

Nursing specialities

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opportunities



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Emergency nursing

Emergency nurses work with people in emergency situations who have a range of illnesses, injuries and trauma. This includes medical and surgical problems, paediatric conditions, obstetric and gynaecological conditions, and many others. Emergency nursing involves a high interface with technology such as monitors, dialysis, and medication pumps, and incorporates a team approach to care delivery. Emergency nursing involves teamwork and prioritisation skills.

Emergency nursing is one of the few areas that allow nurses to be a generalist and a specialist at the same time.

Further study, experience in acute medical and surgical nursing is highly valued. A Graduate Certificate or Diploma of Emergency Nursing are offered at various universities, and are affiliated with a number of hospitals throughout metropolitan Melbourne and regional Victoria.

Midwifery

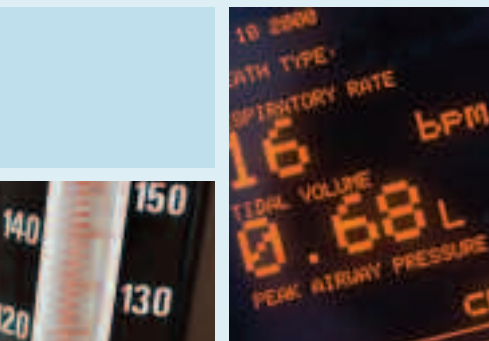
A midwife works in partnership with women by providing care, education, and support during pregnancy, birth and post birth. Midwives work with the woman and her partner and family to encourage their involvement in all decision-making, including mode of care, and the promotion of choice in care provider. Midwives are highly skilled practitioners who can work in a community setting, hospitals, birth centres, special care nurseries and at home.

There are a number of different entry paths to graduate as a midwife such as a Graduate Diploma in Midwifery, Bachelor of Midwifery or Bachelor of Nursing/Midwifery. Courses are offered throughout metropolitan and rural universities. Clinical practicum components of the course are in hospital and community settings affiliated with each university.

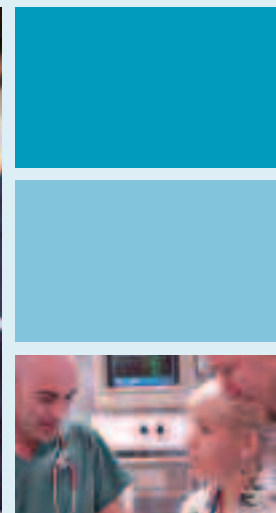
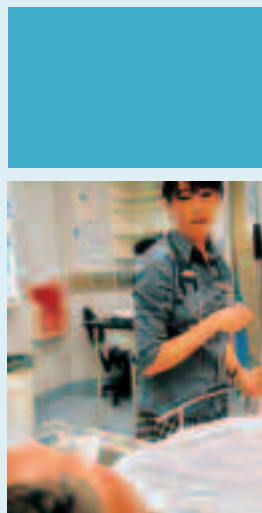
Neurosciences

Neuroscience nursing encompasses neurosurgical and neurological nursing. Conditions treated may be acute in nature, such as head injuries, brain haemorrhages, stroke or spinal injury (acute or chronic) and debilitating diseases such as Multiple Sclerosis, Motor Neurone disease and Parkinson's disease.

Neuroscience is expanding and is practiced in a variety of settings such as acute hospitals, high dependency areas, operating theatres, rehabilitation and community settings.



www.nursing.vic.gov.au



To enhance your knowledge and skill base and specialise in this area you can enrol in postgraduate studies in neurosciences nursing. Courses are offered by many universities, and are affiliated with many acute hospitals.

Critical care nursing

Critical care nursing has an emphasis on the acute phase of injury and disease. Critical care nurses care for a range of patients, including patients recovering from trauma, cardiac surgery, neurological surgery, organ transplant, respiratory disease and many other conditions.

Critical care nursing involves a high interface with technology such as ventilators, monitors, and dialysis, and incorporates a team approach to care delivery. Working closely with all health colleagues is vital.

Many critical care nurses complete a Graduate Certificate or Diploma of Critical Care Nursing. A post-graduate critical care qualification is highly desirable and will further enhance knowledge and skill in this area. Courses are offered at various universities, and are affiliated with a number of hospitals throughout metropolitan Melbourne and regional Victoria.

Psychiatric nursing (mental health nursing)

Mental health nursing is an exciting and challenging nursing specialty. Mental health nurses treat and care for people with mental illness and disorders.

Mental health nurses offer a range of clinical interventions aimed at promoting the individual's wellbeing, aiding in their recovery from illness and enhancing their capacity to participate in community life.

Mental health nurses work in a variety of settings, including acute in-patients units, residential and

non-residential rehabilitation programs, community-based teams including crisis interventions, emergency departments, the forensic system, training and education. Graduates of comprehensive nursing undergraduate courses are eligible to practice in the mental health field. Postgraduate qualifications are widely considered to be an advantage as they further equip nurses for specialist mental health practice. Postgraduate courses in mental health nursing are available at universities and are affiliated with many hospitals.

Registered nurses (division 2) wishing to work in mental health are encouraged to complete the post basic module in mental health nursing available through TAFE colleges and other registered training providers.

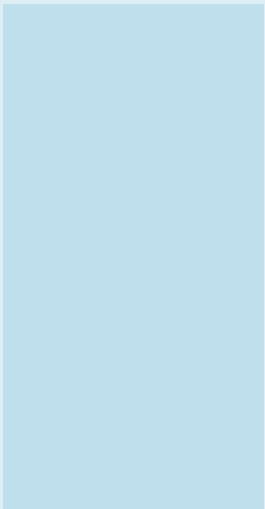
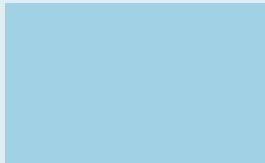
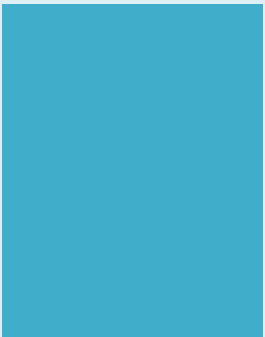
Maternal and child health nursing

Maternal and child health nurses work with families of children from birth to school age. They support families during this often-challenging phase of parenting. Maternal and child health nurses work with the community in a primary health care role with an emphasis on early detection, interventions and preventions of physical, emotional and social issues affecting children and families.

Maternal and child health nurses need to be able to relate to all families including Indigenous, culturally and linguistically diverse and socially disadvantaged families.

Most maternal and child health nurses work with local government from maternal and child health care centres.

Victorian registration as a division 1 registered nurse and endorsement as a midwife is the prerequisite for entry to postgraduate Diploma or Masters Degree courses in Child



A nursing career

and Family Health. Before undertaking this study, experience in general nursing and midwifery is essential.

Neonatal intensive care nursing

Neonatal nurses care for newborn babies (pre-term or term babies) who are sick or have complications from birth. This is an exciting, highly technical and challenging area of nursing which requires not only consideration for the care of the baby but also an ability to provide care and support to the whole family.

Neonatal nurses work mainly in hospitals that provide this speciality area of care, in neonatal intensive care units across the State

There are a variety of pathways that lead to neonatal intensive care nursing. After completing a Bachelor of Nursing degree, graduates can apply to a specialised introductory program conducted by Neonatal Intensive Care Units, assisting the nurses to make a smooth transition. A number of postgraduate courses in neonatal nursing are available from universities. These qualifications are highly regarded by employers and other colleagues.

Remote area nursing

Remote area nurses practice in isolated areas of Victoria. They often work autonomously, or as part of a small team and refer patients to other areas or disciplines for further interventions.

Remote area nurses provide holistic health care within a collaborative care framework. They are required to respond to emergency incidents without access to a medical practitioner.

Most services require nurses with at least five years postgraduate experience before venturing into remote

area practice. Previous experience in emergency/critical care, palliative care, community health, and midwifery is highly desirable.

Remote area nurses in Victoria are required to attend an annual competency based education program based on the Victorian Emergency Guidelines for Remote Area Nurses.

Nurse practitioners

In Victoria, a nurse practitioner is a registered nurse educated for advanced and extended practice. The nurse practitioner role is at the peak of clinical nursing practice. The role extends clinical nursing practice and may include prescribing medications, initiating diagnostic imaging and laboratory testing, referring to specialists, and admitting and discharging consumers.

The role incorporates core nursing components including advanced clinical assessment and treatment approaches, education, counselling, research, quality improvement, administration and management.

This is a new role in Victoria. Nurses from any speciality area may advance their practice to become nurse practitioners.

dynamic,
be challenged



you can
make a
difference



Useful websites:

Nurse Policy Branch: www.nursing.vic.gov.au

Telephone: 9616 7528

Nurses Board of Victoria: www.nbv.org.au

Telephone: 8635 1200

Educational contacts:

TAFE Course Directory: www.tafe.vic.gov.au

Australian Catholic University: www.acu.edu.au

Monash University: www.monash.edu.au

Deakin University: www.deakin.edu.au

La Trobe University: www.latrobe.edu.au

RMIT University: www.rmit.edu.au

University of Ballarat: www.ballarat.edu.au

Victoria University: www.vu.edu.au

University of Melbourne: www.unimelb.edu.au

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