

Nursing and midwifery A career with choice

Sign up for a career that offers:

- great pay and conditions
- varied roles and work settings
- career advancement opportunities.

Match your career with your lifestyle

Few professions can offer the diversity of nursing and midwifery, allowing you to match your career with your lifestyle.

Varied working hours with the flexibility of shift work means that nurses and midwives can choose to work part-time, leaving time for family commitments, travel or other interests.

Choose diversity

Nursing and midwifery offers many and varied opportunities across multiple settings not only for school leavers, but for people of any age or with previous work experience looking to enter this workforce.

While traditionally nurses and midwives worked in hospitals, they now work across multiple settings including general practice clinics, community-based services and aged-care services. Based on the needs of the community, there are growing opportunities in areas such as rural, aged-care and chronic disease management. There are also opportunities to work in research, education/teaching, management, quality and risk management and policy areas.

Make a difference

Nurses and midwives make a positive and lasting contribution, not only to the people they care for, but to the whole community. They do this through their roles as carers, advocates and educators, working within a team of skilled health professionals.



Being a nurse or midwife is a rewarding career, but it's important to know if it's the right career choice for you. In addition to having the relevant knowledge and skills, nurses and midwives need to be compassionate, caring and flexible.

Join a respected profession

As part of the healthcare team, nurses and midwives are essential to the community's health and wellbeing, playing a critical role in delivering safe, compassionate and quality care.

Nursing and midwifery is consistently voted as the most ethical and honest profession in Australia. Nurses and midwives are highly valued for the range and extent of skills and knowledge they possess.

Fast track your career

There are career advancement opportunities in every area of nursing and midwifery so you can always progress professionally and financially.

Nurse practitioners, for example, are nurses who have reached the peak of clinical practice. They are able to diagnose and manage clients in their own right and have special authority to do things that other nurses are not able to, such as prescribing medicines.

Eligible midwives are privately practising midwives who have met certain requirements in order to be endorsed. Eligible midwives are able to order ultrasounds, pathology tests and prescribe medicines.

Becoming a nurse or midwife

In Australia, there are two levels of registration:

- Registered nurses and midwives are degree-qualified through the tertiary education sector
- Enrolled nurses hold a minimum diploma from the Vocational Education Training sector.

Courses for nursing and midwifery combine theory with clinical experience. Student nurses and midwives study in areas such as clinical practice, anatomy, physiology, ethics, law, physics, chemistry, psychology, research and communications.

All nursing and midwifery courses include a mandatory, unpaid clinical practice component that generally involves spending blocks of time (days or weeks) working alongside experienced nurses or midwives in a range of health service settings.

Registered nurse

Three-year degrees in nursing are available in many universities and a higher education provider (Holmesglen Institute) within Victoria.

Nursing qualifications can be combined with other disciplines such as paramedicine, law, marketing, health promotion or psychology, providing even more possibilities for interesting work and dual careers.

Enrolled nurse

In Victoria, enrolled nurses are highly valued and more training opportunities and innovative roles for enrolled nurses have been created. In fact, Victoria has the greatest number of enrolled nurses across Australia and we are planning to have more.

After completing a Diploma in Nursing and registering with the Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia, enrolled nurses can begin work in a variety of settings and clinical environments.

Enrolled nurses can practice in a large number of areas. These include working in acute or specialised settings such as emergency

departments, nurseries, maternity units and operating theatres.

Registered midwife

In midwifery, there are career pathways both in the hospital and in the community, where midwives care for women through pregnancy, labour and birth, and the postnatal period.

There are currently three pathways offered into midwifery in Victoria:

- three-year degrees in midwifery
- double degrees (nursing and midwifery)
- postgraduate qualification in midwifery for already registered nurses.

Midwives can work in a range of areas and some midwives go on to complete additional qualifications to work as eligible midwives. Dual registered nurses and midwives can work as maternal and child health nurses and can go on to complete further studies in neonatal intensive care nursing.