

## **Nurse - Registered (Division 1)**

Registered nurses assess, plan, provide and evaluate preventative, curative and rehabilitative care for patients, clients and residents in a wide variety of settings.

### **Registered nurses may perform the following tasks:**

- provide physical and technical nursing care and support for patients
- provide emotional and psychological support and health information to patients and their families
- supervise or carry out nursing care of patients
- observe, monitor, assess, report and document patients' conditions and responses to treatment
- administer medicines and other prescribed medical treatments to patients, in accordance with relevant legislation
- monitor and adjust medical equipment used in patient care and treatment, which can be highly technical and complex
- prepare patients for surgical operations, assisting with surgical procedures and the provision of post-operative care, such as wound care and nutritional management
- plan and provide rehabilitative care of patients, including discharge planning and care
- provide first aid, perform routine physical examinations, give advice about health matters and maintain sickness and accident records (where employed by large industrial or commercial organisations)
- contribute to the clinical training of nursing and midwifery students
- supervise nursing support staff and other hospital staff.

### **Specialisations:**

Areas of specialist nursing practice include emergency, trauma nursing, mental health, aged care, cancer/oncology, critical care, perioperative, community health, rural and remote health, as well as policy, research, management, education and workplace health and safety.

### **Clinical Nurse Specialist**

A clinical nurse specialist is a registered nurse who has demonstrated competency in advanced practice or has developed competency in an area of specialisation.

### **Community Health Nurse**

A community health nurse works in the wider community, providing nursing care, health counselling, health forums and group programmes to individuals, families and groups. They may develop and facilitate community development programmes with a health promotion focus.

### **Mental Health Nurse**

A mental health nurse provides nursing care to patients with psychological and emotional problems who are undergoing treatment and support in hospitals, clinics, community settings or private homes.

### **Nurse Educator**

A nurse educator assists with the design, implementation and assessment of education programmes; delivery of education and staff development programmes; the management of educational resources.

## **Nurse Practitioner**

A nurse practitioner has highly developed skills and knowledge in a specialty field (wound care, sexual health or aged care, for example). They work independently in their area of specialty and can prescribe medications and tests.

## **Nurse Researcher**

A nurse researcher conducts research into nursing and health issues.

## **Practice Nurse**

A practice nurse employed by general practitioners to conduct general treatments. They may also work in chronic disease management and health promotion or perform other general practice and administrative duties.

In hospitals, nurses usually work according to a rotating seven-day roster that includes morning, afternoon and night shifts, as well as weekends and public holidays. In other areas, the hours depend on the service.

## **Personal Requirements:**

- good communication skills
- able to assume responsibility and a leadership role
- able to take initiative in emergencies
- tolerant, patient and tactful in dealing with people from a wide range of backgrounds and cultures
- able to work both independently and as part of a team
- able to cope with the physical demands and psychological aspects of the job.

## **Related Jobs:**

- Aboriginal/Torres Strait Islander Health Worker
- Anaesthetic Technician
- Army Officer
- Health Information Manager
- Health Promotion Practitioner
- Midwife
- Nurse - Enrolled
- Occupational Therapist
- Paramedic
- Rehabilitation Counsellor

## **Education and Training:**

To become a registered nurse you usually have to study nursing at university. To get into these courses you usually need to gain your VCE. Prerequisite subjects, or assumed knowledge, in one or more of English, mathematics, biology, physics and chemistry are normally required. Applicants may also be required to attend an interview. Most universities in Australia offer degrees in nursing. Universities have different prerequisites and some have flexible entry requirements or offer external study. Contact Open Universities Australia or the universities you are interested in for more information as requirements may change.

## **Additional Information:**

Before undertaking the clinical placements required by courses, students will need to obtain a National Police Certificate, an Apply First Aid Certificate, immunisations and a Working with Children Check ([www.workingwithchildren.vic.gov.au](http://www.workingwithchildren.vic.gov.au)).

Clinical placements may require travel to both metropolitan and rural areas.

It is a legal requirement for graduates to be registered with the Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia before being able to practise as a nurse in any state or territory in Australia. For full details, see the board's website.

Following registration, there are courses available in a range of clinical specialities, including medical-surgical, mental health, paediatric, emergency, critical care, palliative care, occupational health and community nursing. There are also postgraduate nursing courses available in management and education.

Registration permits a person to work as a registered nurse in any relevant area of employment, except midwifery, which is restricted to registered midwives only. To become a midwife you must either complete postgraduate study in midwifery or a Bachelor of Midwifery. See the separate entry for Midwife for more information.

Related Courses:

While the following courses are related to this occupation, they may not necessarily lead directly to employment, nor provide the most direct pathway to the occupation. Courses which provide preliminary or informal training, as well as those which provide additional job skills following initial qualifications may also be listed.

\*Course is offered by more than one institution. Click link for details.

- Administer and Monitor Intravenous Medication in the Nursing Environment (HLT Unit)
- Apply Principles of Diabetic Nursing Care (HLT Unit)
- Perform Blood Collection (HLT Unit)
- Perform Intravenous Cannulation for Sample Collection (HLT Unit)
- Wound Closure and Suturing
- Certificate II in Continence Promotion and Care
- Certificate II in Understanding and Management of Diabetes
- Certificate IV in Health Science Foundations \*
- Bachelor of Nursing \*
- Bachelor of Nursing (Post-registration)
- Bachelor of Nursing (Pre-registration)
- Bachelor of Nursing - Community Health
- Bachelor of Nursing - Enrolled Nurse Entry
- Bachelor of Nursing - Enrolled Nurses
- Bachelor of Nursing - Mental Health
- Bachelor of Nursing / Bachelor of Business Administration
- Bachelor of Nursing / Bachelor of Emergency Health - Paramedic
- Bachelor of Nursing / Bachelor of Midwifery \*
- Bachelor of Nursing / Bachelor of Paramedicine
- Bachelor of Nursing / Bachelor of Psychological Science
- Bachelor of Nursing / Bachelor of Public Health and Health Promotion
- Bachelor of Nursing Practice
- Bachelor of Nursing Practice / Bachelor of Midwifery
- Graduate Certificate in Continence Promotion and Management
- Graduate Certificate in Diabetes Education and Health Care
- Graduate Certificate in Electrocardiograph Interpretation

- Graduate Certificate in Mental Health
- Graduate Certificate in Mental Health - Nursing
- Graduate Certificate in Palliative Care
- Graduate Certificate in Public and Community Health
- Graduate Certificate in Transfusion Practice
- Graduate Diploma of Child and Family Health Nursing
- Graduate Diploma of Mental Health
- Graduate Diploma of Mental Health - Nursing
- Graduate Diploma of Mental Health Nursing
- Graduate Diploma of Public and Community Health
- Master of Advanced Nursing - Nurse Practitioner
- Master of Advanced Nursing Practice
- Master of Mental Health \*
- Master of Mental Health - Nursing
- Master of Mental Health Science \*
- Master of Nursing \*
- Master of Nursing - Practice Inquiry
- Master of Nursing Practice \*
- Master of Nursing Practice - Nurse Practitioner
- Master of Nursing Science
- Master of Nursing (By Research) \*
- Master of Philosophy - Nursing (By Research)
- Master of Primary Health Care (By Research)
- Master of Science - Nursing (By Research)
- Vocational Graduate Cert in Advising on Chronic Disease Self Management
- Vocational Graduate Cert in Cosmetic Nursing

### **Employment Opportunities:**

Registered nurses may work in public and private hospitals; community and home-based services such as doctors' surgeries, community health centres and development programmes, and youth and women's shelters; and school and university health clinics. They may also work in remote and rural areas.

Nurses are also employed by the Defence Force, international aid agencies and the Royal Flying Doctor Service. An increasing number of nurses are becoming self-employed as consultants or educators, or working through nursing agencies.

With experience, and sometimes further study, registered nurses may progress to unit manager or nursing manager roles. The increasing variety of specialist services and advances in medical technology have increased the demand for nurses with training and experience in specialist areas.

### **For Further Information:**

Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia  
 1300 419 495  
[www.nursingmidwiferyboard.gov.au](http://www.nursingmidwiferyboard.gov.au)