

INFORMATION SHEET



Changes to After Hours PIP and Grants Information for General Practices

Policy Change

The Practice Incentive Payment (PIP) After Hours Incentive is intended to help resource a quality after hours service and compensate practices that make themselves available for longer hours, in recognition of the additional pressures this entails.

In the 2010-11 Federal Budget, the Commonwealth Department of Health and Ageing (DoHA) announced the following policy changes:

- The After Hours Practice Incentive payment will be available to practices up to **July 2013**.
- From July 2013 onwards Medicare Locals will be responsible for administering funds to support after hours care service providers and further increase access to after hours care within the region.
- After Hours Grants will be phased out across Australia as each Medicare Local is established. DoHA will honour existing grants until their expiry.

Each Medicare Local will be undertaking an After Hours Redevelopment Project, including conducting a needs assessment for their region to develop a stage one plan by May 2012.

Prior to the PIP changes in 2013, a second needs assessment and comprehensive regional approach to the provision of after hours primary care will be developed.

Inner East Melbourne Medicare Local (IEMML) After Hours Redevelopment Project

IEMML is keen to ensure existing services are not disadvantaged, and areas with limited after hours services also have the opportunity to expand their services.

A project manager has been appointed to undertake consultation with key stakeholders regarding the needs within our region, both at the community and provider level.

A reference group has been established with representatives from each service sector to guide how the identified gaps will be prioritised. Representatives on this reference group include existing general practice after hours service providers, pharmacy, deputising service and local hospital networks.

We want to hear from you

We encourage GPs, practice managers and owners to provide their feedback on current gaps they have identified, and support that may be required to maintain or expand into after hours care provision. Input can be provided by:

- Completing our online survey: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/AfterHoursGPSurvey>
- Contact Debbie Neill, After Hours Redevelopment Manager, to arrange a meeting or for more information.

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