

## Expression of Interest

# Living with COVID Home Visits program

### Does your practice have capacity to support people living at home or in residential aged care facilities who are COVID positive and isolating?

Eastern Melbourne PHN (EMPHN) is seeking to engage primary care providers, including but not limited to, accredited general practices, Medical Deputising Services, community health services with a general practice to undertake home visits to provide care to COVID-positive patients, where their usual GP does not have capacity or where a person does not have a managing GP. This includes coverage in of both day-time (9am to 5pm) and in the after-hours (5pm to 11.59pm).

This program will target COVID-positive patients living at home or in Residential Aged Care Facility's in one or more of the 12 local government areas in EMPHN's catchment area (Banyule, Boroondara, Knox, Manningham, Maroondah, Mitchell (part), Monash (part), Murrindindi (part), Nillumbik, Whitehorse, Whittlesea and Yarra Ranges) who need to have a clinical assessment face-to-face.

This service will be set up rapidly to ease pressure on the Health System and will be ongoing until 30 June 2022 (unless extended with funding from the Department of Health).

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### **Referrals**

Referrals will come from Local Health Networks and General Practice Respiratory Clinics and will be sent to the commissioned GP service provider.

The service provider will assess the patient and provide the required clinical care. All referrals will be for patients who are COVID-positive or have tested positive for COVID in the past 30 days.

This service will also be available to vulnerable members of the community, focusing on those without a Medicare card and other supports.

### **Care provided**

Face-to-face visits can be conducted by general practitioners, practice nurses under the supervision of a general practitioner or nurse practitioners. The services are for the treatment of COVID related symptoms but can also include any treatment that a COVID-positive patient may need while they are isolating, for example a wound dressing, prescription, or pathology.

The selected provider should be familiar with [\*A Practice Guide to Providing Care in the Home for COVID-19 Positive Patients.\*](#)

## **Funding / Remuneration**

- Each successful service provider will be paid a weekly payment for their involvement in the program and evaluation activities.
- This payment is \$500 per week and will be paid monthly in arrears.
- Clinical service providers will be paid a one off set up payment of \$2,500.
- All individual patient face-to-face visits will be paid \$250. Note: this is not an hourly rate.
- Additional MBS billing cannot take place for face to face visits.
- If more than 1 patient is seen at a single facility/home, the first visit will be paid \$250 and subsequent visits will be paid at \$150.
- Initial Assessments, via Telehealth, can be claimed using the MBS (Medical Benefits Schedule).
- Any patients that have a telehealth initial assessment and do not have a Medicare Card will be remunerated by EMPHN. This will be paid at the same rate as the Medicare Benefits Schedule and will be no more than a level C consult.
- Service Providers will be paid monthly in arrears.

## **How do I apply for participation in this program?**

EMPHN has release this expression of interest via [eProcure](#), an online system.

This system enables EMPHN to provide a transparent and accountable process in line with Commonwealth guidelines.

Registering is free, and easy to do, just follow these steps:

1. follow this [link](#)
2. complete the registration form
3. select register

You will then be able to complete the Expression of Interest.

A helpdesk is available to assist with questions related to eProcure. Please call **1800 377 628** or use the online chat service.

## **Key dates**

<b>EOI open:</b>	<b>15<sup>th</sup> March 2022</b>
<b>Questions close:</b>	<b>2pm 25<sup>th</sup> March 2022</b>
<b>EOI closes:</b>	<b>4pm 28<sup>th</sup> March 2022</b>

## **Enquiries**

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