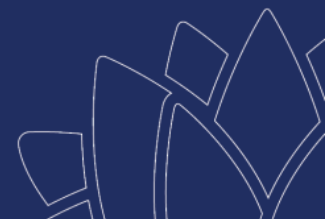


Take Home Naloxone

FAQs for non-government & private services



What is the Take Home Naloxone Program

The Take Home Naloxone Program trains, credentials and legally authorises a broad range of health and welfare workers, other than prescribers and pharmacists, to supply naloxone to clients for free and without a prescription.

The Program was developed, piloted and evaluated by clinical and subject matter experts, in consultation with consumers. It is being implemented across NSW in public health drug and alcohol treatment services and Needle and Syringe Programs.

The Program is being extended so that non-government organisations (NGOs), private services and sole traders that provide health/welfare services can become 'participating services' that supply naloxone to people at risk of witnessing or experiencing an opioid overdose.

What is take home naloxone and why is it important?

Opioid overdose is a major cause of harm and death in Australia. Every day, 3 people die from drug-induced deaths involving opioid use in Australia, while nearly 150 hospitalisations and 14 emergency department admissions involve opioids¹. More than 110,000 Australians are currently experiencing opioid dependence². In 2018, 1,740 people died from drug-induced deaths, with opioids present in 1,123 of those deaths (64%)³.

Naloxone is a Schedule 3 short-acting opioid antagonist medicine registered in Australia for the reversal of opioid overdose. The National Drug Strategy 2017-2026 and the World Health Organisation have identified increasing access to naloxone as an evidence-based strategy for preventing and responding to opioid overdoses.

What are participating services provided with?

Free workforce training, assessment and credentialing:

Eligible health and welfare workers must be credentialed before they can supply naloxone to clients. A registered training organisation will train employees across NSW. Training, assessment and credentialing is delivered remotely via online training workshops that run for half a day.

Free product supply:

Free PBS subsidised naloxone will be available for NGOs and private service providers to supply to eligible community members at no cost to the provider or the consumer.

What are participating services expected to contribute?

Staffing resources:

No additional funding will be provided for costs associated with delivering brief interventions to clients when providing naloxone, undertaking reporting, or for their time in completing the training workshop.

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¹ [Australian Government Department of Health website \(Retrieved 10 Jan 2020\) health.gov.au/initiatives-and-programs/take-home-naloxone-pilot/about-the-take-home-naloxone-pilot#why-is-the-take-home-naloxone-pilot-important](https://www.health.gov.au/initiatives-and-programs/take-home-naloxone-pilot/about-the-take-home-naloxone-pilot#why-is-the-take-home-naloxone-pilot-important).

² Ibid.

³ Ibid.

Monthly reporting:

Agencies need to enter naloxone supply and brief intervention data using a data reporting system.

Which NGOs and private services are eligible to participate?

To be eligible to participate in the Take Home Naloxone Program, the agency must be either a 'Non-Government Organisation' (NGO) or 'private service provider'. The agency must also:

1. Provide services to people at risk of experiencing or witnessing an opioid overdose.
2. Employ an eligible workforce.
Only certain types of workers can get trained and credentialed. Relevant worker designations include nurse, psychologist, social worker, counsellor, manager, director, alcohol and other drugs worker, health education officer and community support worker. A full list of eligible workers is published in the *Procedures*.
3. Have governance structures in place to meet naloxone storage, labelling and record keeping requirements.
The agency must have governance structures in place to ensure naloxone storage, labelling and record keeping requirements are met.
4. Ensure compliance with *Procedures* and legal requirements.
A *Legal Authority* enables eligible, trained and credentialed workers to legally supply naloxone. Workers must comply with the Program *Procedures*. The agency must support its workers to comply and sign a *Letter of Agreement* with the NSW Ministry of Health.
5. Agree to supply naloxone intervention data using an online portal.

How do NGOs and private services get involved?

The NSW Ministry of Health is seeking Expressions of Interest (EOIs) from NGO and private service providers to become participating services. The EOI process is non-competitive. Many service providers will become participating services through this process.

Download the [expression of interest form](#) and submit it by email to: moh-naloxone@health.nsw.gov.au as soon as possible to secure training places.