

# Complex primary care for general practitioners

North Western Melbourne Primary Health Network (NWMPHN) is offering a series of education sessions to increase skills and confidence of GPs and GP registrars working in under-resourced communities containing high numbers of people with complex health needs.

The series delivers practical and relevant information, peer support and actionable strategies for GPs working in these complex areas of general practice and located in the NWMPHN region.

The project is a collaboration with not-for-profit network Medical Advocacy Together for Community Health (MATCH) and follows a successful pilot program conducted in 2025.

Financial support is available for participants not funded by their organisation to attend.

The 2025 pilot program generated overwhelmingly positive feedback, with participants reporting enhanced confidence and capability managing complex patients. This continuation ensures ongoing professional development and sustained impact in areas of greatest community need.

## What's involved

Training will run over six months, with six full-day sessions held on a weekday at NWMPHN's Docklands offices. To be eligible, participants must be able to attend every session.

## RACGP CPD Hours

The series is accredited for 36 RACGP CPD hours, comprising of 12 Educational Activities and 24 Reviewing Performance.

Templates and guidance will be provided.

For NWMPHN to submit RACGP hours on your behalf, all requirements need to be met.

Each session is designed to increase skills and collegial support for health issues emerging within marginalised communities. Facilitators will be GP experts in each field.

- **Session 1:** Tuesday, 3 March 2026 – Alcohol and other drugs, with Dr Dean Membrey and Dr Hayden Green.
- **Session 2:** Tuesday, 24 March 2026 – Complex paediatric care, with Dr Rebecca Loveridge.
- **Session 3:** Tuesday, 14 April 2026 – Complex mental health, with Dr Erin Gordon and Dr Joanne Gardiner.
- **Session 4:** Thursday, 19 May 2026 – Homelessness, with Dr. Ed Poliness.
- **Session 5:** Tuesday, 16 June 2026 – Refugee health, with Dr Joanne Garinder and Dr Kate Walker.
- **Session 6:** Tuesday, 21 July 2026 – Family violence, Dr Magdalina Simonis and Khai Cooke.

## The series will enable participants to:

- Improve effective management of at-risk populations
- Enhance cultural competence in daily practice
- Improve provider and patient communication
- Increase confidence using interventions for at-risk populations
- Increase knowledge of referral pathways for marginalised populations

## Eligibility criteria

### To be eligible for the training, participants must be:

- a general practitioner or registrar
- working at a general practice located in the NWMPHN region.

## Participation requirements

### Participants will be required to:

- attend on site **all six** full-day workshop sessions
- complete all evaluation activities.

## HOW TO APPLY

### 1. Application submission

Applicants must complete and return the form by 3pm on Wednesday, 18 February 2026.

Please direct all queries to [education@nwmphn.org.au](mailto:education@nwmphn.org.au).

NWMPHN is not obliged to accept any proposal received after the submission deadline. Where an applicant provides evidence of exceptional circumstances affecting on time submission, NWMPHN may decide to accept an application received after the submission deadline but is not obliged to do so.

### 2. Assessment process

All compliant applications received by NWMPHN will be evaluated in accordance with the assessment criteria in the application form.

NWMPHN may contact the applicant if it considers that an application contains an ambiguity, unintentional error or minor omission which requires clarification. It will not do so where this would unfairly disadvantage other applicants.

**All applicants will be notified. Unsuccessful applicants may request feedback in writing or verbally by contacting [education@nwmphn.org.au](mailto:education@nwmphn.org.au)**