

Nursing in Victoria – Career Pathways

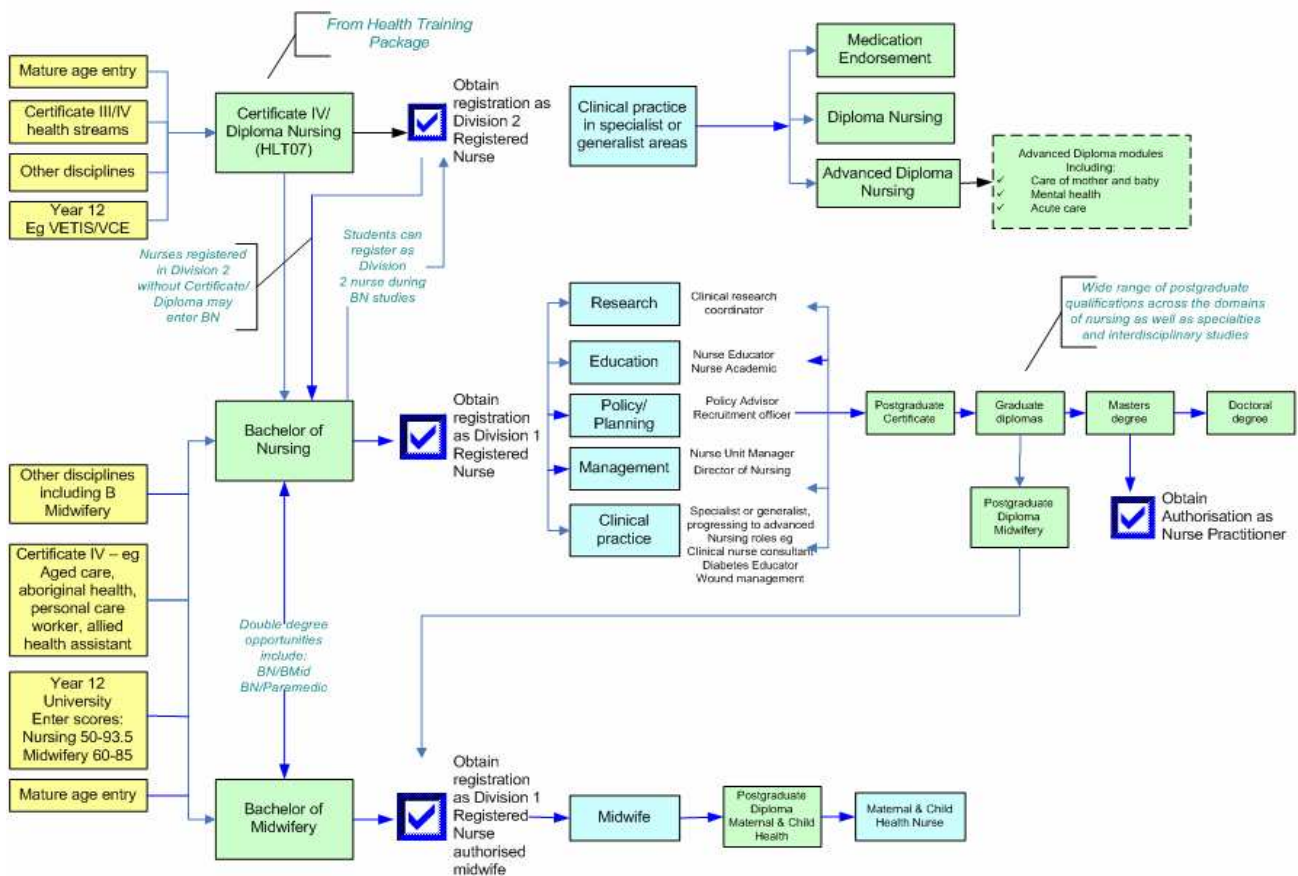
www.health.vic.gov.au/nursing

Becoming a Nursing or Midwife

In Australia, there are two levels of registered nurses:

- Division 1 – prepared at a minimum Bachelor degree level through the tertiary education sector (includes midwives), and
- Division 2 – also known as an Enrolled Nurse in other states and territories, prepared with a minimum Certificate IV qualification from the Health Training Package in the VET sector.

There are flexible pathways for entering nursing and midwifery and for articulating to other training or qualifications.



Where are nurses employed?

The undergraduate nursing preparation at the bachelor degree level is a comprehensive program that provides students with the skills and knowledge to competently practise in a wide variety of health, aged care and community settings.

Nurses are very highly respected in Australia. Indeed, the nursing profession is seen by the Australian public as the most ethical and honest profession in Australia a position it has maintained , every year since being included on a national public survey in 1994 (Roy Morgan, Image of Professions Survey 2008).

Nursing and midwifery is a highly flexible, portable and varied occupation leading to employment in:

- *Hospitals, large and small; public or private; metropolitan and regional and remote*
- *Community health*
- *Industry (eg. OH&S) and commerce*
- *Education and research sectors*
- *Government and policy*

After being registered, nurses can chose to practice in a wide variety of areas/specialties including:

- *Aged care or gerontology*
- *Acute care eg. Critical care, emergency, peri-operative*
- *Cancer, palliative care, renal*
- *Rehabilitation*
- *General practice, district nursing and domiciliary care*
- *Midwifery(maternity services) & maternal and child health*
- *Mental health*

Many of these areas have postgraduate education courses available to assist nurses to formalise their more specialised skills and knowledge. Credit entitlements may apply where there is articulation between qualifications and education sectors.

Further information:

Applying for a nursing or midwifery course:

Courses are offered through campuses in all metropolitan and rural regions. A list of accredited training providers for division 1 and 2 qualifications (including midwifery) is available from the Nurses Board of Victoria website www.nbv.org.au

School leavers are advised to read the VTAC guide and seek further information from university and VET (TAFE) provider websites.

Adult applicants, those holding qualifications and division 2 registered nurses should seek information from training providers about the process, timelines for applying and credit entitlements.

Note: Not all VET providers allocate places through the VTAC process.

Qualifications leading to registration include a mandatory unpaid clinical practice component (students in traineeships are paid an agreed training wage).

Students must have a police check prior to undertaking clinical practice.

Cost of training:

Nursing is a National Priority Area in education. Students in Commonwealth Supported Places pay the minimum student contribution (HECS) for subjects in the nursing cluster.

Generally, students in government funded training in the VET sector pay a small administration fee. Fees and charges in the VET sector are currently under review. Division 2 training may also be provided on a fee for service basis.