



## Submissions Response Field

**Please type your response into the field below. Alternatively you may provide your submissions as a separate attachment (Suggested Maximum 5 pages).**

NursePrac Australia is a new company that is leading a drive to improve health outcomes and impact on social determinants of health in tangible ways. NursePrac Australia is providing a new, innovative style of paediatric healthcare in shared care model with Fiona Stanley Hospital paediatric services. NursePrac Australia has developed strong links with hospitals, Child and Adolescent Community Health, the local government sector and community health and welfare providers.

### Populations of focus

- Children and young people with chronic health conditions (e.g. asthma, eczema, obesity and constipation)
- Children and young people in out-of-home care #
- Children and young people who are at risk \*

# out-of-home care describes the different protective placement options for when children and young people can no longer live at home. These include foster care, residential care and other living arrangements.

\*a person 'at risk' describes those who may be at risk of worsening health as a result of experiencing family/domestic violence, sexual abuse, drug and alcohol use and/or are not well engaged with a current healthcare provider.

Enhance health and quality of life for children and young people with chronic conditions by:

- Supporting healthcare closer to home
- Reducing unnecessary referrals to secondary/tertiary care
- Early intervention
- Educating children, young people and their families about chronic health conditions and promoting self-care

Improve the healthcare for children and young people in out-of-home care through:

- Health assessment and screening
- Linking to primary care providers
- Reassessment at key life points
- Education for carers regarding management of health and wellbeing

Support general practice with children's healthcare via:

- Access to a skilled paediatric workforce in the primary care setting
- Providing an avenue to review non-urgent paediatric presentations
- Streamlined paediatric specialist review

## Submissions Response Field

*Please type your response into the field below. Alternatively you may provide your submissions as a separate attachment (Suggested Maximum 5 pages).*

NursePrac Australia key goals:

- Increased health literacy
- Increased healthcare self-management
- Strengthening families
- Decreased disease severity
- Improved quality of life

This fledgling model has been operating for 7 months. It is very popular with patients and families (evidenced by family satisfaction ratings over 90%); it is highly regarded by referrers; it is already demonstrating statistically significant outcomes; it has reduced the need for tertiary healthcare referrals and is receiving clients redirected from secondary and tertiary hospitals that benefit from our unique intensive education, family empowerment and supportive approach.

Frustratingly, nurse practitioners remain severely underutilised across the WA health system, mainly due to a lack of employment opportunities and limited vision by health services. To date, **none** of the nurse practitioners contracting for NursePrac Australia were working full-time as nurse practitioners in their previous positions, indeed most were working at significantly lower clinical levels.

Furthermore, funding is an issue, as independent nurse practitioners are poorly remunerated by the 4 timed MBS items available to nurse practitioners. This means that even though these nurse practitioners provide high quality care at a potentially lower cost to health care systems, their success depends on whether a sufficient number of their patients are willing and able to pay "out of pocket". This creates systemic marginalisation of nurse practitioners and challenges state and federal governments to contest the provider monopoly on the delivery of health services or to incentive care delivery for needier populations.

Nurse practitioners and other advanced practice healthcare professionals are ideally situated to fill gaps in healthcare provision, especially for underserved populations. Nurse practitioners in WA are increasingly owning and running their own healthcare services. These nurse practitioners collaborate with medical colleagues to provide innovative models of care, offering a greater range of healthcare choice to consumers and care closer to home.

### **Understanding the roles of Nurse Practitioners:**

- Nurse Practitioners are advanced practice nurses with an additional Master's Degree, who have usually worked for over 10 years in their speciality area.
- Nurse Practitioners can prescribe medications including PBS, authority and private prescriptions.
- Nurse Practitioners can claim Medicare rebates.
- Nurse practitioners' can order a range of diagnostic imaging and pathology tests.
- Nurse practitioners can refer to medical specialists.

## Submissions Response Field

**Please type your response into the field below. Alternatively you may provide your submissions as a separate attachment (Suggested Maximum 5 pages).**

- Medical practitioners can refer to nurse practitioners.
- Nurse practitioners don't need a medical referral and many patients/families self-refer.

### **Vision:**

*Support novel healthcare models and replicate them in other health regions*

*Grow more nurse practitioners and offer employment to existing nurse practitioners*

*Encourage an innovative and forward looking health system – support more Nurse Practitioner candidate roles*

*Supported clinical placements and training for high need areas and vulnerable populations*