

RWAV CHRONIC PAIN MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

CHRONIC PAIN PSYCHOLOGY SERVICES

1. Summary of Activity

RWAV are seeking Expressions of Interest (EOI) from clinical or registered psychologists to provide services in a Chronic Pain Management Program in Western Victoria. The program aims to meet the needs of those with chronic pain who reside in areas identified as having high rates of chronic pain sufferers, and low availability of appropriate health services for this condition.

2. About Rural Workforce Agency Victoria (RWAV)

Rural Workforce Agency Victoria (RWAV) creates sustainable health workforce models that support Victoria's rural, regional and Aboriginal communities. RWAV delivers health services throughout rural and regional Victoria, and we draw on trusted relationships, smart data and best practice to establish models that are capable, connected and tailored to the communities we serve.

RWAV are the fund holders for six Outreach programs and provide over 300 outreach services to rural, regional and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities across Victoria. These programs are all funded by the Commonwealth Department of Health and work within specific health priorities that increase access to healthcare for these communities. The six programs include:

- Rural Health Outreach Fund
- Medical Outreach Indigenous Chronic Disease Program
- Healthy Ears Better Listening Better Hearing Program
- Visiting Optometry Scheme
- Indigenous Eye and Ear Surgical Support Service
- Indigenous Eye Health Coordination

The Rural Health Outreach Fund (RHOF) focuses on improving health outcomes for people living in rural and regional Victoria by supporting the delivery of outreach health activities with a specific emphasis on the health priorities of maternity and paediatric health, eye health, chronic disease management and mental health.

The scheme supports health professionals to deliver healthcare services in outreach locations by providing funding support to cover out of pocket expenses such as travel, accommodation, meals and other associated expenditure.

The objectives of RHOF are to:

- Provide public and private outreach health services that address prioritised community needs
- Broaden the range and choice of health services available in regional, rural and remote locations
- Remove the financial disincentives that create barriers to service provision

3. Background of the Chronic Pain Management Program

RWAV was granted additional funding from the Commonwealth Department of Health to administer a Chronic Pain Management Program through the RHOF Outreach Program. The grant is delivered over a period of two years from November 2019 to October 2021.

The grant funding expands on the chronic disease management priority to support specialist pain management services being delivered through RHOF to areas identified as having the greatest need.

The purpose of the grant is to:

- Provide funding to RHOF fundholders to support the delivery of outreach pain management specialist services in regional, rural and remote areas of Australia and to undertake upskilling of primary care providers in the areas to improve prescribing habits and awareness of appropriate pain management treatment, specifically:
 - Support additional specialist pain management services being delivered through the RHOF with service delivery to be prioritised to those areas showing the highest rates of opioid prescriptions
 - Reduce inappropriate prescribing (and resulting harms)
 - Reduce the chronic pain impacts being experienced by patients in regional, rural and remote communities
 - Reduce the overuse and potential harms of prescription opioids being used for long-term pain management
- Improve the awareness of appropriate pain management strategies by primary care providers in regional, rural and remote areas through the development and dissemination of new training resources (including online information and education)

4. Details of Service Provision

After a detailed needs analysis, the priority Local Government Areas for the program were identified as Hindmarsh and Yarriambiack in Western Victoria. Provision of psychology services may occur in one or more of the following towns:

Hindmarsh

- Jeparit
- Rainbow
- Dimboola

Yarriambiack:

- Woomelang
- Hopetoun
- Warracknabeal
- Beulah
- Minyip
- Murtoa

On consultation with numerous health clinics, GPs and allied health providers in these towns, it was highlighted that the major gap in pain management services was the availability and accessibility to psychology services.

As such, a major focus of the program is the provision of a consistent, dedicated psychology service with experience in pain management to these nine locations. These services are to be delivered via the following methods:

- Face to Face visits: The service provider travels from their base location to the outreach location to consult patients in person
- Telehealth visits: The service provider is not required to travel and consults patients via a telehealth platform

Service delivery arrangements will be flexible to navigate the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic. In the long-term, it is expected that the service will be delivered via Face to Face visits, or a combination of Face to Face and Telehealth visits, rather than Telehealth alone.

5. Opportunity on Offer

RWAV are seeking Expressions of Interest from clinical or registered psychologists to deliver outreach services to Hindmarsh and Yarriambiack regions as part of the Chronic Pain Management Program until June 2021.

All registered psychologists with experience or an interest in chronic pain management are invited to apply. A current Victorian drivers licence will also be required for the position.

The service provider may apply for any number of locations. There is also potential to expand to other locations as the program develops. It is expected that applicants propose to deliver services between 1 - 3 days per week, and this is negotiable.

As part of this opportunity, the psychologist/s will be required to undertake the following core activities:

1. Submit all required documentation to RWAV prior to commencing services, including certificate of AHPRA registration, professional indemnity insurance, payment details, proposed visit dates for the 12 month contract period and signed contract documents
2. Provide evidence of completing Cultural Safety Training within the last three years, or commit to completing within three months of contract execution
3. Deliver face-to-face and telehealth psychology services, as appropriate, to referred patients with chronic pain from the identified locations, inclusive of:
 - a. Liaising with host locations to coordinate visit dates
 - b. Arranging all personal travel and accommodation requirements (where necessary)
 - c. Coordinating client lists and records with the host location
 - d. Communicating with other relevant health professionals involved in client care
4. Submit accurate and timely service reports to RWAV after each visit to allow for data recording and payment for services. A template of the service report will be provided to the successful applicant prior to commencing visits.
5. Assist with the promotion of the services and program as requested, including the creation of local pathways and upskilling of local health providers
6. Participate in evaluation measures

6. Funding

RWAV provides funding based on standard government guidelines for the RHOFF program and specifications of each outreach visit, including service locations, travel requirements and number of sessions. Outreach visits are classed as sessions, where one session is equal to 3-4 hours (half day) and two sessions is the equivalent of 7-8 hours (full day). The number of sessions proposed to be delivered will be dictated by the number of patients to be seen at a host location.

RWAV are currently waiting for the new RHOFF costings to be released by the Department in the near future, therefore funding for the position will be discussed with shortlisted applicants.

Please note Outreach funds are not to cover the costs of a salary, but to cover out of pocket expenses to support a health professional providing outreach services. Medicare billing should be claimed where possible.

7. Contract Term

The term of the contract will be according to the current RHOFF – Pain Management Services Funding Agreement. The initial contract term will be from 1 July 2020 until 30 June 2021. If funding for RHOFF - Pain Management Services is extended by the Australian Government Department of Health, then an extension of the service contract may be offered.

8. Submitting your Expression of Interest

To submit an EOI Form, visit <https://www.rwav.com.au/rwav-chronic-pain-management-program/> and provide your details before 5:00pm Friday 21 August 2020.

Once submitted, RWAV will be in contact to discuss further details.

9. Contact Details

For any questions related to the EOI please contact:

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