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| Making it free to study Nursing and Midwifery Information brief – Increased graduate nurse and midwife support September 2022  **OFFICIAL** |

## Background

Victoria’s healthcare workforce faces long-standing pressures that have been exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic. Amid increased demand for care, ongoing action is needed to address issues regarding the supply and distribution of the healthcare workforce. The Victorian Government is implementing a range of initiatives to support Victoria’s healthcare workforce, including free university and specialist training for thousands of nurses and midwives.

This initiative aims to boost the health system, with more than 17,000 nurses and midwives recruited and trained as part of a massive hiring and upskilling initiative – building an army of home-grown health workers to care for Victorians.

**This component of the package provides additional funding for nursing and midwifery graduate programs delivered by public health services. The department will provide more information on funding arrangements to health services directly in September 2022.**

## Funding purpose

Graduate nursing and midwifery programs support new graduates to transition to practice and are a key component of the nursing workforce supply pipeline. This initiative will provide additional funding to health services (above recurrent training and development funding) to support more places in nursing and midwifery graduate programs.

## Funding principles

This funding builds on investment provided via the training and development grant and is available to health services providing formal graduate programs for new graduates of professional entry courses that lead to initial registration as a registered nurse and/or midwife.

This funding will contribute to the cost of an additional 225 positions in 2022-23 and an additional 250 positions in 2023-24. Total funding for the next two years will support:

* 2,114 graduate positions in 2022-23
* 2,139 graduate positions in 2023-24.

## Funding eligibility

Funding is available to health services that provide formal graduate programs for new graduates of professional-entry courses that lead to initial registration as a registered nurse and/or midwife. More details are available in the training and development funding guidelines published by the department.