



**Health**  
Western NSW  
Local Health District

## Expression of Interest (EOI)

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### ***Transitional Aged Care Program Allied Health Services***

***RFT-10050271***

<b>EOI Issue Date:</b>	02 May 2022
<b>EOI Closing Date and Time:</b>	<b>23/05/2022 at 2:00pm AEST</b>
<b>Contact Details:</b>	Suzi Weeks Manager, Contracts and Procurement, Western NSW Local Health District <b>Phone:</b> Tel (02) 6369 8257 Mob 0459 226 193 <b>Email:</b> <a href="mailto:suzi.weeks@health.nsw.gov.au">suzi.weeks@health.nsw.gov.au</a>
<b>Lodgment:</b>	EOI submissions must be submitted electronically to etendering.

**PLEASE NOTE: FACSIMILE, E-MAIL AND LATE SUBMISSIONS MAY NOT BE ACCEPTED**

## **Table of Contents**

- 1. Introduction and Executive Summary**
  - 2. Submission Details**
  - 3. EOI Process**
  - 4. Business Overview and Background (current situation)**
  - 5. Statement of Requirements**
  - 6. Evaluation Criteria**
  - 7. Validity Period**
-

## 1. Introduction and Executive Summary

Western NSW Local Health District (the District) is located in the central west of NSW. Our neighbouring Local Health Districts are Far West, Hunter New England, Murrumbidgee, Southern NSW and Nepean Blue Mountains. There are nine Aboriginal nations and many language groups within our region's boundaries.

We provide health services to an estimated resident population of approximately 278,800 people (4% of the NSW population) living across 246,676 square kilometres (approximately 31 per cent of NSW). Our District includes 22 local government areas (LGAs), eight of which are classified as remote. Most of our population live in the larger cities and towns in the Bathurst Regional, Cabonne, Dubbo Regional, Orange, Mid-Western Regional, Parkes, Forbes and Cowra LGAs.

Approximately 13 per cent of people living within the geography of the District identify as Aboriginal. This proportion is significantly higher than the NSW average. The smaller, more remote communities of Brewarrina, Bourke, Coonamble and Walgett have the highest proportion of Aboriginal people.

Across the whole population in the District, 21 per cent of our population is aged 0-14 years (18.5 per cent for NSW), and 12 per cent are aged 70 and over (11 per cent in NSW). In the coming years, the greatest population increase is expected in the 70 and over age group while all other age groups are expected to decline or remain relatively stable.

Our population is projected to increase slightly over the next 20 years. It is likely that this growth will not occur evenly across the District, with the greatest growth occurring in the Bathurst, Orange, and Dubbo Regional LGAs, and declines expected in more rural and remote LGAs.

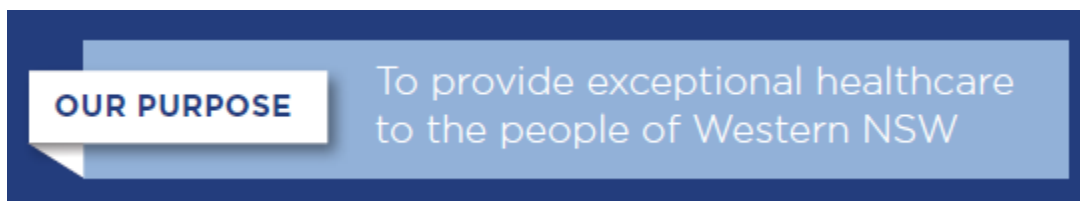
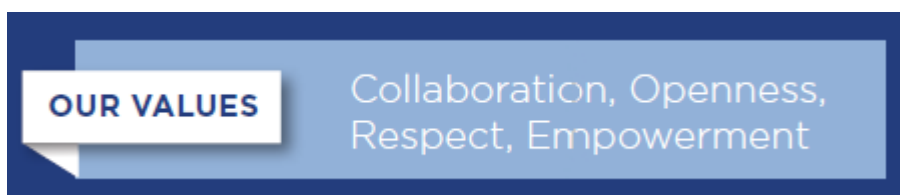
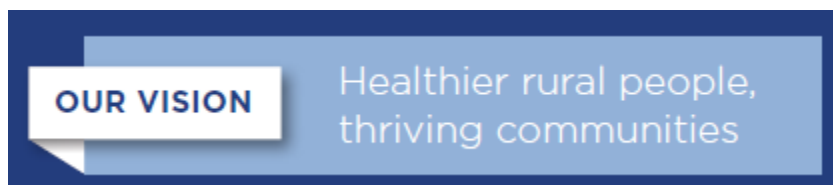
Our region has some of the most vulnerable populations in NSW. We have the lowest socio economic status, the lowest life expectancy rates at birth of any Local Health District, and the highest percentage of people with at least one of the risk factors of smoking, harmful use of alcohol, obesity and lack of physical activity. There is a high prevalence of chronic health conditions including diabetes, cardiovascular disease and renal disease.

The District operates a significant number of health services including 38 inpatient facilities with over 1,500 beds, including acute and residential aged care beds. Services include:

- Three rural referral hospitals (Dubbo, Orange, Bathurst)
  - Four procedural hospitals (Parkes, Forbes, Cowra, Mudgee)
  - 6 community hospitals
  - 25 multipurpose services
  - 50 community health centres
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- 23 community mental health services
- 14 inpatient mental health drug & alcohol units (including supra district & state wide units)
- Affiliated health services (Lourdes, St Vincent's)

Our District's Strategic Plan describes our vision, values and purpose as an organisation:



As a rural health service, we are faced with both challenges and opportunities over the coming years. With one of the most vulnerable populations in NSW experiencing high levels of chronic diseases and bio-medical and lifestyle risk factors, there will continue to be a strong demand for health care into the future. Improving health outcomes for Aboriginal people and communities is a key focus now and into the future.

The changing nature of the demographics of our communities challenges us to respond in new ways, as we work to support a higher proportion of older people, population growth in some regional areas and decline in others. The demand for acute, emergency and residential aged care will continue to grow. Without any change to current models of care, acute activity is projected to increase by 35% from 2015 to 2036, while emergency care is projected to increase by 14%, with a more significant increase in the rural referral sites (46%). This increased demand for care will occur alongside the need to deliver a highly skilled and sustainable workforce across the region, and a shift towards delivery of care in non-hospital settings – in people's homes, in the community and in ambulatory and outpatient clinics.

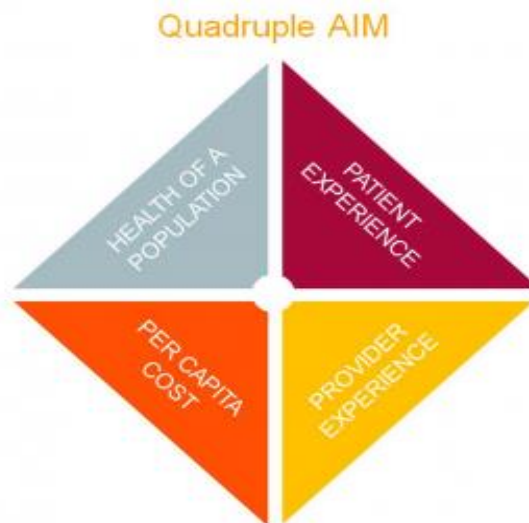
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Our communities, rightfully, have high expectations regarding the type and quality of the services they we provide. Providing services across a geographically sparse population requires innovation, a willingness to embrace change and new ways of working. As a major provider of health services in the west of NSW, we are committed to delivering high quality health services that are safe and trusted. This is particularly important for the many vulnerable groups within our communities.

We are focused on developing and sustaining services across the whole of our region, and on providing care as close to home as possible. Our service provision is continuing to evolve to not only provide treatment when a person is unwell or injured, but to consider wellbeing and prevention, identifying health risks earlier and keeping people well for longer. Advancements in technology and medical research play an important role in how we adapt and meet the needs of people living in the District.

Our District's clinical service delivery is underpinned by the Quadruple Aim:

- Improved quality, safety and patient experience of care
- Improved health and equity for all populations
- Best value for public health system resources
- Improved health care provider experience.



*Source: Adapted from Institute for Health Care Improvement*

Through this EOI, the District is **seeking provision of Allied Health Services to the Transitional Aged Care Program**. This advice should be in keeping with our unique challenges, best practice models, our District's future approach to service delivery and future trends and opportunities.

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## 2. Submission Details

### 2.1 Submission

Respondents must lodge their Response to this Expression of Interest electronically to etendering.

All responses must be received by close of business **Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2022 2pm AEST**.

A response lodged wholly or partly after the closing time will be registered as a Late Response and may be excluded from evaluation.

Western NSW Local Health District may, at its discretion, allow the evaluation of a Late Response, if it judges that the lateness is due to circumstances outside the control of the Respondent

### 2.2 Submission Questions and Clarifications

You may contact the following person if you have any questions or require clarification on any topics covered in this EOI:

**Trish Merchant**  
**Manager Transitional Aged Care Program**  
**Western NSW Local Health District**  
Pine Lodge, Bloomfield Campus,  
1502 Forest Road, Orange NSW 2800  
Tel (02) 6369 8425 Mob 0409 199 379  
[Trish.Merchant@health.nsw.gov.au](mailto:Trish.Merchant@health.nsw.gov.au)

Please note that questions and answers of broad impact or significance will be communicated to all Respondents by issue of addenda via email.

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### 3. EOI Process

#### 3.1 EOI Process

- 3.1.1 EOIs are sought from organisations interested in providing Allied Health Services to the Western NSW LHD Transitional Aged Care Program;
- 3.1.2 Any offers for provision of services are not exclusive
- 3.1.4 EOIs will be assessed against Evaluation Criteria set out within this EOI;
- 3.1.5 An Evaluation Committee will assess the EOIs and may undertake further investigation and discussion with respondents.

To be considered as a vendor to undertake these services the **vendor response** document (**appendix A**) must be submitted in full

#### 3.2 Notification Process

Formal notification in writing will be provided to all organisations indicating their success or otherwise of their Expression of Interest.

#### 3.3 No Obligation to Proceed

The invitation for EOI does not commit the District in any way to the provision of funding or assistance to any applicant. The outcome of the process is subject to the evaluation of all applications in accordance with the specified assessment criteria and the endorsement of any recommendations of the Assessment Panel by the Districts Chief Executive or delegated officer.

### 4. Business Overview & Background (Current Situation)

Through this EOI we are seeking to gain further information and knowledge on opportunities to partner with external respondents to provide Allied Health Services to the Transitional Aged Care Program within the Western NSW Local Health District.

#### 4.1 Scope

If successful vendors will be requested to provide services from the 01/06/2022 for a period of two years.

Respondents will demonstrate their expertise in the provision of Allied Health Services including:

- Physiotherapy
  - Occupational Therapy
  - Speech Therapy
  - Dietetics
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- Podiatry
- Social Work
- Diversional Therapy
- Other Allied health Services not listed above

## 5. Statement of Requirements

### 5.1 Key Deliverables

Respondents are to provide a written submission to this request on the **vendor response** Document

### 5.2 Key Outcomes

On completion of this EOI process, Western NSW Local Health District will have a panel listing of suitable vendors able to meet the therapy needs of clients in the Transitional Aged Care Program.

### 5.3 Deliverables & Timelines

Note that timelines are indicative and may be subject to change

<b><i>Deliverable</i></b>	<b><i>Date</i></b>
<b><i>EOI issued:</i></b>	02/05/2022
<b><i>EOI closes:</i></b>	23/05/2022
<b><i>Evaluation of proposals:</i></b>	10/06/2022
<b><i>Notification of outcome to respondents:</i></b>	27/06/2022

## 6. Evaluation Criteria

Selection will be based on the completion of the Respondent's submission to this EOI especially its ability to meet the evaluation criteria.

The Evaluation Panel will assess submissions in accordance with the evaluation criteria specified below:

### 6.1 Evaluation criteria

- 6.1.1 Demonstrated knowledge and understanding of best practice principles in delivering Allied Health Services within a multidisciplinary team manner for older people who live at home;
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- 6.1.2 Commitment to a timely response to all new referrals;
- 6.1.3 Demonstrated proven prior experience in the provision of Allied Health Services for older people living in the community within rural and remote communities
- 6.1.4 Ability to engage a client in a number of mechanisms including face to face, phone, and virtual platforms
- 6.1.4 Cost

## **7. Validity Period**

The Respondent's submission is to be valid for six (6) months from the lodgment/closing date.

Respondents are to note that its submission to this Request is made at its own cost, and that the Western NSW Local Health District, whilst making the request in good faith, is not obliged to proceed with this project.

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