

## Notification of upcoming tender process for a Medicare Mental Health Centre in Lidcombe or surrounding areas

### Registration of Interest

#### Introduction

This notification has been issued to inform the market that Wentwest the Western Sydney Primary Health Network (WSPHN) will soon be commencing the procurement process for a Medicare Mental Health Centre in Lidcombe or surrounding areas.

#### Background

The Australian Government is strengthening access to free, community-based mental health care by expanding the Medicare Mental Health Centre (MMHC) network across the country. This initiative forms part of the Government's \$1 billion election commitment to continue investing in mental health services, addressing gaps in support and expanding access to free, evidence-based care that is better tailored to the needs of Australians.

This investment will deliver more local, walk-in services backed by Medicare, making it easier for people to get support close to home, when they need it. The expansion is focused on improving access, increasing service coverage, and better meeting the needs of growing communities, including in Western Sydney.

Medicare Mental Health Centres are designed to provide a simple and welcoming entry point into the mental health system, offering early support as well as ongoing care, and helping people connect to the right services for their needs.

In Western Sydney, this includes a commitment to establish a new Medicare Mental Health Centre in Lidcombe and surrounding areas, identified through service planning and population need.

Building on existing services commissioned by WSPHN in Parramatta and Blacktown, WSPHN is now progressing procurement to establish a Medicare Mental Health Centre in Lidcombe or nearby locations

#### Medicare Mental Health Centre

The four key elements of the model, are as follows:

1. Provide a central point to connect people to other services in the region, including through offering information and advice about mental health issues and alcohol and other drug (AOD) use, service navigation and warm referral pathways for individuals, their carers, and family.
2. Respond to people experiencing a crisis or in significant distress, including people at heightened risk of suicide; provide support that may reduce the need for emergency department attendance.
3. Provide in-house assessment, including information and support to access services.
4. Provide evidence-based and evidence-informed immediate intervention, and short to medium term episodes of care, including utilisation of digital mental health platforms to support people with moderate to high levels of mental health needs, whose needs are not met through other services.

The vision is that all Medicare Mental Health services will contribute to genuine system change. Staff will work differently. Feedback will demonstrate satisfaction across the aims. Outcomes for people accessing community-based services will be significantly higher than current models of care achieve.

### Next Steps

Register your interest to enable your participation in a consultation phase.

WSPHN intends to commence consultation (one-on-one discussions or group workshops) with registered providers in **July 2026** before commencing the tender process.

A tendering process for the Medicare Mental Health Centre in Lidcombe or surrounding areas will be undertaken in **August 2026** after a period of consultation with the market.

### Proposed Timetable

ROI Release Date	10 June 2026
ROI Close Date	30 June 2026 12:00PM
Interactive Discussion	15 July 2026
RFT Release Date	1 August 2026
Questions and Answers Open	1 August 2026
Questions and Answers Closed	21 August 2026
RFT Close Date	1 September 2026 12:00PM
Evaluation Period	2 September – 16 November 2026
Contract Negotiation and Execution	16 November – 30 November 2026
Contract Start Date	4 January 2027
Implementation Period	January – March 2027
Service Commencing	1 April 2027

### How to Register Interest

Email organisation name and relevant contact details to the following email address [Commissioning@wentwest.com.au](mailto:Commissioning@wentwest.com.au) by 30 June 2026.

### Question and Answers

If you have any questions, please contact the Commissioning team at [Commissioning@wentwest.com.au](mailto:Commissioning@wentwest.com.au)