

# North East Metro Health Service Partnership

## Planned (Elective) Surgery Reform Program

### Call for Expressions of Interest to collaborate



The **North East Metro Health Service Partnership (NEMHSP)** is one of three metropolitan clusters of health services delivering system improvement and redesign across a range of services including surgical care. The NEMHSP member organisations are:

- Austin Health
- St Vincent's Hospital Melbourne
- Eastern Health
- Northern Health
- Royal Victorian Eye and Ear Hospital
- Mercy Hospital for Women (Heidelberg)
- Forensicare
- Eastern Melbourne Primary Health Network
- North Western Melbourne Primary Health Network

The **NEMHSP Planned (Elective) Surgery Recovery and Reform Program** has a vision to design and implement contemporary shared service models, with the aim of improving patient outcomes and experience, as well as access, quality and efficiency of care.

The program is seeking to:

- Reduce the total number of people waiting for surgery
- Increase the number of people receiving surgery within the clinically recommended time
- Support patients who are waiting for surgery
- Increase the number of day surgery admissions across identified surgical procedures
- Improve staff and patient experience

The NEMHSP Planned (Elective) Surgery Recovery and Reform Program team is seeking to work in collaboration with General Practitioners for a 12-week period through membership on project-specific time-limited working group.

We are seeking expressions of interest from GPs who are interested in joining this working group. Our goal is to appoint two GPs to the project working group for a 12-week engagement, commencing 21/2/2024. You will be reimbursed for your time.

## The project

- Exploring the possibility and feasibility of a pilot model that merges the surgical waitlists of health service partners for specific Ear Nose and Throat (ENT) & Cataract procedures.
- In this exploratory phase of the project, a time-limited working group with membership from the relevant project stakeholders will meet fortnightly to address the key considerations requiring agreement. The group will work toward developing a model of care for a pooled

waitlist (PWL) pilot and a sustainable operational model.

## How would a PWL pilot model work?

- Patients on the waitlist for surgery for the chosen procedures at any of partnering health services would be merged onto one waitlist.
- Surgical booking staff would then contact the next patient in turn on the merged waitlist to book them for the next available surgical appointment.

**The project aims to improve the equity for patients on the waiting list, getting faster access to surgery.**

## Key information about what is involved

### Time-limited working group membership

- Attend regular working group meetings:
  - Time required: one hour per fortnight (one hour attendance at a virtual meeting)
  - Frequency of meetings: one meeting per fortnight for 12-weeks (commencing Wednesday 21 February 2024)
- Support working groups through other collaboration (ad hoc):
  - Consultation and advice to NEMHSP Planned (Elective) Surgery Recovery and Reform Program team members via email and/or virtual meetings
  - *Volume and timing of these activities based on availability and planned in consultation with you*
- Duration of engagement: 12 weeks
- Reimbursement as per the Stakeholder Reimbursement Policy NWMPHN (or EMPHN Rates Schedule)
- Program onboarding and ongoing support provided by the NEMHSP Planned (Elective) Surgery Recovery and Reform Program team in collaboration with health service GP Liaison Officers and both NWM and EM PHNs

If you:

- Have read the above section “Key information about what is involved”
- Are a general practitioner who refers patients to public hospitals
- Are invested in creating a more equitable public health system
- Would like to join the PWL working group
- Can commit to the below meeting schedule

<b>Wednesday 21 February 2024</b>	8 AM – 9 AM
<b>Wednesday 6 March 2024</b>	8 AM – 9 AM
<b>Wednesday 20 March 2024</b>	8 AM – 9 AM
<b>Wednesday 3 April 2024</b>	8 AM – 9 AM
<b>Wednesday 17 April 2024</b>	8 AM – 9 AM
<b>Wednesday 1 May 2024</b>	8 AM – 9 AM

The NEMHSP would love to hear from you.

Contact: Ashlee McConnell (Project Coordinator) [ash.mcconnell@austin.org.au](mailto:ash.mcconnell@austin.org.au)  
(‘PWL Working Group’ in the subject line). Closing date: Friday 9 February 2024