

Super Clinics and Infrastructure Grants Q&A

Here are the answers to a few common questions and online links to useful websites, to help simplify the application process for infrastructure grants.

What is the background to the Policy?

Following the changes to the hospital system announced in the National Health and Hospitals Reforms, the 2010 Federal Budget focused on a range of primary care and aged care initiatives badged the “National Primary Health Care Strategy”. These initiatives were designed to help keep people out of the acute care hospital system. There are three types of grants you should be aware of:

1. Super Clinics

GP Super Clinics had been the Government’s preferred route to keeping people out of hospitals, by providing an alternative access to afterhours care - multiple health services in one location: general practitioners, nurses, visiting medical specialists, allied health professionals - specialists tailoring patient care to the needs and priorities of the local community. However, with only a handful of the nearly 60 “announced” GP Super Clinics actually operational and due to widespread concern among the healthcare profession about the program, the Federal Budget of 2010 announced a smaller scale alternative – GP clinic upgrades.

2. GP Clinic upgrades – Primary Care Infrastructure Grants (PCIG)

The PCIG allow GPs to apply for up to \$500,000 to be used to upgrade their existing facilities. This funding is to be made available to around 425 general practices, primary care and community health services, and Aboriginal Medical Services to improve access to integrated GP and primary health care.

The conditions required to receive the grants include:¹

	Stream A	Stream B	Stream C
	Up to	Up to	Up to
	\$150,000	\$300,000	\$500,000
1	Upgrade or extend existing facilities	Upgrade or extend existing facilities	Upgrade or extend existing facilities
	and	and	and
2	New health service for local community; preventative or chronic disease management	New health service for local community; preventative or chronic disease management	New health service for local community; preventative or chronic disease management
	and	and	and
	3	Additional space for case conferencing/group activities/shared service by >1 health care professional	Additional space for case conferencing/group activities/shared service by >1 health care professional
	and	and	and
	4	Extended service hours	Extended service hours
		and	and
		5	New or enhanced clinical training facilities

The funds received may be taxable, please seek advice from your accountant.

¹[http://www.health.gov.au/internet/main/publishing.nsf/Content/33896389527CE69CCA25774C0020AC81/\\$File/PCIG-Guidelines-250610.pdf](http://www.health.gov.au/internet/main/publishing.nsf/Content/33896389527CE69CCA25774C0020AC81/$File/PCIG-Guidelines-250610.pdf) Sourced 20/4/2011

3. Additional practice nurses

In addition to infrastructure (upgrade) grants, GPs will be eligible for up to \$25,000 towards the employment of a practice nurse, to free up time to treat more complex patients. The initiative will cost \$390m over four years and will commence operation from 1 January 2012. The program will be capped at five incentives, meaning that practices will be eligible to receive up to \$125,000 to support their practice nursing workforce. Practices will be required to find the space and equipment to put the practice nurses into action in the clinics – hence, the clinic upgrades funding program. The uptake of this program depends on the willingness of GPs to delegate patient care to nurses.

How does the upgrade application process work?

Tenders for the first round of grants were invited by the Federal Department of Health and Ageing in July 2010 and applications closed 20 August 2010. The outcome of the first round was announced by the Minister for Health and Ageing, on 25 November 2010². The 244 grants are listed on the DOHA website. The second round of Primary Care Infrastructure Grants was advertised April 2011. Applications will **close at 2pm Friday 10 June 2011**³.

A few additional important facts

- GPs receiving grants must meet a set of guidelines and submit a clinical business plan.
- Key performance indicators must be met by the practitioners across a two year period.
- Funding will be released in a 40/40/20 rollout as practitioners meet certain refurbishment and fit out milestones.

Where do I find out more information?

- Government website – www.health.gov.au/gpsuperclinics
- Primary Care Infrastructure Grants Program Guidelines: <http://www.health.gov.au/internet/main/publishing.nsf/Content/pacd-gpsuperclinics-pcigg2010>
- To request to be included in a register of interested parties for Super Clinics please email gpsuperclinics@health.gov.au
- To tender for the grant, grant 342/1011 <http://www.health.gov.au/tenders>

² <http://www.health.gov.au/internet/ministers/publishing.nsf/Content/mr-yr10-nr-nr183.htm?OpenDocument&yr=2010&mth=11> sourced 6 April 2011

³ <http://www.health.gov.au/internet/main/publishing.nsf/Content/pacd-gpsuperclinics-pcigg2010> sourced 20 April 2011

Why talk to Medfin?

For the past 20 years Medfin has provided support for GPs wishing to grow their practices. Here's what our clients say about Medfin's service:

Dr. Rodney Aziz, operator of six medical centres

"As the owner and operator of six medical centres across Australia, I have found Medfin to be a great help to myself in terms of obtaining knowledge and finance for both phases of the Primary Care Infrastructure Grants process. They have been willing and eager to assist with my questions and if they have not been able to assist, they have certainly directed me to the appropriate people that can."

Dr Jurek Tarnawski, Director Toorak Place Medical Clinic

"Thank you for your effort and excellent work which resulted in improved cash flow and increased our business potential. Thank you for looking after our finances in such an excellent way. We appreciate your work very much. We will definitely be recommending your services to our colleagues. "

It's easy

Medfin helps make finance easy with:

Appointments at a time and place that suit you
Fast response
Minimum paperwork
Financial solutions designed for healthcare professionals

Want more information?

Contact your local **Medfin Relationship Manager** on **1300 361 122**.

Don't have time to phone?

Visit **medfin.com.au** and request a quote online.

While care has been taken in preparing this material, Medfin does not warrant or represent that the information contained in this document is accurate, reliable, complete or current. To the extent permissible by law, Medfin shall not be liable for any errors, omissions, defects or misrepresentations in the information or for any loss or damage suffered by persons who use or rely on such information. Medfin Australia Pty Limited ABN 89 070 811 148. A wholly owned subsidiary of National Australia Bank Limited and part of the NAB Health specialist business.

