



Review of General Practice Incentives

Consultation is open until 22 December 2023

Why?

The Strengthening Medicare Taskforce Report made recommendations for reform of primary care, including that the Government support health care providers in the management of complex chronic disease through blended funding models, integrating incentive payments with fee-for-service, and funding quality bundles of care for people who need it most.

The Review of General Practice Incentive Programs was announced in the 2023-24 Commonwealth Budget in response to the recommendations of the Strengthening Medicare Taskforce report.

This Review will draw on qualitative and quantitative evidence to evaluate the effectiveness of general practice incentives and will be an input into future policy considerations.

How & What?



The Department of Health and Aged Care (the Department) are undertaking a rapid retrospective effectiveness review of the existing general practice incentive programs. This includes the Practice Incentive Program (PIP) and the Workforce Incentives Program (WIP). This evaluation is part of a broader effort to reform primary care.

The Review will assess the effectiveness of the current general practice incentives and examine areas for enhancement into the future. Considerations include fostering a more person-centred approach and encouraging collaborative care among a wide range of multidisciplinary healthcare professionals.

Focus of the Review:

01

DOMAIN 1 - IMPACT:

Exploring the extent to which incentives have achieved policy objectives, such as progress towards the Primary Health Care 10 Year Plan.

02

DOMAIN 2 - EFFECTIVENESS:

Examining the effectiveness of each incentive as a funding mechanism for influencing systemic reform across the primary health care sector.

03

DOMAIN 3 - EFFICIENCY:

Considering the efficiency of incentive and payment stream mechanisms in achieving outcomes. This will include consideration of administrative processes and eligibility.

04

DOMAIN 4 - SUSTAINABILITY:

Assessing the ongoing sustainability of incentive payments into the future. This includes consideration of ongoing investment and long term outcomes.





Practice Incentive Program (PIP)

The PIP seeks to encourage general practices to continue providing quality care, enhance capacity, and improve access and health outcomes for patients. Services Australia, on behalf of the Department of Health and Aged Care, administers eight individual incentives under three payment streams. These are summarised below.

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| Indigenous Health Incentive | After Hours Incentive | eHealth Incentive | Procedural GP Payment |
| Quality Improvement Incentive | GP Aged Care Access Incentive | Teaching Payment | Rural Loading Incentive |

Workforce Incentive Program (WIP)

The WIP Practice Stream supports general practices to engage nurses, allied health professionals, and/or Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health practitioners and health workers as part of a multidisciplinary team in all locations. The WIP Doctor Stream and the WIP Rural Advanced Skills (payments start 2024*) incentivises doctors to practise in rural and remote locations. This Review will focus on Practice Stream and Doctor Stream.

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| WIP Practice Stream | WIP Doctor stream | WIP Rural Advanced Skills Payment* |
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How can I provide input into this Review?

01

Survey to Practice Owners and General Practitioners:

A survey will be made available through the Consultation Hub and allow all general practices, AMSs / ACCHOs and related services across Australia to provide input into the Review. This survey will be open until 22nd Dec 2023.

02

Written Submissions:

We welcome health practitioners, practice managers, and service providers who use incentive programs to share their experience and perspective in detail. Submissions can be received via the Department's Consultation Hub by 22nd Dec 2023 and should be no longer than four pages, targeted to the review's four domains.

03

Region based discussions with general practices (focused across 16 selected Primary Health Networks):

Workshops will be run with Primary Health Network executives and workforces from across Australia in November 2023 and will be coordinated through the Primary Health Networks.