

Aged care (gerontic) nursing

Lead the way in quality care

World populations are ageing – **dynamic, committed, well informed aged care nurses are in huge demand, both in Australia and internationally.**

Aged care (or gerontic) nurses can work in many different locations, including acute hospitals, community, residential care, rehabilitation, psychiatric and palliative care.

As the majority of users of the health care system are older people, **this field of nursing is growing and the specialist expertise required is rapidly being recognised and is in increasing demand** in the healthcare sector.

Aged care nurses represent the **broad range of skills involved in the art and science of nursing.** Older people more often present with multiple challenges including diseases, disabilities and social and psychological losses. This demands immense knowledge from nurses.

On the other hand, the life experience of older patients can teach the nurse in many ways.

A holistic approach to care

In longer term aged care settings nurses have the opportunity to **form care relationships** and **provide holistic care** in a way that isn't possible in acute care or short stay care.

Working with older people also provides great opportunities to **work in multidisciplinary teams and with families.**

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Electives in gerontic/aged care nursing may be available in your nursing course and there are many **post graduate and other development opportunities** in aged care.

'The rapport that you gain with the residents and their extended family further seals your job satisfaction.'

Quote from a graduate nurse – 2006

To excel in the nursing of older people requires **specialist understanding.** You may need to; undertake comprehensive assessment, plan, implement and evaluate care in partnership with clients and families. You will have opportunities to teach others, use the latest research and lobby for continuing improvement in standards.

Overseas, gerontic nurses have often **pioneered advanced practice and new models of care delivery** and some of the most successful Nurse Practitioners are working with older people.

You can **combine aged care nursing** with primary health care, community nursing, residential aged care, critical care, emergency, acute, palliation, rehabilitation, rural and remote – in fact any environment in which older people require care.

Wherever you want to live and work – in the country, in the city, overseas or all of the above – you will find **exciting employment as a nurse if you have expertise in aged care.**