

# Rural Telehealth Support Grant Guidelines

## 1. Program Description

Rural Doctors Workforce Agency (RDWA) has established the Rural Telehealth Support Grant as part of its support for rural primary health services as they continue to adapt to the changed health service delivery environment due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Telehealth Support Grant recognises that primary health care practices have by necessity, incorporated telehealth to supplement face to face consultations to ensure the local community can continue to access local health care.

The Rural Telehealth Support Grant provides an opportunity for private general practices and private allied health services and rural Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Services (ACCHS) to apply for a grant of up to \$5,000 to offset costs associated with equipping their practice to deliver telehealth services incurred in the 2020-21 financial year.

Funding for this Grant is provided as part of the Australian Government's Department of Health Rural Health Workforce Support Program (RHWS) which RDWA administers in rural South Australia.

## 2. Program Scope

Private primary health care practices that have or intend to develop telehealth models to deliver primary health care services can apply for a Rural Telehealth Support Grant.

To apply, the health practice must be:

- A business entity registered with an ABN; and
- employing or contracting primary health care professionals currently delivering primary health care services to the rural community for at least five sessions (0.5 full time equivalent [FTE]) per week; and
- in a rural location in SA that is classified within the Modified Monash Model (MMM) (2019) 2-7 area; and
- able to demonstrate that it can undertake activities promptly.

## 3. Eligibility

### 3.1 Locations

Private primary health care practices in SA rural and remote areas classified as within the MMM 2-7 (2019) are eligible to apply for the Rural Telehealth Support Grant. The MMM locator is found at:

<http://www.doctorconnect.gov.au/internet/otd/publishing.nsf/Content/locator>

### 3.2 Organisations

Primary health care services are those that provide health-related and/or clinical services as the first point of contact within a community for prevention, diagnosis and treatment of ill-health, and for ongoing management of chronic disease.

State or Commonwealth entities or services solely providing disability or aged care services are not eligible.

### 3.3 Eligible Activities

Eligible activities include:

- Purchase and development of clinic infrastructure or systems to support the establishment or improvement of telehealth consultations (excluding minor peripherals); and / or
- Purchase of hardware items such as webcams, iPads and laptops (excluding minor peripherals) to support delivery of telehealth services.

The grant cannot provide for:

- An activity or resource that depends on recurrent funding – any connectivity or other ongoing costs will need to be funded by the primary health care service;
- Activities that fund telehealth services to be delivered outside the local service catchment area;
- Activities or solutions that do not demonstrate a distinct telehealth improvement;
- Costs associated with major capital expenditure, major construction / capital works or contribution toward purchase of land;
- Activities for which other Commonwealth, State or Local Government bodies have primary responsibility.

## 4. Process

### 4.1 Application

Rural primary health practices that have developed (or intend to develop), telehealth models to deliver primary health care services to increase access to services for the local (resident) community can apply for a telehealth support grant by completing the short on-line application form and addressing the selection criteria.

Applications will be evaluated based on the organisation's ability to address the following criteria:

- Use of technology to increase the delivery of telehealth services to the service's local catchment patients;
- Promptly deliver the increased telehealth capacity;
- Supporting quote / budget or invoice for goods incurred between 1 July 2020 and 30 June 2021;
- Demonstration that the telehealth service will be sustained until at least 30 June 2022;
- Location eligibility; and
- Organisation's eligibility.

All applicants will be notified of their application outcome, and individual negotiations will take place with successful applicants on a case-by-case basis throughout the period the grant is open. RDWA reserves the right to request references to support the grant assessment process.

**Applications will close at 9am Monday 5 July 2021, and no late applications can be accepted.**

Grants will be offered within available funding.

Applying for a grant of up to \$5,000 does not guarantee that funds will be granted.

### 4.2 Letter of Agreement

Practices offered a Rural Telehealth Support Grant will be required to sign a letter of agreement committing to the agreed guidelines, deliverables, budget and reporting requirements.

### 4.3 Reporting

Reporting requirements will include providing a summary of the activity, outcomes and acquittal of funds expended at the conclusion of the activity and may include updates throughout the period of the agreement.



#### 4.4 Payments

Practices will submit tax invoices to RDWA to claim the funds. Evidence of expenses incurred by the practice must be attached.

RDWA will assess claim forms / invoices and where complete, pay the practice by electronic funds transfer.

#### 4.5 Debt Recovery

Where a practice does not meet the obligations set out in the Telehealth Support Grant Agreement, the funds granted will be repaid in full.

#### 4.6 Independent advice

Applicants should consider the impact of entering an agreement for financial support payment and seek their own advice regarding their financial circumstance before applying for or accepting an offer of a grant.

June 2021