



Primary Source

Medicare Locals - Transition

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From the Transition Team's Terry Findlay

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For those members not selected in the first round of Medicare Locals, the Network rose to the challenge of review based on the individual feedback provided by DoHA. On the whole applicants reported that the feedback received was useful and enabled them to focus on specific areas in the reapplication however this was not universal.

For those applicants subject to a boundary change there has been a significant challenge in reforming partnerships and preparing submissions based on new populations.

The reapplications, along with the areas where no application was made in the first round, were submitted by Network members for all Medicare Local areas by 19 July, 2011.

The Network continues to work at building and embedding the relationships the move to Medicare Locals requires and the importance of ensuring that agreements and methods for resolution of issues are in place early in the process has been demonstrated.

The team has continued to investigate the options for leadership and board development support for Medicare Locals and also on how to support the relationships between Medicare Locals and local hospital networks. More information on these initiatives will follow as they become confirmed.

As ever the Transition team are keen to hear from Network members' views on priorities for transition support. We can be contacted via email: transition@agpn.com.au.



Call for abstracts go to:

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

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

Clinical Governance Framework

A session led by Professor Jeffrey Braithwaite on next steps to build materials to support the Clinical Governance Framework, was held during the Governance Master Class in June. A small working party is now being established, involving the first tranche of Medicare Locals to inform this development work. The first part of this work will be to undertake an environmental scan of materials already available to Medicare Locals and determine

what gaps may exist to support the particular needs of primary health care organisations. From this gap analysis, tools, templates and products will be drafted to be reviewed by the network and a final Clinical Governance Workshop will be held in the Spring.

National Primary Health Care Awards – nominations close August 14

Do you know someone who deserves recognition for their contribution to primary health care in your area? Do you know of a team of colleagues who have progressed primary health care for patients, the system or for the local community? With a little over a fortnight to go until nominations close, AGPN and HESTA are keen to know who these people are 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 a **HESTA Primary Health Care awards dinner at AGPN's National Forum on Wednesday 16 November**, to which finalists will be flown.

There are three categories for nominations:

Young leader

Individual distinction

Team excellence

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



National Stakeholder Roundtable 29 June

Over 104 organisations were present at the Stakeholder Roundtable held in Canberra on the 29 June. The purpose of the roundtable was to:

- Inform national organisations about Medicare Locals in the context of the National Health Reforms; their objectives, organisation and the way they are being established
- Identify the value for national organisations and their members in being engaged with Medicare Locals
- Identify opportunities for engagement in the development and operation of Medicare Locals

The key findings of the day included a need for more information about the design, function and opportunities for engagement to enable stakeholders to understand and engage with organisations at an appropriate structural level

Also identified as is an absolute need for across the board and ongoing leadership training for organisations to

equip them to engage with Medicare Locals. In response to these requests initial discussions have been held with the Institute of Health and Welfare [AIHW] with a view to developing a joint project that will link to population profiles for each Medicare Local.

Further discussions have been scheduled with the Department to discuss what information will be held on the *yourhealth* website.

Facilitation Service

This service continues to be used for both the partnerships required to submit a joint application and now to assist organisations to move into the tranche 1 implementation phase. A panel of approved facilitators has been created and made available to the Network from which to select as appropriate. Further information on this can be obtained on the AGPN website.

Health Service Development/Models of Care Master Class – registrations now open

[Wednesday 17 August and Thursday 18 August](#)
[Citigate King George Square, Brisbane](#)

AGPN is pleased to offer Network members a [Master Class](#) focusing on developing the skills on how to collect, measure and analyse the evidence to inform health service design and how to take the systematic steps needed to re-design a service to meet specific needs.

A key function of Medicare Locals is to take responsibility and provide for the health needs of respective populations. This requires that population needs must be understood – but what do you measure? How do you analyse the information? What’s the priority going to be? As part of this responsibility, Medicare Locals will plan, purchase and, in some circumstances, provide direct services. Ultimately this requires an evidence-based understanding of how to design and develop services in a primary health care environment that responds to the needs of the local population.

The program will be available in the week commencing 11 July and will include topics such as:

- Population health planning frameworks including needs assessments, service and provider mapping and consultation
- Techniques for ensuring service redesign is informed by the patient voice
- The role of clinical networks in service redesign and how to support and strengthen clinical leadership
- Changing service cultures
- Funder purchase provider models

Readiness assessment

A methodology based upon a capability framework has been developed to assess the readiness of Medicare Locals

to achieve the objectives defined in the program guidelines. Capabilities have been described in terms of five domains;

- Structure & Governance
- Leadership & Engagement
- Management & Business
- Service Planning & Delivery
- Transition & Change Management(Time limited)

Within each domain a number of more specific areas of capability have been described for both a 100 day and one year timeframe. A combined self assessment and interview process has been constructed to facilitate an analysis of capability against each of the domains and focus attention on areas that require attention. Invitations to participate have been issued to Tranche 1 Medicare Locals. The outcome of the process is that it enables the Medicare Local to understand and act to develop appropriate capabilities and informs the work of the Transition team and the supporting functions at state and national level.

Health Promotion Guide

AGPN recently met with the Prevention Agency and the Australian Primary Health Care Research Institute to begin discussions about the development of these guidelines. A roundtable of stakeholders is being organised for late August to scope the work and begin the development process.

Medicare Local Boundaries

The updated boundaries have now been published on [yourhealth](#) website and it includes digital maps

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 at AGPN's Transition website.

Primary Source: subscription

AGPN produces a number of e-bulletins under the banner of Primary Source. If you know of someone who could benefit from receiving Primary Source send them to [AGPN's subscription page](#) for:

- Medicare Locals – Transition
- Immunisation
- eHealth

- Nursing in General Practice
- Close the Gap
- Chronic Disease Management
- Mental Health
- Quality Use of Medicines

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Medicare Locals - Transition editor:

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