FACT SHEET

Nursing

Enrolled nursing

Enrolled nurses assist in the provision of nursing care under the supervision of a Registered Nurse. ENs apply skills and knowledge required to provide nursing care for people across the health sector, which may be in either public or private hospitals, aged-care facilities or other health-care settings.

To work as an EN, a Diploma of Nursing and registration with the Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia is required, allowing the EN to practice across a wide range of clinical and community settings. A Diploma of Nursing can be completed within the vocational education and training sector and generally takes 12 to 18 months.

Before being accepted into the course, you will be required to sit literacy and numeracy assessments and may also need other pre-requisites such as passes in high school English and maths. You may also need to undertake one of the following:

- STAT test for mature age applicants through Tertiary Institution Service Centre;
- ATAR subjects at secondary school;
- Certificate IV Health Science Foundation;
- Certificate IV Preparation for entry into Enrolled Nursing; or
- Certificate II or III of General Education for Adults.

To find a training provider for any of the Certificate qualifications in your area, use the TAFE Full Time Studies Guide or visit myskills.gov.au. Once you are qualified as an EN you can become a registered nurse with further study.

Registered nursing

The core element of working as a Registered nurse is providing and coordinating the care to patients. There are many specialised areas within the nursing profession such as mental health, aged care, emergency and occupational health and safety.

For information on nursing career opportunities visit the Department of Health’s nursing and midwifery website.

Registered nurses need to obtain a Bachelor of Science (Nursing), which is usually studied over three years. Once completed you are eligible to register with the Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia. The responsibilities of a registered nurse vary from direct patient care to coordination of care delivery, health promotion, research, management and education.

Qualifications are available through Western Australian universities. It is important to speak to the university directly to ensure that you have the most up to date information on entrance requirements and methods. There are often multiple pathways into university courses and most universities offer bridging pathways or preparation courses.

Refresher and re-entry to nursing programs

Nursing refresher programs are designed for enrolled nurses, registered nurses and midwives who have not worked in a clinical setting but still hold their registration with the Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia (NMBA). Re-entry to nursing and midwifery programs (formally known as re-registration programs) are for those whose registration with the NMBA or NMBA New Zealand Board has lapsed. Nurses and midwives who wish to regain their registration can only undertake re-entry programs that have been approved by the Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia. For
more advice visit the WA Nursing and Midwifery Office website.

**Migrants with registered nursing and midwifery qualifications**

Migrants are required to have their qualifications assessed for employment. Where qualifications are assessed as equivalent to Australian standards, the applicant is then able to apply for registration with the Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia. For more information on moving to Western Australia to work in the health sector see nursing.health.wa.gov.au/moving.

**Useful websites:**

- chnwa.org.au – the professional association for Community Health Nurses in Western Australia.

**Find out more:**

T: 13 64 64

T: (08) 9225 7831 (hearing impaired only)

W: careercentre.dtwd.wa.gov.au

E: career.centre@dtwd.wa.gov.au

Web Chat: Chat Online

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