

Rural Provider Fund for Special Interest Training 2026



A limited training fund is available to support special interest training for rural nurses, NPs, allied health professionals, GPs, GP registrars, and staff of NGOs/other Hauora Services to improve and promote sustainable rural primary health outcomes, address gaps of unmet needs, and enable top-of-scope practice.

This is a one-off funding opportunity with no guarantee of ongoing financial support. The fund's objective is to expand rural clinicians' skillsets outside the basic scope required where other funding is not already available. Applications will be accepted and processed until the fund is exhausted.

The fund is for formal training and does not support project costs or delivery of any service. Proposals that focus on physical equipment or brick and mortar infrastructure are unlikely to be successful.

Mahitahi Hauora PHE recognises Te Tiriti o Waitangi as the founding document of Aotearoa/New Zealand. Alignment with the principles of Te Tiriti o Waitangi will be considered in assessing proposals.

The principles are:

- *Tino rangatiratanga*. Providing for Māori self-determination and mana motuhake in the design, delivery, and monitoring of health services.
- *Equity*. Being committed to achieving equitable health outcomes for Māori.
- *Active Protection*. Protect Māori health and achieve equitable health outcomes for Māori.
- *Options*. Provide for Kaupapa Māori services. Health and disability services are provided in a culturally appropriate way that recognises and supports the expression of Hauora Māori models of care.
- *Partnership*. Working in partnership with Māori.

Criteria for Applications

Applications are open for individuals who are working at least 16 hours a week (0.4 FTE) in rural areas of Te Tai Tokerau – Far North, Hokianga, Mid North, Dargaville and rural Whangārei. Applications should have a focus on development of one or more of the following areas:

- *Equity* – Improving access and outcomes for Māori, Pacific peoples, people with disabilities, vulnerable groups, and people living in rural communities with socioeconomic disadvantage.

- *After-Hours and Acute Care* – Improving acute care services in your area.
- *Models of Care Development* – Upskilling an employee to improve service delivery.
- *Advanced Skill Development* – Building individual skills and maintaining education pathways for our service provider network.

Applicants should have the written support of their practice or affiliated organisation.

Claimable Items

The categories available for seeking potential funding support are:

- Course fees/training costs
- Relevant conference registration fees
- Locum GP costs to release GPs
- Backfill for nurse time
- Reasonable travel costs and accommodation
- Mileage to attend conferences/training if no company vehicle available

All applications will be considered on a case-by-case basis, and due to the limited funding available the panel reserve the right to decline or offer partial payment.

Outcome Measures

You will need to specify outcome measures appropriate to your project, i.e. how you will apply and evaluate your learning and use it to benefit sustainable primary care.

Outcome measures could include:

- Completion of the appropriate qualification (Certification, not certificate of attendance)
- Report of knowledge gained/service performed following training (who, what, when, why)
- Patient reported outcomes survey related to improved scope
- Presentation of learning to identified forum to share learning and support the wider workforce's learning, e.g. to the Nurse Leads Group or staff in practice

Submission Process

You can [download an application form here](#).

Please send proposals to rslat@mahitahihauora.co.nz.

Applications received by the 20th of the month will be reviewed by the Mahitahi Hauora Education panel and an outcome will be provided by the 20th of the following month.

Where prior approval is requested or timeframes are tight, applications will be managed on an individual basis to ensure timeliness for the applicant's application for professional development.

You will be asked to disclose if other funding has been received or applied for and in some instances you may be asked to apply through other funding streams first. Every effort will be made to support the workforce to utilise all funding sources available within current resources.

All applications must be submitted using the supplied template.

Should your application be successful, you will be reimbursed up to the approved amount upon provision of receipts for actual costs incurred.

If you wish to discuss your application or need help preparing your application, please contact rslat@mahitahihauora.co.nz. We are happy to support you.