



Allied Health New Service Grant Grant Guidelines 2025-2026



Table of Contents

1. Grant Overview	3
2. Eligibility	3
3. Eligible Activities	5
4. Funding Available	6
5. Application process	6
6. Notification of applications	7
7. Changes to Grant Activities	7
8. Termination of Grant Letter of Agreement	7
9. Debt Recovery	7
10. Complaints and Appeals	8
11. More information	8

1. Grant Overview

Rural Workforce Agency Victoria (RWAV) is a not-for profit government-funded organisation aimed at improving health care for rural, regional and Aboriginal communities in Victoria.

The Allied Health New Service Grant is funded by RWAV as part of the Australian Government Department of Health and Aged Care Primary Care Workforce Support Program.

The purpose of the Allied Health New Service Grant is to:

- enable health services and allied health practitioners to access funding to establish or expand allied health services in rural and regional Victoria
- support increased access to allied health services in MMM 3-7.

2. Eligibility

Applications can be made on behalf of an eligible organisation/s that currently deliver services or intend to deliver services that meet ALL the following criteria:

- Provide face to face clinical services
- In at least one field on the list of eligible health professions
- In the private or non-government primary health sector
- In a rural or remote area of Victoria (MMM 3-7)

The following organisations and or services **are** eligible to apply:

- Sole traders, organisations and independent contractors that meet the above criteria
- Activities undertaken at Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations in MMM 1-7 locations

The following organisations or services **are not** eligible to apply:

- Organisations or services employed solely by any Government entity (Local, State or Federal)
- Organisations or services which solely provide NDIS, HACC, etc. or any other government funded services
- Hospices, unless the service provides home based care
- Organisations or services who solely provide telehealth

Submitted applications must include responses to all questions, relevant documentation and contact details of the applicant.

Eligible Allied Health Professions

- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Practitioner
- Aboriginal Health Worker
- Audiologist
- Chinese Medicine Practitioner
- Chiropractor
- Counsellors*
- Diabetes Educator
- Dietitian
- Exercise Physiologist
- Medical Radiation Practitioner
- Mental Health Credentialed Workforce
- Nutritionist*
- Occupational Therapist
- Optometrist
- Orthoptist
- Orthotics and Prosthetics
- Osteopath
- Pharmacist
- Physiotherapist
- Podiatrist
- Psychologist
- Social Worker
- Sonographer
- Speech Pathologist

** Counsellors must hold an AQF level 7 or higher qualification in Counselling and must be registered with a relevant counselling professional association, such as the ACA or PACFA.*

The project must be established or expanded within 6 months from the award of the grant. The funded allied health service must be delivered for a minimum of 12 months following implementation of the grant funded activities.

All claims for reimbursement must be submitted to RWAV before March 30, 2026.

All applications will be assessed against the eligibility criteria by an RWAV panel, and the following will be looked upon favourably.

- Innovative service models that meet locally identified clinical needs
- Increasing the available FTE and/or number of patients serviced
- Partnerships between 2 or more service providers including multi-site service delivery
- Enhancing existing partnerships or confirming new partnerships between clinicians and service providers
- In-kind support provided by the grant recipient/s

3. Eligible Activities

This grant opportunity may be used to purchase resources required to deliver the proposed allied health service including:

- Clinical equipment
- Software for the delivery of clinical care (including clinical assessment resources)
- Technology (including tablets and computers) directly and solely utilised for the delivery of care through the proposed allied health service.
 - o Technology costs will be capped:
 - Laptop = \$2,000
 - Tablet = \$1,500

Grant funding cannot be used for the following activities:

- course costs for clinical upskilling or professional development
- marketing and advertising of the service
- real estate rental costs
- business consultancy or development costs
- recruitment and relocation costs for health professionals
- mobile phones
- purchase of land
- major capital expenditure
- the covering of retrospective costs
- costs incurred in the preparation of a grant application or related documentation
- major construction/capital works
- activities which support political campaigns
- grant recipient staff overseas travel
- activities for which Commonwealth, State, Territory or Local Government bodies have primary responsibility

4. Funding Available

The Allied Health New Service Grant provides payments of up to \$10,000 inc. GST per practice.

Applications open 9:00 am Wednesday, 5 November 2025 and close 11:59 pm Wednesday, 19 November 2025.

All claims against grant funding by successful applicants must be submitted to RWAV prior to March 30, 2026. Claims submitted after this date will not be recognised and funding will be forfeited.

The grant funding will be provided to the business owner or nominated representative for the health service.

Funding is available for prospective costs only from the date of application. The grant funding will be provided by reimbursement; payments will be made upon provision of an acceptable invoice.

No third-party payments will be made by RWAV.

This is a competitive grant round, not all applicants who apply will be successful.

Grant funding is not intended to provide full cost recovery.

5. Application process

All applications must be made through the [MyRWAV portal](#) accessed on the RWAV website prior to the activity taking place.

Applications must include proof of reasonable expectation of project costs which clearly shows any GST where applicable.

You may be asked to provide more information to support your application. Submitting your application does not guarantee you will be successful.

6. Notification of applications

RWAV will notify you the outcome of your application via email. Please note applications may take up to six (6) weeks to be assessed, approved and processed.

If your application is successful, we will email you a **Grant Letter of Agreement** for you to sign and return within 14 days.

The Grant Letter of Agreement details:

- The funded activity
- The amount of funding available
- Your requirements as an Awardee (successful applicant)
- Your Return of Service Obligation period (12 months)

7. Changes to Grant Activities

Written approval from RWAV is required to change the activity outlined in your Grant Letter of Agreement. RWAV will review any new activity against the identified health/workforce need, your original application and the reason for the change. Changes to the proposed activity are at the discretion of RWAV and are usually only permitted under exceptional circumstances. RWAV reserves the right to cancel the Grant Letter of Agreement if the original activity cannot be completed.

8. Termination of Grant Letter of Agreement

RWAV may terminate a Grant Letter of Agreement if it reasonably believes the applicant:

- Has transferred to a different activity without consent from RWAV
- Has breached the Grant Agreement
- Has provided false or misleading information in their application
- Fails to complete the activity

9. Debt Recovery

Where an Awardee (successful applicant) does not fulfil their requirements as detailed in the Grant Letter of Agreement, RWAV may seek to recover the relevant monies. Each Awardee will be asked to sign a Grant Letter of Agreement, confirming that they have understood the terms and conditions of the agreement including the process for debt recovery should the Awardee be unable to meet their obligations.

The Grants Administrator will support the Awardee during the period outlined in the Grant Letter of Agreement to address issues as/before they arise. This will minimise the need for debt recovery in most cases. Where this fails, and the Awardee is unable to meet their obligations, the Grants Administrator will contact the Awardee to inform them that the debt recovery process will begin.

10. Complaints and Appeals

Unsuccessful applicants who wish to appeal the outcome of their application should initially email the grants team at grants@rwav.com.au to determine if they may be eligible to access funding and/or support from other sources to meet their upskilling or professional development needs. If the matter is not resolved applicants can appeal to the Manager, Strategy and Partnerships, Health Workforce Solutions to consider their case.

11. More information

Any questions relating to the Allied Health New Service Grant should be directed to the Grants Administrator at grants@rwav.com.au or via phone on 03 9349 7800



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