***Expression of Interest***

Maximising cancer screening participation: quality improvement opportunity for general practice

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| IN BRIEFNorth Western Melbourne Primary Health Network (NWMPHN) is partnering with Cancer Council Victoria, VCS Foundation and the Victorian Department of Health to offer practices in our catchment an opportunity to participate in a fully supported quality improvement activity. Practices will build skills and implement activities that aim to increase cancer screening participation rates in their practice in response to declining rates during COVID-19. This project will focus on general practices proactively contacting patients to encourage screening participation for bowel, cervical and liver cancer. The objectives of the project are to:* increase the proportion of GP-ordered National Bowel Cancer Screening Program (NBCSP) kits
* increase the number of HPV self-collection tests completed for eligible patients
* increase the proportion of patients with risk factors screened for hepatitis B or C
* increase the proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) identification on cervical screening pathology request forms.

All practices will be required to participate in increasing Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and CALD identification on cervical screening pathology forms throughout the project. Practices will be able to choose the other objective they wish to focus on.**TIMELINE**

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| Friday, 5 March 2021 | Expressions of Interest close. |
| Friday, 12 March 2021 | Practices are onboarded to the project. |
| March to 30 June 2021 | Project activity, with activity being completed by 30 June 2021. |

**WHAT’S INVOLVED?*** One 2-hour education session delivering:
	1. a general update on the three national cancer screening programs, and liver cancer delivered by VCS Foundation and partners
	2. ‘Asking the question’ training to assist with identifying Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and CALD patients.
* Learning workshops hosted by Cancer Council Victoria and VCS Foundation provide an understanding of quality improvement methodology and to support sustainability of practice improvements. These will be conducted with other practices who are working on your chosen program area.
* Scheduled support from a NWMPHN project officer to support your practice’s selected quality improvement activities for the duration of the project.

**You will be supported throughout the project by a dedicated NWMPHN project officer.** |

Background

The COVID-19 pandemic has delayed patients’ screening and diagnostic appointments, contributing to a 30 per cent reduction in cancer notifications since restrictions were applied in Victoria. There has also been a 32 per cent decrease in hepatitis B and C serology tests and a 17 per cent decrease in hepatitis B monitoring tests.

These decreases have significant public health implications for vulnerable population groups and the general community. **As we know, an early diagnosis can lead to a better prognosis.**

General practice is central to increasing cancer screening participation rates. Research has found that use of GP-endorsed letters, recall and reminder systems, and enhancement of clinical information systems are key drivers to increasing cancer participation rates.

NWMPHN and our partners are offering the opportunity for the whole-of-practice team to be involved in a quality improvement project with the goal of increasing rates in our catchment. Throughout the project, **practices will be participating in activities and building skills to proactively encourage patients to participate in screening.**

Benefits for your practice

* An incentive payment of $10,000 (+GST) for participating practices that complete the program.
* Access to GoShare and 200 SMS credits for selected screening programs.
* RACGP CPD points.

**GoShare Healthcare –** an online tool that makes it easy for healthcare professionals to send appropriate, timely education resources to their patients.

* Facilitated learning workshops with Cancer Council Victoria, VCS Foundation and other subject matter experts.
* Dedicated support from a NWMPHN project officer.
* Opportunities to share, network and connect with other practices involved in the project.
* Participation in this facilitated quality improvement project will contribute to meeting the requirements for the Practice Incentives Program Quality Improvement Incentive

How to apply

**Please complete the application form attached below and email to** **primarycare@nwmphn.org.au**

**Application forms are due at COB on Friday, 5 March 2021. Preference will be given to practices in areas that have low cancer screening participation rates.**

Please direct all queries to:

Marie Hunt
Project Officer, Primary Health Care Improvement
North Western Melbourne Primary Health Network
**Phone**: (03) 9347 1188
**Email**: marie.hunt@nwmphn.org.au

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| ABOUT PHNs Funded by the Commonwealth Department of Health, Primary Health Networks (PHNs) began operation on 1 July 2015 and are responsible for coordinating primary health care and facilitating improved health outcomes in their local community. Melbourne Primary Care Network operates the North Western Melbourne Primary Health Network (NWMPHN). |

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST: Eligibility

You must meet all the criteria below to participate. Your practice must:

[ ]  Be located within the NWMPHN region and be accredited, or registered for accreditation, against RACGP Standards.

[ ]  Have your whole of practice project team (minimum of two staff members, one of whom must be clinical) available to complete the project. The staff will actively participate in the learning workshops, complete quality improvement activities and champion the project in the practice.

[ ]  Have a clinical and billing system that is compatible with the PEN CAT data aggregation tool (or agree to have PEN CAT installed), and a data sharing agreement in place

[ ]  Be willing to, or have already, have all GPs sign up to the National Cancer Screening Register

[ ]  Have the capacity to undertake whole-of-practice activities that support improvement in cancer screening rates with your patient population.

[ ]  Agree to allocate protected time for your project team to attend the workshops, complete quality improvement activities (as chosen by your practice) and to participate in monthly visits from our project lead.

[ ]  Agree to complete required surveys and reporting.

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST: Application

Maximising cancer screening participation

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| **Name of practice:**  |
| **Practice address:**  |
| **Company name: ABN:**  |
| **Applicant details:** | **Phone:** | **Email:** |
| **Practice manager details:** | **Phone:** | **Email:** |
| **Practice principal details:** | **Phone:** | **Email:** |
| **EXPRESSION OF INTEREST QUESTIONS** | **WEIGHTING** |
| 1. **Please indicate, in order of preference from 1 to 3, which screening program area your practice would like focus on throughout the project:**

**Increasing the proportion of GP-ordered National Bowel Cancer Screening Program (NBCSP) kits** – preference number: **Increasing the number of HPV self-collection tests completed for eligible patients –** preference number: **Increase proportion of patients screened for hepatitis B or C those patients with risk factors** – preference number:\*Please note, all practices will be required to participate in increasing Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and CALD identification on cervical screening pathology forms. | N/A (Non-weighted) |
| 1. **What activities do you anticipate implementing in your practice to achieve the project objectives? (250-word limit)**
 | 40% |
| 1. **What barriers may limit your participation in and successful completion of this project? How will you seek to overcome them? (please include the risk/barrier and how you plan to mitigate/overcome the barrier)**
 | 20% |
| 1. **How will you plan to make changes sustainable beyond the project? (500-word limit)**
 | 40% |
| **Please list the name and profession of participating staff members:** | N/A (non-weighted) |
| **Please provide any additional information to support your application:** | N/A (non-weighted) |

**Please return the completed application form to** **primarycare@nwmphn.org.au** **by COB on Friday, 5 March 2021.**

We acknowledge the peoples of the Kulin nation as the Traditional Owners of the land on which our work in the community takes place. We pay our respects to their Elders past and present.

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