

## Is this you?

- good communication skills
- able to assume responsibility and a leadership role
- able to take the initiative in emergencies
- tolerance, patience and tact in dealing with people from a wide range of backgrounds and cultures
- able to work as part of a team
- mentally and physically fit
- like variety and flexible hours in your work.

## Careers in Nursing and Midwifery

Nursing and midwifery encompasses the promotion of health, prevention of illness, and the care of individuals of all ages, families, groups, communities, sick or well in all settings. The practice continues to change through research and new technology, providing an exciting and challenging career. There are a variety of specialty fields to work in as well as belonging to a profession that is high in demand, both now and in the future. Plus, the rewards of helping people and making a difference in their lives will provide you with a very satisfying career.

There are number of different pathways and levels of nurses and midwives each with their own study requirements and responsibilities in the workplace:

**Registered Nurses (RNs)** provide care for patients in a variety of health care settings. These include public and private hospitals, community and home-based services, nursing homes and industry.

**Enrolled Nurses (ENs)** work under the supervision of a registered nurse to perform a range of duties in hospitals, nursing homes and a variety of other health care organisations. ENs provide patient care across health, behavioural and general nursing sciences.

**Endorsed Enrolled Nurse (EENs)** are enrolled nurses with extra training who are endorsed to give medication and have extended scope to their practice.

**Registered Midwives or Endorsed Midwives** work in partnership with women to give the necessary support, care and advice during pregnancy, labour and the period after birth, and provide care for the newborn and the infant. A midwife may practice in any setting including the home, community, hospitals, clinics or health units.

### What does a Nurse or Midwife do?

- Provide physical and technical care and support for patients
- Take part in the daily ward round with other nurses/midwives, doctors and allied health
- Make sure patients receive treatment prescribed by health professionals
- Provide emotional and psychological support and information to patients and their families
- Observe, monitor, assess, report and document patients' conditions and responses to treatment
- Give medication in accordance with sound working knowledge of legislation and pharmacology

*“Working here has given me several opportunities for career advancement and networking. It is rewarding helping patients and their loved ones during difficult times.”*

*Annette Barnes, Oncology Nurse*



- Monitor and adjust medical equipment used in patient care and treatment, some highly technical and complex
- Prepare patients for operations or provide post-operative care such as wound care and nutritional management
- Assist in the rehabilitation and discharge planning of patients
- Provide ongoing support and care in response to patients needs
- Contribute to the clinical training of nursing or midwifery students
- Supervise enrolled or assistant nurses and other hospital staff.

## Where can Nurses and Midwives work in Queensland Health?

Queensland Health delivers a range of integrated services including hospital inpatient, outpatient and emergency services, community and mental health services, aged care services and public health and health promotion programs. Nurses and Midwives in Queensland Health have so many options, such as working in a large metropolitan teaching hospital, the adventure of working in a small remote area hospital, or providing health information on the 13 HEALTH hotline.

## Can a Nurse or Midwife specialise?

No two careers are the same for a nurse or midwife! There are many options for nurses and midwives to focus their career:

### Nurses:

There is a wide range of areas that a nurse can specialise in and those which are in high demand are:

- **Emergency** – working in an emergency department, nurses attend to an incredible range of trauma and other extreme situations requiring medical intervention
- **Critical Care** – the provision of primary care for the most seriously ill patients, often on life support, and working in a variety of settings such as coronary care, emergency, high dependency, and intensive care units
- **Oncology** – specialising in the care of patients with cancer
- **Mental Health** – the provision of nursing care to patients with mental and emotional problems who are undergoing treatment and support in hospitals, clinics, community settings or private homes.

Here are just some of the other areas nurses can specialise:

- Aged Care
- Cardiothoracic
- Community Health
- Drug and Alcohol
- Infectious Diseases
- Neuroscience
- Neonatal Intensive Care
- Orthopaedics
- Paediatrics
- Peri-operative
- Public Health
- Rehabilitation
- Rural and Remote
- Renal
- Sexual Health
- School Based Youth Health
- Transplant

### Midwives:

Midwives can work across a number of areas within midwifery, including:

- Antenatal care
- Post natal care
- Community Child Health
- Labour ward
- Neonatal Intensive Care
- Health counselling and education

Nurses and midwives with many years of experience in a particular specialty can with extra training and education become a nurse practitioner.

## How do you become a Nurse or Midwife?

To become an enrolled nurse or endorsed enrolled nurse, you are required to complete Year 12 with passes in English and at least one science subject, plus completion of a Diploma of Nursing (Enrolment through TAFE Queensland).

To become a registered nurse, you must complete a Bachelor Degree in Nursing. To become a midwife you can complete a similar degree in midwifery, or enrol in a post-graduate diploma of midwifery after completing your nursing degree, or complete an undergraduate double degree in midwifery and nursing. To get into these courses, you will need to complete Year 12 with passes in English and some of the following: biological science; physical education; chemistry; physics; and mathematics. The various Queensland universities have different prerequisites and some have flexible entry requirements or offer external study.

Nurses and midwives are required to register with the Nurses' Registration Board in the state or territory where they wish to work. In Queensland the registration board is the Queensland Nursing Council [www.qnc.qld.gov.au](http://www.qnc.qld.gov.au)

## What scholarships are available?

Follow the links from the Education and Training section on [www.thinknursing.com](http://www.thinknursing.com) to find out more about nursing cadetships and scholarships. Also check out the respective tertiary institutes' website for details about their scholarships.

## What graduate opportunities are available?

For registered nurse graduates seeking a position with Queensland Health there is a centralised online recruitment system for submitting applications. All applications for graduate nurse positions in Queensland Health facilities must be submitted via this online system. For more information about graduate programs and to access the online application system, go to the Queensland Health website [www.health.qld.gov.au/gnor](http://www.health.qld.gov.au/gnor)

## Is it possible to get work experience while studying?

Yes it is, for more information go to [www.thinknursing.com](http://www.thinknursing.com)

## Interested in other Nursing and Midwifery careers?

Visit the Queensland Health Work For Us website [www.health.qld.gov.au/workforus](http://www.health.qld.gov.au/workforus) for more **Careers in health** fact sheets – Nursing series:

- Telenursing

## Where can I find out more info?

Visit [www.thinknursing.com](http://www.thinknursing.com) for comprehensive information on nursing and midwifery careers, information on Starting Out, education and training and more. There's even a online community for nurses or those interested in nursing to connect.

**To find out more about the exciting career opportunities Queensland Health can offer you go to [www.health.qld.gov.au/workforus](http://www.health.qld.gov.au/workforus)**