

Expression of Interest

Aboriginal Health Practitioner Immuniser Program

Would you like to support the health of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people?

About the initiative

NSW Health is leading a program to support more authorised Aboriginal Health Practitioners (AHPs) to be able to immunise patients in NSW Health Settings. We are looking for AHPs who are interested in this exciting opportunity. This is part of a broader initiative to enhance integration of AHP within Multidisciplinary teams (MDTs) and support the growth of the profession.

To date, more than 35 AHPs in NSW Health have participated in the program to supply by administration vaccines to patients according to the Authority – Supply of vaccines by Aboriginal Health Practitioners and the NSW Aboriginal Health Practitioners Vaccination Standards.

About the AHP Immuniser role

AHPs are a registered, skilled, health professional workforce who provide culturally safe health and wellbeing promotion, preventative health care and clinical treatment services in a diversity of locations including urban, rural and remote settings.

AHPs combination of clinical skills and culturally competent care, will support health services to be responsive to the needs of local Aboriginal community, build trust and improve health care experiences and outcomes (this is aligned to NSQHS Standards for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people¹). Supporting AHPs to vaccinate in their own community can help improve communication, trust, and engagement between Aboriginal patients and the health system, as well as build health literacy of the local community.

This statewide program aims to:

- Boost awareness of and access to vaccinations for priority populations.
- Provide accessible immunisation services that combine cultural and clinical care.
- Increase uptake of vaccination, reduce illness and hospitalisations, and improve healthcare experiences and outcomes for the population.
- Promote the value of Aboriginal Health Practitioners in NSW Health embedded within multidisciplinary teams
- Expand the scope of practice for appropriately trained AHPs

¹ [NSQHS Standards User guide for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health | Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care](#)

Frequently asked questions

Who is eligible?

Registered Aboriginal Health Practitioners employed in NSW Health.

What if I am a registered AHP – But employed in another role?

If this is you, please be in contact with your LHD/SN Manager Aboriginal Workforce Development for advice.

How will I be supported?

The program includes a scholarship to complete immunisation training, local mentoring and training, and statewide support from the team in Ministry of Health

The scholarship provided to successful applicants is for the [Health Education Services Australia \(HESA\)](#) accredited [Understanding Vaccines and the National Immunisation Program](#) run through SA Health.

The course facilitators acknowledge the benefit of Aboriginal Health Practitioners completing the Program and will assist you with the tools required to help improve and increase immunisation rates amongst the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population by providing an immunisation service which is accessible and culturally appropriate.

What does course involve?

The Program is self-paced but must be completed within a period of **20 weeks** from the date of registration. The Program is divided into 4 modules and 2 exams that must be completed in sequential order.

The course requirements include:

1. Approximately 70 hours of online training (equivalent to 70 hours [Continuing Professional Development](#) (CPD)).
2. **20 weeks** to complete the course

Are there additional training requirements?

NSW Aboriginal Health Practitioners Vaccination Standards include additional practical training requirements to ensure confidence and safety. These requirements include:

- Complete the NSW Health [Vaccine Storage and Cold Chain Management](#) online training via My Health Learning
- Hold current cardio-pulmonary resuscitation (Basic Life Support) competency issued within the last 12 months
- Complete injection technique training and competency assessment

Application form

Would you like the opportunity to support the health of your mob by providing vaccinations?

If this is you – Just complete this application form and talk to your manager about the approval process. Once approved email the completed application to Email:

MOH-AboriginalHealthWorkersandPractitionersWorkforce@health.nsw.gov.au

Eligibility questions – Are you?	Responses
A. An AHPRA registered Aboriginal Health Practitioner (mandatory)	
B. Employed by NSW Health as an Aboriginal Health Practitioner (mandatory)	
C. Employed by NSW Health in a different role or classification (Please discuss your eligibility with the LHD Manager Aboriginal Workforce Development)	

Personal details	Responses
Name	
Assignment number	
AHPRA registration number	
Mobile phone number	
Email (@health)	

Employment details	Responses
What position are you currently employed in?	
Which LHD/SN do you work in?	
Which Hospital (facility) or Health Service (for those not hospital based) do you work in? (Example: Mudgee)	
Specific work location (name of ward, unit, department) (Example: Community / Ward / ED / other)	
Are you employed (1) Full time (2) part time (3) casual (4) other	
Are you currently studying? (Yes or No)	
If yes – Please provide details of current study (course name)	

Interest in applying	
Why are you interested in the program?	
How will you use your new skills and qualification?	
I am aware of the program details and confident I can achieve the requirements (Yes or No)	
Applicant signature	

Manager and LHD/SN Approval

Direct Line Manager Approval	Responses	
Manager name		
Manager role/title		
Manager signature		
I support this application including the following requirements	Yes or No	
Annual refresher training to maintain clinical knowledge and skills		
Provision of up to 4 hours study leave per week to complete online training		
Release from usual duties to participate in vaccination clinics and ensure clinical competencies are achieved		
Manager Aboriginal Workforce Development	Responses	
Manager name		
Manager role/title		
Manager signature		
I support this application including the following requirements	Yes or No	
An LHD/SN clinical leadership role has been identified to support the program including training and competency assessments (see below for more details)		
There are opportunities for vaccination within the LHD/SN		
There are opportunities for partnerships with other LHD/SNs or community health services		
LHD/SN Clinical Leadership role	Responses	
Manager name		
Manager role/title		
Manager signature		
The role of the LHD/SN clinical leader is to provide clinical support and leadership including training and competency assessments. This could be someone from the Public Health Unit, the Nursing and Midwifery Workforce or another clinical area who is able to support training. Note – There should be <u>one</u> LHD/SN Clinical leader nominated per district. This role is the central contact point for the Ministry of health program team.		

Additional information and advice:

If you would like additional information about this application form, the course requirements, eligibility or the clinical leadership role please contact Darren Braun, Aboriginal Health Practitioner Statewide Educator via darren.braun@health.nsw.gov.au