

WALGA 2025 General Practice Support Survey Report

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Background

The provision of healthcare services in Australia is both an Australian and State Government responsibility. In some rural areas, the current health system is not meeting the needs of these communities. The relatively smaller populations, high demand for health professionals, complex health needs, and higher cost of delivering services in the regions means that many communities do not have access to adequate primary healthcare services. Local Governments are having to intervene to ensure access to essential health services.

WALGA's 2023 [Local Government Healthcare Services Survey](#) (2023 Survey) ascertained the extent of support being provided by Local Governments to secure primary healthcare services in 2021-22. The 2023 Survey gathered information on Local Government investment on a range of primary healthcare services, including general practice, allied health, mental health and Aboriginal health. The data showed that Local Government support for primary healthcare services was heavily focused on general practice (GP) services.

To strengthen and inform ongoing advocacy, including the WALGA 2026-27 State and Federal Budget Submissions, the 2025 General Practice Support Survey (2025 Survey) was conducted to provide updated data on the extent and nature of general practice support in 2024-25.

While Local Governments supporting primary healthcare services are rightly proud of securing and/or retaining these essential services for their communities, this should not distract from the fact that such support is a financial impost and takes away from other Local Government services and functions.

WALGA continues to advocate for better access to primary healthcare services in Western Australia guided by a [revised rural and remote healthcare advocacy position](#) endorsed by State Council in September 2025.

Survey Response Rates

The survey was targeted at the 108 mainland non-metropolitan Local Governments and open for six weeks between September and October 2025. The 2025 Survey design was a modified version of the 2023 Survey questions. The survey was undertaken on a strictly confidential basis. 74 Local Governments submitted responses (69% response rate) with representation from all regions with the exception of the Pilbara.

To enable direct comparisons with existing health workforce and service data as well as Local Government data, the 2025 Survey report provides data by both WALGA Zones and WA Country Health Service (WACHS) regional boundaries.

Regional Response Rates

WALGA Zone	Number of Responses	Percentage of Responses
Mainland non-metro Local Governments	74 of 108	69%
Avon-Midland	8 of 11	73%
Central	12 of 15	80%
Gascoyne	4 of 4	100%
Goldfields Esperance	7 of 10	70%
Great Eastern	12 of 16	75%
Great Southern	10 of 11	91%
Kimberley	2 of 6	33%
Murchison	2 of 6	33%
Northern	5 of 10	50%
Peel	4 of 5	80%
Pilbara	0 of 4	0%
South West	8 of 12	67%

WACHS Region	Number of Responses	Percentage of Responses
Mainland non-metro Local Governments	74 of 108	69%
Goldfields	6 of 8	75%
Great Southern	11 of 12	92%
Inner Regional*	3 of 6	50%
Kimberely	2 of 4	50%
Midwest	11 of 21	52%
Pilbara	0 of 4	0%
South West	8 of 12	67%
Wheatbelt	33 of 43	77%

** WACHS health regions do not include Local Governments on the boundary of the Perth Metropolitan area such as the Shires of Serpentine Jarrahdale and Murray. An Inner Regional region was created for the purpose of the 2025 Survey to ensure coverage of these Local Governments.*

Key Findings



41 Local Governments (55% of respondents) provided support to GP services in 2024-25

Up from 47% of respondents in 2021-22

\$9.5 million was contributed to support GP services

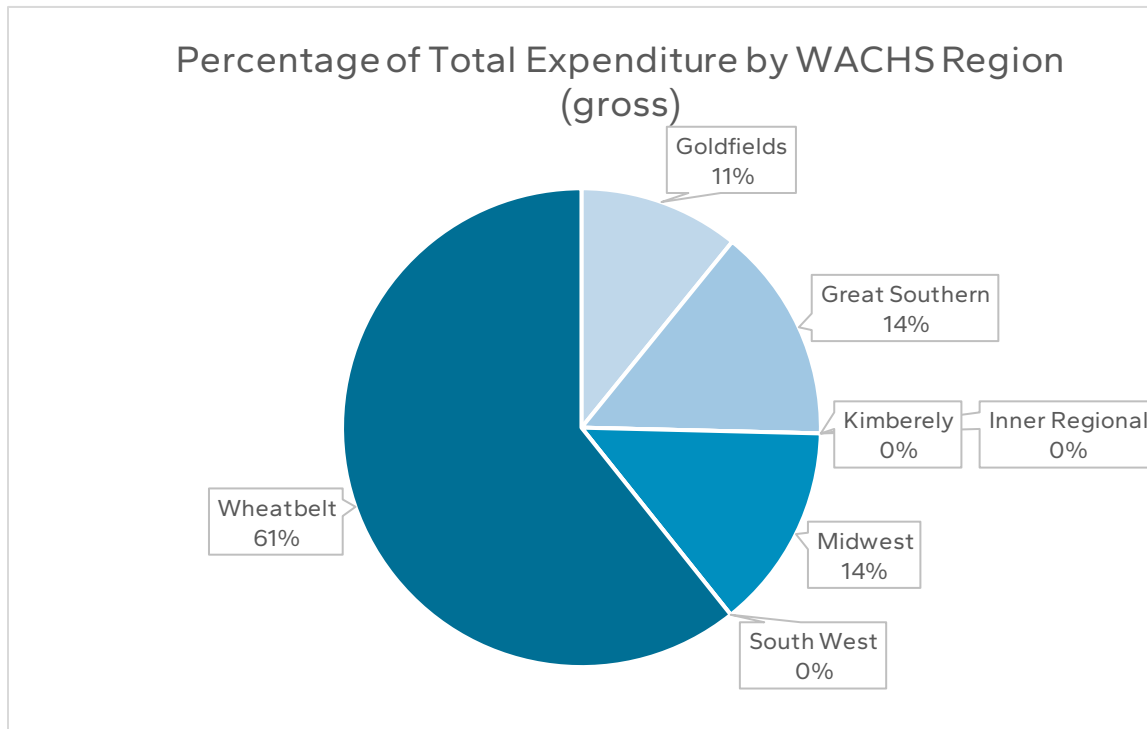
Up from \$7.8 million in 2021-22



Of that expenditure, 91% (\$8.6 million) was committed by 38 Local Governments with populations under 5,000

- **The highest concentration of Local Governments providing GP services support were in the Wheatbelt, Midwest and Great Southern WACHS health regions**
 - In WALGA Zones the highest concentrations were in the Great Eastern, Central and Avon-Midland County Zones.
- **The Medical Facilities cost adjustor within the Financial Assistance Grant provided a total of \$1.7 million for costs incurred**
 - Representing 18% of total respondent expenditure.

Figure 1 Expenditure by WACHS Regions (Gross)



Additional Findings

- The most common types of support provided were*:
 - Provision of GP facilities (46%)
 - Provision of accommodation or rental assistance (43%)
 - Provision of vehicle and fuel (32%)

**Noting many responses provide support through more than one form.*

- \$4.8 million (50%) of expenditure was provided to financially underwrite GP services**.

***For the purpose of this survey financial underwriting of GP services is defined as: incentive payments, income guarantees, direct GP employment or GP contracting.*
- The most common support package offered by Local Governments—reported by 28 respondents (68%)—combined financial underwriting of GP services with the provision of accommodation, a vehicle, and either practice facilities and/or practice administration.
- 42 Local Governments (58%) anticipated providing support for GP services over the next two years.
- An additional \$70,383 was provided by respondents in the three financial years since FY2021-22 towards GP services recruitment process (such as legal, recruitment, and advertising costs).
- 65% of respondents wished to be involved in further work with WALGA on rural and remote healthcare advocacy.

Statewide Expenditure

Number of respondents: 74 (69%)

Number of respondents providing support: 41 (55%)

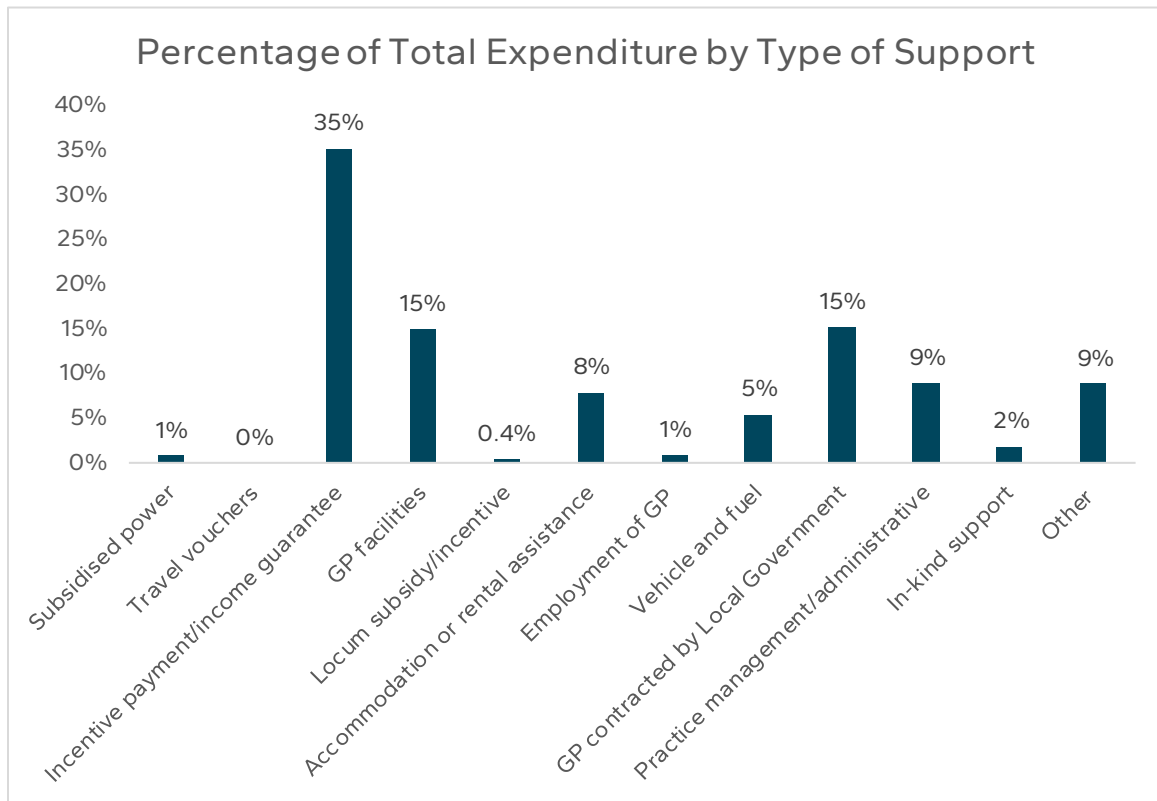
Number of respondents receiving FAG Medical Facilities Cost Adjustor*: 39

Nature of Support	
Subsidised power	\$73,629
Incentive payment/income guarantee	\$3,334,950
Travel vouchers	\$0
Provision of GP facilities	\$1,394,611
Locum subsidy/incentive	\$38,000
Provision of accommodation or rental assistance	\$751,203
Local Government employment of GP directly	\$85,000
Provision of vehicle and/or fuel	\$515,870
GP contracted by Local Government	\$1,436,220
Provision of practice management/administrative services	\$840,415
In kind	\$174,455
Other	\$839,809
Total Gross Expenditure in 2024-25	\$9,484,162
Financial Assistance Grant - Medical Facilities Cost Adjustor*	-\$1,699,191
Total Net Expenditure in 2024-25	\$7,784,971
Additional costs in the three financial years since 2021-22 in relation to general practice recruitment processes	\$70,383

** The Medical Facilities Cost Adjustor is applied to Financial Assistance Grants (FAG) by the WA Grants Commission to recognise costs that are out of a Local Governments control or do not equally impact Local Governments. The Cost Adjustor is based on indicator data rather than actual spend with the maximum allowance capped at \$100,000 per Local Government recipient from 2024-25.*

Some Local Governments provided GP service support without receiving the cost adjustor while others are receiving the Cost Adjustor but have not identified any GP service support in their survey response.

Figure 2 Statewide Expenditure by Type of Support



Regional Expenditure (WALGA Regions)

Avon-Midland Country Zone

Number of respondents: 8 (73%)

Number of respondents providing support: 6 (75%)

Number of respondents receiving FAG Medical Facilities Cost Adjustor: 6

Nature of Support	
Subsidised power	\$19,274
Incentive payment/income guarantee	\$790,500
Travel vouchers	\$0
Provision of GP facilities	\$166,000
Locum subsidy/incentive	\$20,000
Provision of accommodation or rental assistance	\$125,060
Local Government employment of GP directly	\$85,000
Provision of vehicle and/or fuel	\$135,592
GP contracted by Local Government	\$0
Provision of practice management/administrative services	\$40,500
In kind	\$1,500
Other	\$135,800
Total Gross Expenditure in 2024-25	\$1,519,226
Financial Assistance Grant - Medical Facilities Cost Adjustor	-\$350,076
Total Net Expenditure in 2024-25	\$1,169,150
Additional costs in the three financial years since 2021-22 in relation to general practice recruitment processes	\$0

Comparison with 2021-22 Survey

Number of respondents*: No change from 8 in 2021-22

2021-22 total gross expenditure on supporting GP services: \$1,516,000

Difference in gross expenditure between 2021-22 and 2024-25: **0.2% increase** (\$3,226)

** The composition of Local Government respondents may have varied within the total respondent figure*

Central Country Zone

Number of respondents: 12 (75%)

Number of respondents providing support: 8 (67%)

Number of respondents receiving FAG Medical Facilities Cost Adjustor: 8

Nature of Support	
Subsidised power	\$3,750
Incentive payment/income guarantee	\$491,537
Travel vouchers	\$0
Provision of GP facilities	\$330,542
Locum subsidy/incentive	\$0
Provision of accommodation or rental assistance	\$116,227
Local Government employment of GP directly	\$0
Provision of vehicle and/or fuel	\$94,720
GP contracted by Local Government	\$174,791
Provision of practice management/administrative services	\$446,574
In kind	\$0
Other	\$42,738
Total Gross Expenditure in 2024-25	\$1,700,879
Financial Assistance Grant - Medical Facilities Cost Adjustor	-\$261,927
Total Net Expenditure in 2024-25	\$1,438,952
Additional costs in the three financial years since 2021-22 in relation to general practice recruitment processes	\$13,400

Comparison with 2021-22 Survey

Number of respondents*: No change from 12 in 2021-22

2021-22 total gross expenditure on supporting GP services: \$1,616,392

Difference in gross expenditure between 2021-22 and 2024-25: **5% increase** (\$84,487)

** The composition of Local Government respondents may have varied within the total respondent figure*

Gascoyne Country Zone

Number of respondents: 4 (100%)

Number of respondents providing support: 1 (25%)

Number of respondents receiving FAG Medical Facilities Cost Adjustor: 2

Nature of Support	
Subsidised power	\$0
Incentive payment/income guarantee	\$0
Travel vouchers	\$0
Provision of GP facilities	\$15,600
Locum subsidy/incentive	\$0
Provision of accommodation or rental assistance	\$0
Local Government employment of GP directly	\$0
Provision of vehicle and/or fuel	\$0
GP contracted by Local Government	\$0
Provision of practice management/administrative services	\$11,000
In kind	\$0
Other	\$16,000
Total Gross Expenditure in 2024-25	\$42,600
Financial Assistance Grant - Medical Facilities Cost Adjustor	-\$10,070
Total Net Expenditure in 2024-25	\$32,530
Additional costs in the three financial years since 2021-22 in relation to general practice recruitment processes	\$0

Comparison with 2021-22 Survey

Number of respondents*: No change from 4 in 2021-22

2021-22 total gross expenditure on supporting GP services: \$35,540

Difference in gross expenditure between 2021-22 and 2024-25: **20% increase** (\$7,060)

** The composition of Local Government respondents may have varied within the total respondent figure*

Goldfields Esperance Country Zone

Number of respondents: 7 (70%)

Number of respondents providing support: 3 (43%)

Number of respondents receiving FAG Medical Facilities Cost Adjustor: 4

Nature of Support	
Subsidised power	\$6,000
Incentive payment/income guarantee	\$400,000
Travel vouchers	\$0
Provision of GP facilities	\$128,000
Locum subsidy/incentive	\$0
Provision of accommodation or rental assistance	\$68,500
Local Government employment of GP directly	\$0
Provision of vehicle and/or fuel	\$25,961
GP contracted by Local Government	\$700,000
Provision of practice management/administrative services	\$10,688
In kind	\$0
Other	\$0
Total Gross Expenditure in 2024-25	\$1,339,149
Financial Assistance Grant - Medical Facilities Cost Adjustor	-\$340,805
Total Net Expenditure in 2024-25	\$998,344
Additional costs in the three financial years since 2021-22 in relation to general practice recruitment processes	\$10,000

Comparison with 2021-22 Survey

Number of respondents*: Decrease from 9 in 2021-22

2021-22 total gross expenditure on supporting GP services: \$659,678

Difference in gross expenditure between 2021-22 and 2024-25: **103% increase** (\$679,471)

** The composition of Local Government respondents may have varied within the total respondent figure*

Great Eastern Country Zone

Number of respondents: 12 (75%)

Number of respondents providing support: 11 (92%)

Number of respondents receiving FAG Medical Facilities Cost Adjustor: 9

Nature of Support	
Subsidised power	\$28,394
Incentive payment/income guarantee	\$865,313
Travel vouchers	\$0
Provision of GP facilities	\$361,626
Locum subsidy/incentive	\$18,000
Provision of accommodation or rental assistance	\$210,712
Local Government employment of GP directly	\$0
Provision of vehicle and/or fuel	\$143,981
GP contracted by Local Government	\$393,429
Provision of practice management/administrative services	\$309,818
In kind	\$82,955
Other	\$31,571
Total Gross Expenditure in 2024-25	\$2,445,799
Financial Assistance Grant - Medical Facilities Cost Adjustor	-\$305,344
Total Net Expenditure in 2024-25	\$2,140,455
Additional costs in the three financial years since 2021-22 in relation to general practice recruitment processes	\$21,983

Comparison with 2021-22 Survey

Number of respondents*: Decrease from 13 in 2021-22

2021-22 total gross expenditure on supporting GP services: \$1,782,715

Difference in gross expenditure between 2021-22 and 2024-25: **37% increase** (\$663,084)

** The composition of Local Government respondents may have varied within the total respondent figure*

Great Southern Country Zone

Number of respondents: 10 (91%)

Number of respondents providing support: 5 (50%)

Number of respondents receiving FAG Medical Facilities Cost Adjustor: 3

Nature of Support	
Subsidised power	\$0
Incentive payment/income guarantee	\$739,000
Travel vouchers	\$0
Provision of GP facilities	\$88,274
Locum subsidy/incentive	\$0
Provision of accommodation or rental assistance	\$94,090
Local Government employment of GP directly	\$0
Provision of vehicle and/or fuel	\$62,833
GP contracted by Local Government	\$0
Provision of practice management/administrative services	\$7,000
In kind	\$25,000
Other	\$0
Total Gross Expenditure in 2024-25	\$1,016,197
Financial Assistance Grant - Medical Facilities Cost Adjustor*	-\$208,615
Total Net Expenditure in 2024-25	\$807,582
Additional costs in the three financial years since 2021-22 in relation to general practice recruitment processes	\$20,000

Comparison with 2021-22 Survey

Number of respondents*: No change from 10 in 2021-22

2021-22 total gross expenditure on supporting GP services: \$370,000

Difference in gross expenditure between 2021-22 and 2024-25: **175% increase** (\$646,197)

** The composition of Local Government respondents may have varied within the total respondent figure*

Kimberley Country Zone

Number of respondents: 2 (34%)

Number of respondents providing support: 0 (0%)

Number of respondents receiving FAG Medical Facilities Cost Adjustor: 0

Nature of Support	
Subsidised power	\$0
Incentive payment/income guarantee	\$0
Travel vouchers	\$0
Provision of GP facilities	\$0
Locum subsidy/incentive	\$0
Provision of accommodation or rental assistance	\$0
Local Government employment of GP directly	\$0
Provision of vehicle and/or fuel	\$0
GP contracted by Local Government	\$0
Provision of practice management/administrative services	\$0
In kind	\$0
Other	\$0
Total Gross Expenditure in 2024-25	\$0
Financial Assistance Grant - Medical Facilities Cost Adjustor	\$0
Total Net Expenditure in 2024-25	\$0
Additional costs in the three financial years since 2021-22 in relation to general practice recruitment processes	\$0

Comparison with 2021-22 Survey

Number of respondents*: No change from 2 in 2021-22

2021-22 total gross expenditure on supporting GP services: \$0

Difference in gross expenditure between 2021-22 and 2024-25: No change

** The composition of Local Government respondents may have varied within the total respondent figure*

Murchinson Country Zone

Number of respondents: 2 (34%)

Number of respondents providing support: 1 (50%)

Number of respondents receiving FAG Medical Facilities Cost Adjustor: 0

Nature of Support	
Subsidised power	\$0
Incentive payment/income guarantee	\$0
Travel vouchers	\$0
Provision of GP facilities	\$16,000
Locum subsidy/incentive	\$0
Provision of accommodation or rental assistance	\$0
Local Government employment of GP directly	\$0
Provision of vehicle and/or fuel	\$0
GP contracted by Local Government	\$0
Provision of practice management/administrative services	\$0
In kind	\$0
Other	\$0
Total Gross Expenditure in 2024-25	\$16,000
Financial Assistance Grant - Medical Facilities Cost Adjustor	\$0
Total Net Expenditure in 2024-25	\$0
Additional costs in the three financial years since 2021-22 in relation to general practice recruitment processes	\$0

Comparison with 2021-22 Survey

Number of respondents*: Decrease from 5 in 2021-22

2021-22 total gross expenditure on supporting GP services: \$0

Difference in gross expenditure between 2021-22 and 2024-25: **Absolute change** of \$16,000

** The composition of Local Government respondents may have varied within the total respondent figure*

Northern Country Zone

Number of respondents: 5 (50%)

Number of respondents providing support: 5 (100%)

Number of respondents receiving FAG Medical Facilities Cost Adjustor: 5

Nature of Support	
Subsidised power	\$11,211
Incentive payment/income guarantee	\$48,600
Travel vouchers	\$0
Provision of GP facilities	\$248,569
Locum subsidy/incentive	\$0
Provision of accommodation or rental assistance	\$96,614
Local Government employment of GP directly	\$0
Provision of vehicle and/or fuel	\$32,783
GP contracted by Local Government	\$168,000
Provision of practice management/administrative services	\$14,835
In kind	\$25,000
Other	\$613,700
Total Gross Expenditure in 2024-25	\$1,259,312
Financial Assistance Grant - Medical Facilities Cost Adjustor	-\$198,220
Total Net Expenditure in 2024-25	\$1,061,092
Additional costs in the three financial years since 2021-22 in relation to general practice recruitment processes	\$0

Comparison with 2021-22 Survey

Number of respondents*: Decrease from 9 in 2021-22

2021-22 total gross expenditure on supporting GP services: \$769,104

Difference in gross expenditure between 2021-22 and 2024-25: **64% increase** (\$490,208)

** The composition of Local Government respondents may have varied within the total respondent figure*

Peel Country Zone

Number of respondents: 4 (80%)

Number of respondents providing support: 1 (25%)

Number of respondents receiving FAG Medical Facilities Cost Adjustor: 1

Nature of Support	
Subsidised power	\$5,000
Incentive payment/income guarantee	\$0
Travel vouchers	\$0
Provision of GP facilities	\$40,000
Locum subsidy/incentive	\$0
Provision of accommodation or rental assistance	\$40,000
Local Government employment of GP directly	\$0
Provision of vehicle and/or fuel	\$20,000
GP contracted by Local Government	\$0
Provision of practice management/administrative services	\$0
In kind	\$40,000
Other	\$0
Total Gross Expenditure in 2024-25	\$145,000
Financial Assistance Grant - Medical Facilities Cost Adjustor	-\$1,384
Total Net Expenditure in 2024-25	\$143,616
Additional costs in the three financial years since 2021-22 in relation to general practice recruitment processes	\$5,000

Comparison with 2021-22 Survey

Number of respondents*: Increase from 3 in 2021-22

2021-22 total gross expenditure on supporting GP services: \$113,400

Difference in gross expenditure between 2021-22 and 2024-25: **28% increase** (\$31,600)

** The composition of Local Government respondents may have varied within the total respondent figure*

South West Country Zone

Number of respondents: 8 (67%)

Number of respondents providing support: 0 (0%)

Number of respondents receiving FAG Medical Facilities Cost Adjustor: 2

Nature of Support	
Subsidised power	\$0
Incentive payment/income guarantee	\$0
Travel vouchers	\$0
Provision of GP facilities	\$0
Locum subsidy/incentive	\$0
Provision of accommodation or rental assistance	\$0
Local Government employment of GP directly	\$0
Provision of vehicle and/or fuel	\$0
GP contracted by Local Government	\$0
Provision of practice management/administrative services	\$0
In kind	\$0
Other	\$0
Total Gross Expenditure in 2024-25	\$0
Financial Assistance Grant - Medical Facilities Cost Adjustor*	-\$22,750
Total Net Expenditure in 024-25	-\$22,750
Additional costs in the three financial years since 2021-22 in relation to general practice recruitment processes	\$0

Comparison with 2021-22 Survey

Number of respondents*: Increase from 7 in 2021-22

2021-22 total gross expenditure on supporting GP services: \$883,920

Difference in gross expenditure between 2021-22 and 2024-25: **103% Decrease** (\$906,670)

** The composition of Local Government respondents may have varied within the total respondent figure*

Regional Expenditure (WACHS Regions)

Goldfields

Number of respondents: 6 (75%)

Number of respondents providing support: 2 (33%)

Number of respondents receiving FAG Medical Facilities Cost Adjustor: 3

Nature of Support	
Subsidised power	\$0
Incentive payment/income guarantee	\$180,000
Travel vouchers	\$0
Provision of GP facilities	\$93,000
Locum subsidy/incentive	\$0
Provision of accommodation or rental assistance	\$44,000
Local Government employment of GP directly	\$0
Provision of vehicle and/or fuel	\$961
GP contracted by Local Government	\$700,000
Provision of practice management/administrative services	\$10,688
In kind	\$0
Other	\$0
Total Gross Expenditure in 2024-25	\$1,028,649
Financial Assistance Grant - Medical Facilities Cost Adjustor	-\$240,805
Total Net Expenditure in 2024-25	\$787,844
Additional costs in the three financial years since 2021-22 in relation to general practice recruitment processes	\$10,000

Comparison with 2021-22 Survey

Number of respondents*: Decrease from 8 in 2021-22

2021-22 total gross expenditure on supporting GP services: \$659,678

Difference in gross expenditure between 2021-22 and 2024-25: **56% increase** (\$368,971)

** The composition of Local Government respondents may have varied within the total respondent figure*

Great Southern

Number of respondents: 11 (75%)

Number of respondents providing support: 7 (64%)

Number of respondents receiving FAG Medical Facilities Cost Adjustor: 5

Nature of Support	
Subsidised power	\$6,000
Incentive payment/income guarantee	\$959,000
Travel vouchers	\$0
Provision of GP facilities	\$139,093
Locum subsidy/incentive	\$0
Provision of accommodation or rental assistance	\$118,590
Local Government employment of GP directly	\$0
Provision of vehicle and/or fuel	\$87,833
GP contracted by Local Government	\$36,226
Provision of practice management/administrative services	\$7,000
In kind	\$25,000
Other	\$0
Total Gross Expenditure in 2024-25	\$1,378,742
Financial Assistance Grant - Medical Facilities Cost Adjustor	-\$320,250
Total Net Expenditure in 2024-25	\$1,058,492
Additional costs in the three financial years since 2021-22 in relation to general practice recruitment processes	\$24,000

Comparison with 2021-22 Survey

Number of respondents*: No change from 11 in 2021-22

Total gross expenditure on supporting GP services in 2021-22: \$370,000

Difference in gross expenditure between 2021-22 to 2024-25: **273% increase** (\$1,008,742)

** The composition of Local Government respondents may have varied within the total respondent figure*

Inner Regional

Number of respondents 3 (50%)

Number of respondents providing support 0 (0%)

Number of respondents receiving FAG Medical Facilities Cost Adjustor: 0

Nature of Support	
Subsidised power	\$0
Incentive payment/income guarantee	\$0
Travel vouchers	\$0
Provision of GP facilities	\$0
Locum subsidy/incentive	\$0
Provision of accommodation or rental assistance	\$0
Local Government employment of GP directly	\$0
Provision of vehicle and/or fuel	\$0
GP contracted by Local Government	\$0
Provision of practice management/administrative services	\$0
In kind	\$0
Other	\$0
Total Gross Expenditure in 2024-25	\$0
Financial Assistance Grant - Medical Facilities Cost Adjustor	\$0
Total Net Expenditure in 2024-25	\$0
Additional costs in the three financial years since 2021-22 in relation to general practice recruitment processes	\$0

Comparison with 2021-22 Survey

Not applicable. WACHS health regions do not include Local Governments that could be classified as periphery to the Perth Metropolitan area such as the Shires of Serpentine Jarrahdale and Murray. An Inner Regional region was created for the purpose of the 2025 Survey to ensure coverage of these Local Governments.

Kimberley

Number of respondents: 2 (50%)

Number providing support: 0 (0%)

Number of respondents receiving FAG Medical Facilities Cost Adjustor: 0

Nature of Support	
Subsidised power	\$0
Incentive payment/income guarantee	\$0
Travel vouchers	\$0
Provision of GP facilities	\$0
Locum subsidy/incentive	\$0
Provision of accommodation or rental assistance	\$0
Local Government employment of GP directly	\$0
Provision of vehicle and/or fuel	\$0
GP contracted by Local Government	\$0
Provision of practice management/administrative services	\$0
In kind	\$0
Other	\$0
Total Gross Expenditure in 2024-25	\$0
Financial Assistance Grant - Medical Facilities Cost Adjustor	\$0
Total Net Expenditure in 2024-25	\$0
Additional costs in the three financial years since 2021-22 in relation to general practice recruitment processes	\$0

Comparison with 2021-22 Survey

Number of respondents*: No change from 2 in 2021-22

2021-22 total gross expenditure on supporting GP services: \$0

Difference in gross expenditure between 2021-22 and 2024-25: No change

** The composition of Local Government respondents may have varied within the total respondent figure*

Note: In the North West of WA, WACHS Population Health Units and Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Services deliver a range of primary healthcare services supported by State and Australian Government funding.

Midwest

Number of respondents: 11 (52%)

Number of respondents providing support: 7 (64%)

Number of respondents receiving FAG Medical Facilities Cost Adjustor: 7

Nature of Support	
Subsidised power	\$11,211
Incentive payment/income guarantee	\$48,600
Travel vouchers	\$0
Provision of GP facilities	\$280,169
Locum subsidy/incentive	\$0
Provision of accommodation or rental assistance	\$96,614
Local Government employment of GP directly	\$0
Provision of vehicle and/or fuel	\$32,783
GP contracted by Local Government	\$168,000
Provision of practice management/administrative services	\$25,835
In kind	\$25,000
Other	\$629,700
Total Gross Expenditure in 2024-25	\$1,317,912
Financial Assistance Grant - Medical Facilities Cost Adjustor	-\$208,290
Total Net Expenditure in 2024-25	\$1,109,622
Additional costs in the three financial years since 2021-22 in relation to general practice recruitment processes	\$0

Comparison with 2021-22 Survey

Number of respondents*: Decrease from 20 in 2021-22

2021-22 total gross expenditure on supporting GP services: \$844,644

Difference in gross expenditure between 2021-22 and 2024-25: **56% increase** (\$473,268)

** The composition of Local Government respondents may have varied within the total respondent figure*

South West

Number of respondents: 8 (67%)

Number providing support: 0 (0%)

Number of respondents receiving FAG Medical Facilities Cost Adjustor: 2

Nature of Support	
Subsidised power	\$0
Incentive payment/income guarantee	\$0
Travel vouchers	\$0
Provision of GP facilities	\$0
Locum subsidy/incentive	\$0
Provision of accommodation or rental assistance	\$0
Local Government employment of GP directly	\$0
Provision of vehicle and/or fuel	\$0
GP contracted by Local Government	\$0
Provision of practice management/administrative services	\$0
In kind	\$0
Other	\$0
Total Gross Expenditure in 2024-25	\$0
Financial Assistance Grant - Medical Facilities Cost Adjustor	-\$22,750
Total Net Expenditure in 2024-25	-\$22,750
Additional costs in the three financial years since 2021-22 in relation to general practice recruitment processes	\$0

Comparison with 2021-22 Survey

Number of respondents*: Increase from 7 in 2021-22

2021-22 total gross expenditure on supporting GP services: \$883,920

Difference in gross expenditure between 2021-22 and 2024-25: **103% Decrease** (\$906,670)

** The composition of Local Government respondents may have varied within the total respondent figure*

Wheatbelt

Number of respondents: 33 (77%)

Number of respondents providing support: 25 (76%)

Number of respondents receiving FAG Medical Facilities Cost Adjustor: 22

Nature of Support	
Subsidised power	\$56,418
Incentive payment/income guarantee	\$2,147,350
Travel vouchers	\$0
Provision of GP facilities	\$882,349
Locum subsidy/incentive	\$38,000
Provision of accommodation or rental assistance	\$491,999
Local Government employment of GP directly	\$85,000
Provision of vehicle and/or fuel	\$394,293
GP contracted by Local Government	\$531,994
Provision of practice management/administrative services	\$796,892
In kind	\$124,455
Other	\$210,109
Total Gross Expenditure in 2024-25	\$5,758,859
Financial Assistance Grant - Medical Facilities Cost Adjustor	-\$907,096
Total Net Expenditure in 2024-25	\$4,851,763
Additional costs in the three financial years since 2021-22 in relation to general practice recruitment processes	\$36,383

Comparison with 2021-22 Survey

Number of respondents*: No change from 33 in 2021-22

2021-22 total gross expenditure on supporting GP services: \$5,038,507

Difference in gross expenditure between 2021-22 and 2024-25: **14% increase** (\$720,352)

** The composition of Local Government respondents may have varied within the total respondent figure*

Attachment 1: Survey Results Infographic



41

Local Government respondents provided support to GP services in FY 2024–25



Highest concentration of Local Government Support:

- Great Southern
- Midwest
- Wheatbelt

*WACHS health regions



\$9.5million

was contributed to support GP services



68%

of Local Government respondents provided a support package to sustain GP services

LOCAL GOVERNMENT GENERAL PRACTICE SUPPORT SURVEY 2025 – KEY FINDINGS

The survey was open to 108 mainland non-metropolitan Local Governments in September 2025. 74 Local Governments submitting responses (69% response rate) with representation from every WALGA country zone with the exception of the Pilbara.



Up from **\$7.8**million
in FY 2021–22



Support packages typically included:

- Financial underwriting of services
- Accommodation
- Vehicle
- Surgery facilities or administration



91%

contributed by Local Governments with populations under 5,000

Scan the QR code to view the full survey report



Attachment 2 - Survey Questions

2025 Local Government General Practice Support Survey

To strengthen and inform our ongoing advocacy, WALGA is seeking updated data on the extent and nature of support provided for general practice services for financial year 2024-25. The survey should take 10-15 minutes.

All non-metropolitan Local Governments are encouraged to complete the survey, even if not providing any support for GP services. Your responses and insights will enable WALGA to more effectively advocate to State and Federal Governments for better rural and remote GP services.

- Q1 Local Government.
- Q2 Name and contact details of the survey respondent.
- Q3 Total rates revenue for the 2024-2025 financial year.
- Q4 Which of the following best represents your Local Government's current arrangement with general practices in your Local Government area? (Please select all that apply)
- ☐ All privately run with no Local Government support
 - ☐ Local Government provides an incentive package for general practitioners
 - ☐ Local Government provides an incentive package for the practice
 - ☐ Local Government contracts a general practice provider
 - ☐ Local Government directly employs general practitioners
 - ☐ Other (Please specify)
- Q5 Did your Local Government provide **financial or in-kind** support to general practice services in the 2024-2025 financial year?
- ☐ Yes
 - ☐ No
 - ☐ Unsure
- Q6 Please provide information about the **nature** of support provided by the Local Government towards general practice services in the 2024-2025 financial year. (Please select all that apply)
- ☐ No support provided
 - ☐ Subsidised power
 - ☐ Incentive payment/income guarantee

- ☐ Travel vouchers/support
- ☐ Provision of GP facilities
- ☐ Locum subsidy/incentive
- ☐ Provision of accommodation or rental assistance
- ☐ Local Government employment of GP directly
- ☐ Provision of vehicle and fuel
- ☐ GP contracted by Local Government
- ☐ Provision of practice management/ administrative services
- ☐ In-kind support
- ☐ Other (Please specify) Open text

Q7 Please provide information about the **value** of support provided by the Local Government towards general practice services in the 2024-2025 financial year. (Please select all that apply)

- ☐ No support provided \$
- ☐ Subsidised power \$
- ☐ Incentive payment/income guarantee \$
- ☐ Travel vouchers/support \$
- ☐ Provision of GP facilities \$
- ☐ Locum subsidy/incentive \$
- ☐ Provision of accommodation or rental assistance \$
- ☐ Local Government employment of GP directly \$
- ☐ Provision of vehicle and fuel \$
- ☐ GP contracted by Local Government \$
- ☐ Provision of practice management/ administrative services \$
- ☐ In-kind support \$
- ☐ Other (Please specify)

Q8 Did your Local Government receive any funding from **non-ratepayer** sources specifically to fund the delivery of the general practice services in the 2024-2025 financial year?

☐ Yes

☐ No

Q9 If yes, please provide details of the **\$ value** of that funding from all sources that apply.

	Amount received \$
Federal Government	
State Government	
Not for Profit organisations	
Private organisations (Ie mining companies)	

Q10 Are you aware of any other support being provided for the provision of general practice in your Local Government area in the 2024-2025 financial year by non-government organisations.

Please only include any support you are aware of that you have not captured as part of question 7 or 8. Such as provided directly to the GP service by a charitable or benevolent organisation.

☐ Yes - please specify organisation/sector and amount if known

☐ No

☐ Unsure

Q11 Do you anticipate your Local Government will provide support (financial or in-kind) for general practice services over the next two years?

☐ Yes

☐ No

☐ Other (please specify)

Q12 How do you anticipate support by your Local Government on general practice services will change over the next two years?

	Decrease	Remain roughly the same	Increase
No support provided	NA	<input type="checkbox"/>	NA
Incentive payment/income guarantee	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Provision of GP facilities	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



WALGA

Provision of accommodation or rental assistance	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Provision of vehicle and fuel	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Provision of practice management/ administrative services	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Subsidised power	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Travel vouchers/support	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Locum subsidy/incentive	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Local Government employment of GP directly	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
GP contracted by Local Government	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
In-kind support	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Q13 In the three financial years since 2021-22, what additional costs, if any, has your Local Government incurred in relation to GP recruitment process?

☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Unsure

Q14 If yes, please provide details on the nature of the additional cost and \$ value (ie commercial recruitment fees, advertising etc)

Q15 Would you like to be involved in further work with WALGA on rural and remote healthcare?

☐ Yes ☐ No

Q16 Please provide the best contact name and email for further liaison:

Contact name	
Email address	

Q17 If you would like to subscribe to monthly WALGA Community Policy E-Newsletter please provide a contact name and email address

Contact name	
Email address	