



Rural Health Outreach Fund

Introduction

The Rural Health Outreach Fund (RHOF) aims to ensure all Australians have the same opportunity to access medical services, regardless of the location in which they live.

The RHOF supports outreach health activities to address health issues identified in regional, rural, and remote locations classified MMM 3-7, including through improved coordination and combination of health activities. There is emphasis on the following health priorities:

- maternity and paediatric health
- eye health
- mental health
- support for chronic disease management.

RHOF is managed by CheckUP as the jurisdictional fundholder of the Outreach programs in Queensland.

Aims

The objectives of RHOF are to:

- provide both public and private outreach health services that address prioritised community needs
- broaden the range and choice of health services available in regional, rural and remote locations
- remove the financial disincentives that create barriers to outreach service provision.

The intended outcomes are to:

- improve access to health services (particularly in remote locations)
- reduce costs to patients accessing health services locally
- strengthen the capacity of primary care through upskilling of health professionals.

Funding eligibility

The program supports outreach services provided by:

- allied health practitioners
- general practitioners
- medical specialists
- nursing practitioners.

Reimbursement

Through the program, reimbursement may be available for:

- coordination and administration support
- travel expenses
- cultural awareness and safety training for participating service providers
- upskilling local health professionals
- professional support associated with outreach services.

About CheckUP

CheckUP is a not-for-profit organisation dedicated to improving the health and wellbeing of people and communities in need, especially those in rural, regional, and remote areas. We are committed to advancing equity in healthcare by strategically collaborating at both regional and local levels, ensuring that health and community services are more accessible and responsive to people who need them most.

Since our foundation in 1998, CheckUP has built a broad service footprint across more than 170 communities in Queensland, delivering innovative health programs and community-focused initiatives to reduce disparities in health outcomes.

The Outreach programs are made possible through funding from the Australian Government Department of Health, Disability and Ageing.