Country Graduate Nurse and Midwife Programs

It can take you anywhere.

WA Country Health Service
The WA Country Health Service (WACHS) is the single largest country health system in Australia, delivering public health services to around half a million people in Western Australia’s rural and remote regions.

WA Country Health Service comprises of seven regions – Kimberley, Pilbara, Midwest, Goldfields, Wheatbelt, Great Southern and South West, supported by an Area Office in Perth. WA Country Health Service employs graduates within all regions and across a wide range of practice environments. There are programs based at a variety of hospitals from large regional resource centres to small rural health facilities, as well as a range of rotational programs across multiple sites. Depending upon the program chosen, experiences may include high and low acuity surgical and medical care, remote area rotations, aged care and specialty practice environments including theatre, paediatrics, emergency, palliative care and maternity. In addition, there are opportunities available within the mental health area. You are sure to find something to suit you in the country.

It is an excellent opportunity that will enhance your nursing career. You will gain an understanding of many different areas of nursing plus make life-long friends.

Charlotte, Port Hedland
Graduate RN Programs

are offered in the:
- Kimberley
- Pilbara
- Midwest
- Goldfields
- Wheatbelt
- Great Southern
- South West.

Each region has a range of hospitals which run programs, and a number of these offer opportunities to rotate to smaller district hospitals or remote sites. RN graduates have the opportunity to undertake an optional pathway and be awarded a Graduate Certificate in Clinical Nursing on completion of their program.

The State-wide Mental Health Graduate Nurse Program offers opportunities for graduate RN’s to rotate to country areas, for graduates interested in rural mental health nursing.

As new country RN & EN programs are constantly being developed all current opportunities may not be listed. For a current list of sites and local contact details, for information on the unique aspects of each WACHS graduate program location and to keep informed about ongoing initiatives relating to country graduate nurse programs, visit: www.wacountry.health.wa.gov.au/graduatенurse

Graduate EN Programs

are offered in the:
- Pilbara
- Midwest
- Great Southern.

Graduate Midwife Programs

These are available in most WACHS regions. For locations and details, visit: www.wacountry.health.wa.gov.au/graduatemidwife

A Country Graduate Program

Will offer you…
- a supportive environment as you consolidate theory into clinical practice
- a range of experiences to broaden your clinical skills and knowledge base
- experience and skill development required for rural and/or remote practice
- a structured, competency and assessment based program
- the opportunity for professional growth
- extra financial and leave benefits (depending upon location).

Will include…
- clinical rotations
- supernumerary days
- funded professional development days
- corporate & clinical orientation
- tutorials/workshops/education sessions
- preceptorship/mentoring
- minimum 12 months employment
- opportunities for ongoing employment, including 2nd year programs in some sites.
More than just a job, it’s a lifestyle…

As well as offering you a great start to your career, a country graduate program offers you the chance to:

- meet new people and make new friends
- explore all WA has to offer
- enjoy the relaxed and friendly lifestyle
- work with a strong sense of community
- experience our rich and diverse cultural heritage
- enjoy fantastic recreation opportunities.

The big move…

Moving to a new place can be a bit overwhelming. We can help you settle into your new home, with some sites offering subsidised staff accommodation. The following booklets may be useful:

Living in country WA www.wacountry.health.wa.gov.au/livingincountrywa


How do I apply?

Graduate Nurse Connect and Graduate Midwife Connect are the online recruitment systems for graduate nurses and midwives applying for a position within the WA public health sector. WACHS recruits through this system.

The majority of Graduate RN recruitment occurs in July for the whole of the next calendar year (if vacancies exist after this time, recruitment occurs again in March for the current year).

Graduate EN and Graduate Midwife recruitment occurs in July (for intakes in January/February) and March (for intakes in July/August).

As recruitment dates are subject to change, please check the website. For details on how to apply, please see Graduate Nurse Connect and Graduate Midwife Connect:

www.gnc.health.wa.gov.au

How do I find out more?

Enquires regarding country graduate programs are welcome at any time of the year.

Email: WACHSgradnurse@health.wa.gov.au

Web: www.wacountry.health.wa.gov.au/graduatenurse

Phone: 0438 933 852

My graduate program has given me the chance to develop additional skills different from those in a metro program. I have also had a chance to get out of my comfort zone both professionally and personally.

Sally, Kalgoorlie

Produced by WACHS © Department of Health 2011

This document can be made available in alternative formats on request for a person with a disability.