in development;

- Board Skills Matrix
- Tax Status advice
- Due Diligence Checklist

A round of visits is being planned for the next few weeks to meet with each state/territory to discuss the ITA, coordinate state and national plans and identify further work to support the application process. Details of these plans and contacts will be published shortly.

The Transition team welcomes comments, questions and suggestions for further actions that will assist Divisions

to make successful applications. We can be contacted at transition@agpn.com.au

Medicare Locals - Transition editor:

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