



Australian Government
Department of Health and Ageing

FACT SHEET

General Practice After Hours Program

Background

The Australian Government is helping to meet the growing demand on general practitioners to provide after hours care services through \$76.3 million in grants available over the next four years. The grants will help support the viability of after hours GP services. These grants will be available under the *General Practice After Hours Program* which replaces the former *After Hours Primary Medical Care* and *Round the Clock Medicare: Investing in After Hours GP Services* programs as announced in the 2008-09 Budget.

Grants

Up to 100 grants are available on a competitive basis for 2008-09. Each grant is limited to a maximum of \$100,000 (GST exclusive) over two years. Grant funding is available to assist with operating costs, or recurrent expenses, of after hours services.

Who can apply?

Applications are invited from all parties interested in providing after hours GP services. This could include, but is not limited to, local general practices; organisations or groups of GPs working together under the sponsorship of the local Division of General Practice; medical deputising services; and private hospitals.

Service delivery model

All models of after hours service delivery will be considered, as long as they are responsive to the after hour primary medical care needs of their local community; have the support of the local GP community; and any Commonwealth funding will not create unfair competition with existing after hours services.

Assessment

A Department of Health and Ageing panel will assess all applications. Applications must address each of the selection criteria.

Closing date

The closing date for applications for the 2008-09 funding round is **5pm AEST on 5 September 2008**. No late applications will be considered. Facsimiled and emailed applications will not be accepted.

Existing grant recipients

Existing *Round the Clock Medicare: Investing in After Hours GP Services* grant recipients whose funding expires before December 2009 should consider applying for funding if continued Commonwealth support is required.

Timing of announcements

It is anticipated that preferred applicants will be notified in December 2008.

Further information

The application form and program guidelines can be downloaded from the Department of Health and Ageing website: www.health.gov.au/tenders.