

Funding for Outreach Services

Aim

The aim of the Rural Health Outreach Fund (RHOF), Medical Outreach Indigenous Chronic Disease Program (MOICDP) and the Healthy Ears – Better Hearing, Better Listening (HE-BHBL) Program is to **increase access** to a range of health services and improve health outcomes for people living in urban, regional, rural and remote locations by supporting the delivery of outreach services.

The programs focus service delivery on a range of defined health priority areas.

Funding eligibility

The program supports outreach services provided by Medical Specialists, Allied Health Professionals, Nursing services, Combinations of eligible services (i.e. multidisciplinary team), General Practitioners and Aboriginal Health Workers.

Funding is **available to cover out of pocket expenses** relating to the following , where applicable (certain rates/fees apply):

- **Travel costs:** airfares, car hire, mileage for hire car, mileage for use of personal car, taxi hire
- **Accommodation** (per night)
- **Meals Allowance** (per meal): Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner and Incidentals
- **Facility Fee** (per day)
- **Administration Support** (daily rate): administrative costs associated with the delivery of outreach services, such as the organisation of appointments, processing of correspondence and follow up with patients, at the outreach location
- **Professional Support** (hourly rate): Informal support provided by the visiting health professional to the general practitioner and/or other local health professionals.
- **Absence from practice allowance** (hourly rate): a payment made to a non-salaried private health professionals for time spent travelling to and from a location where they are providing a service
- **Backfilling (public specialists only):** the salary costs of backfilling salaried medical staff who provide approved outreach services.

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Expenses continued.

- **Workforce support** (hourly rate; case by case basis): under exceptional circumstances this payment may be available to private health professionals who provide outreach in RA4 (remote) and RA5 (very remote) to mainly Indigenous communities. A Workforce support payment may be paid in circumstances where; access to Medical Benefits Schedule (MBS) payments are not assured; and/or patient compliance with appointments is uncertain
- **Upskilling:** informal or formal educational and upskilling activities that are provided at the outreach service location Training in a clinical or practical context. (Optional - this is not a requirement for health professionals providing outreach services)
- **Orientation visit:** travel and absence from practice allowances available for up to 4 hours for each new location
- **Cultural awareness and safety training:** support to undertake this training, if required.
- **Equipment lease:** Subject to approval
- **Telehealth services:** hire of venue and equipment. Workforce support payment (if applicable) to cover the providers time.

Funding is **not available** to support:

- **Elective cosmetic surgery**
- **Stand alone training**
- **Research activities**
- **Alternative health services:** for example Chinese Medicine and reflexology
- **Capital expenditure for health service delivery**
- **Purchase of medical equipment**
- **Purchase or leasing a motor vehicle**
- **Salaries for health professionals**
- **Hospital services:** patient care while in hospital

For further information on the funding available for Outreach Services, please view the Program Guidelines available on CheckUP's website.