



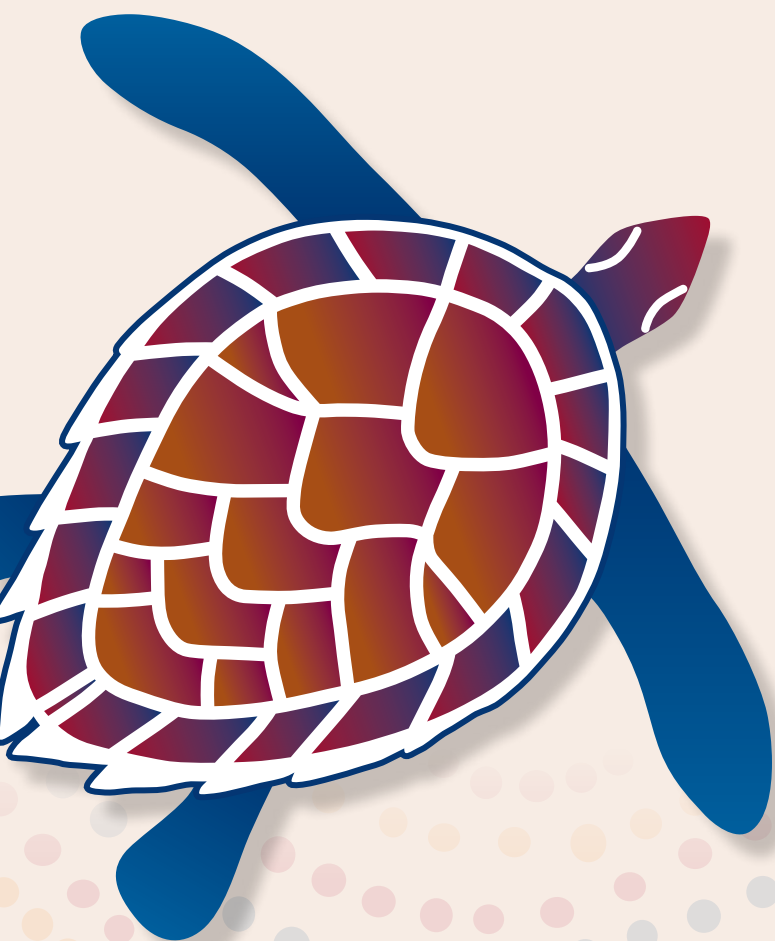
Government of **Western Australia**  
Department of **Health**

# Aboriginal Pathways

Getting a job in WA Health



[health.wa.gov.au](http://health.wa.gov.au)



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DOCTOR

ROYAL  
STANLEY  
HOSPITAL



# 1. Introduction

“I went into medicine because I wanted to make a difference and help my community at the same time. I want to be a role model for other Aboriginal people thinking about university and doing a degree.”

Gemma, WA Health (Junior Doctor)

By working at WA Health you can be part of a 44,000-strong team that is committed to providing world-class public health care to ensure healthier, longer and better lives for all Western Australians.

It is not only rewarding but comes with a competitive salary, supportive work environment, like-minded people and can be highly enjoyable. When you work at WA Health, no matter what your role is, you're part of a team that keeps all Western Australians healthy.

Whether you're at school, college, university or just looking for something new, there are over 150 different jobs available within WA Health across the State.

WA Health needs more Aboriginal people to join the workforce across all levels, in a variety of jobs in health. Developing a strong, skilled and growing Aboriginal health workforce is one of our key priorities.

A job with WA Health offers:

- a range of salaries and entitlements
- a professional place to work
- work roles that are rewarding and challenging
- supportive, family-friendly settings
- leadership and professional development programs
- experience in a range of clinical and non-clinical settings
- education and training opportunities
- flexible work and leave arrangements
- opportunities for a lifelong career.



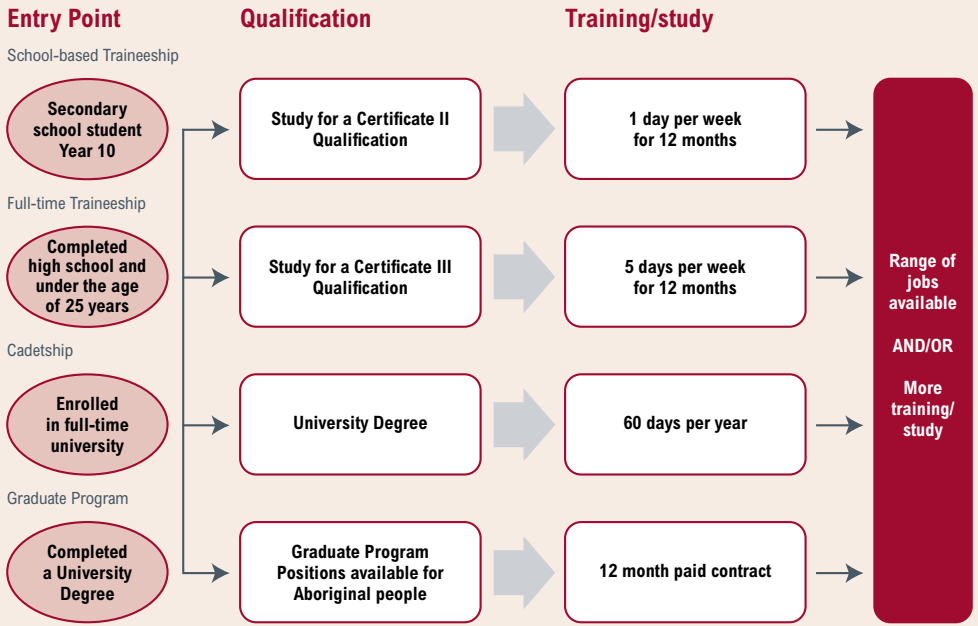
Making a decision about your future job and career is not always easy. There are some helpful people and organisations that can support and assist you, including:

- your school career counsellor or guidance officer
- Vocational Education and Training (VET) coordinator
- work experience programs such as Get Real Experience and Try (GREaT) <http://ww2.health.wa.gov.au/Careers/Occupations/Nursing-and-midwifery/Become-a-nurse-or-midwife/Work-experience-nursing-and-midwifery>
- Health Heroes website [www.healthheroes.health.gov.au](http://www.healthheroes.health.gov.au)
- WA Health website <http://ww2.health.wa.gov.au/Careers>
- University camps for year 11 and 12 students
- career days at school, VET or universities.



# Pathways

To get a job with WA Health, the experience and qualifications you need will be different depending on the role. Requirements range from a certificate level course to a university degree. There are a number of different pathways you can take to get a job with WA Health including traineeships, cadetships, apprenticeships, previous work experience and on-the-job training.







## 2. Traineeships

If you want to get a job with WA Health whilst you're still at school or if you have already left school there are two options open to you:

- school-based, part-time, Aboriginal traineeship
- full-time, Aboriginal traineeship.

Aboriginal traineeships teach the skills you need to gain and keep your new job. At WA Health, traineeships help us recruit Aboriginal people and develop their skills and abilities while they work towards getting their formal qualifications.

### 1. School-based, part-time, Aboriginal traineeship

This program starts in year 11 and finishes at the end of year 12. Over two years you will spend one to two days every week out of the classroom, in a work environment. You will learn a range of administrative and office skills through supervised on-the-job training. When you successfully complete the traineeship you will achieve a nationally recognised certificate qualification.

### 2. Full-time, Aboriginal traineeships

If you choose to do a full-time traineeship you will be paid a fortnightly wage during the year long program. The traineeship will enable you to develop skills in public administration and build a career pathway. When you successfully complete the traineeship you will receive a national or industry recognised qualification, a Certificate II, III or IV. While we cannot guarantee you a job at this stage, WA Health will work with you to identify ongoing employment opportunities.

If you are interested in a traineeship, WA Health recruits Aboriginal trainees from the Public Sector Traineeship Program. The Aboriginal Traineeship Program is an employment-based training initiative that provides young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, 24 years of age and under, with an opportunity to develop public administration skills and competencies through a Government traineeship.

Refer to the Public Sector Commission Aboriginal Traineeship Program for more information. Contact: Aboriginal Employment Branch, Public Sector Commission, phone: 6552 8937.  
Email: [aboriginalemployment@psc.wa.gov.au](mailto:aboriginalemployment@psc.wa.gov.au)

### 3. On the job training

If you want to come into WA Health from school or another workplace there are a range of jobs you can apply for and commence straight away. Training is on the job so you won't need a qualification and you can start work without previous experience.

Job title	Overview of the job	Length of training
Administrative Assistant/General Clerk	Perform a variety of administrative tasks that may include invoicing, archiving, calendar management, reporting and customer service.	On the job
Allied Health Assistant	Work with inpatients and outpatients, general care, rehabilitation, aged and community care under the delegation of the allied health professionals (such as physiotherapist, occupational therapists, dietitians, podiatrists etc.)	On the job

<b>Job title</b>	<b>Overview of the job</b>	<b>Length of training</b>
Aboriginal Health Liaison Officer	Work in the hospital to assist and support Aboriginal patients to understand their illness and treatment as well as helping them to go home.	On the job
Patient Support Services Worker	Assist patients with repositioning in bed or transfer from bed to chair/wheelchair. Assist with transport of patients around the hospital to appointments.	On the job
Hospital Cleaner	Provide a 24 hour cleaning service to the hospital by maintaining public areas, including toilets and lifts, clean ward areas and floors.	On the job
Catering	Prepare and deliver meals and snacks to hospital patients.	On the job
Linen Assistants	Deliver clean linen to wards and departments for patients' use.	On the job
Drivers	Transport of patients to other hospitals/health facilities and nursing homes.	On the job
Health Information Service Clerk	Create and maintain patient health records, file documents, make appointments and arrange follow-ups.	On the job

## 4. Vocational jobs in WA Health

The training for vocational jobs is offered throughout WA at registered schools, colleges and other training providers.

The course you're interested in may also be available through an Aboriginal Registered Training Organisation or a training institute that offers health related courses.

A list of providers can be found at the back of this booklet under "Need more information?"

Job title	Overview of the job	Length of training
Assistant in Nursing	Assist in the provision of basic nursing care, while under the supervision and direction of a registered nurse.	12 weeks – Certificate III in Health Service Assistance (Acute Care)
Dental Assistant	Prepare patients for oral examination and help the dentist and other dental workers to provide treatment to teeth, mouth and gums. They also clean and sterilise instruments and may have reception and administration duties.	12 months – Certificate III in Dental Assisting

Job title	Overview of the job	Length of training
Oral Health Therapist	<p>Perform a range of clinical procedures such as oral screening, examinations and restorative fillings on children. Carry out preventive therapies such as fissure sealants, fluoride treatments, diagnosis of gum disease and treatment on adult patients. They also provide oral health promotion within the community and are employed in School Dental Services or in private and specialist practices.</p>	12 months – Certificate III in Dental Assisting
Phlebotomist	<p>Collects suitable samples from patients according to the written pathology tests requested by a Doctor. This includes blood samples, skin scrapes, wound swabs and urine.</p>	6 weeks – Certificate III in Pathology





# 5. University pathways

If you are already studying at university or are keen to get a job with WA Health once you graduate, you could join the WA Health Aboriginal Cadetship Program or the WA Health Graduate Program.

## 1. What is the Aboriginal Cadetship Program?

The WA Health Aboriginal Cadetship Program offers Aboriginal university students the opportunity to gain paid work experience while completing an undergraduate degree.

### Overview

The purpose of the Program is to help Aboriginal people qualify for and obtain employment within WA Health. Cadetships also provide a valuable chance to help WA Health develop highly skilled, tertiary qualified Aboriginal employees.

The Aboriginal Cadetship Program is jointly funded and managed by WA Health and the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (PM&C) through the Indigenous Cadetship Support (ICS) Program. The program aims to improve the professional employment prospects of Aboriginal people by linking students with employers in a cadetship arrangement involving fulltime study and paid work placements.

### How long does the program run for?

As a cadet you will complete 12 weeks (60 days) of work experience each calendar year, normally one day each week per semester and block attendance during semester breaks.

Refer to the WA Health Aboriginal Workforce webpage for more information on the cadetship program and contact details  
<http://ww2.health.wa.gov.au/Careers/Aboriginal-pathways/Aboriginal-Cadetship-Program>

## 2. What is a WA Health Graduate Program?

If you have completed or are about to complete your degree you can apply for a place within one of WA Health's Graduate Programs. These include:

### 2.1 Nursing (Registered and Enrolled) and Midwifery Graduate Program

Graduate programs assist you to transition into the nursing and midwifery workforce in a supportive environment. You will gain exposure to a variety of clinical settings, while putting nursing skills into practice.

Through the online recruitment system GradConnect, newly qualified enrolled nurses, registered nurses and midwives can apply to join a fully paid graduate program at a public hospital, health service or a private hospital. This will allow you to apply for graduate opportunities in all our participating hospitals and health services using just one application.

#### **Do I need to complete a graduate program to practise as a nurse or midwife?**

No – once you have got your degree and are registered to practise as an enrolled nurse, registered nurse or midwife you can get a job in any health facility within Australia. Completing a graduate program is **not compulsory** but does provide an opportunity to gain workplace experience while being paid a full-time wage.

Places within these structured graduate programs are limited and competitive; however joining a graduate program will give you additional support as you move into your first professional role within busy clinical environments.

## 2.2 WA Health Graduate Development Program

WA Health runs a highly successful non-clinical Graduate Development Program over a 12-month period. It will provide you with invaluable, workplace experience as well as paying you a full wage.

We want the best graduates from a broad range of university degrees to join the program and help make a difference to the health and wellbeing of Western Australians.

There are four program streams designed to develop your skills based on your academic background, areas of expertise and personal interests:

### **Finance and Business**

- For finance and business analyst graduates interested in accounting, legislation, compliance, policies and business improvement.

### **Health Information Network**

- For graduates interested in computer systems, business analysis, solutions architecture and application design and development.

### **Workforce Data Analysis**

- For graduates who enjoy data analysis and exploring investigative techniques. You will have the opportunity to be involved in WA Health's key workforce planning projects.

### **General Corporate**

- For all other disciplines where your talents can be used anywhere across the health care system.

## 2.3 WA Health Graduate Development Program – Aboriginal Graduates

The mainstream WA Health Graduate Program actively seeks to recruit talented Aboriginal graduates from a range of non-clinical academic disciplines. The program is designed to give Aboriginal graduates a head start in WA Health by placing significant emphasis on their personal and professional development.

## Who are we after?

We're looking for innovative thinkers and self-motivated high achievers – we want the best Aboriginal graduates in our program who are clear communicators with leadership qualities and able to work well in a team.

## What does the program offer Aboriginal graduates?

- 12-month paid contract with WA Health.
- Extensive professional development including training workshops, executive shadowing and career coaching.
- Fully-funded, industry recognised Diploma of Leadership and Management qualification.
- Three non-clinical rotational placements, providing an opportunity to gain experience in a variety of areas across WA Health.
- Personal support networks consisting of a dedicated program coordinator, supervisors at each placement, an experienced mentor and a buddy who is a past graduate of the program.
- Interactions with fellow graduates who can provide insights and support.

## 3. Scholarships

If you are at university you may be eligible for one of the many scholarships universities offer. Some are open to everyone, while others are designed specifically to support Aboriginal students. Check out the [Indigenous Health InfoNet](#) for a list of scholarships and funding opportunities.

## 4. Bridging courses

If you want to go to university but do not have the necessary qualifications, you can consider doing a bridging course – a short term course designed specifically to help Aboriginal people get into university. All universities in WA offer bridging courses. Contact information on the universities can be found at the back of this booklet.



<b>University</b>	<b>Bridging Course: these courses assist Aboriginal students to enter the university</b>
<b>Curtin University</b>	Indigenous Tertiary Enabling Course is a six months full-time course. This course will provide the skills, qualification and confidence to succeed in an undergraduate course at Curtin University.
<b>Edith Cowan University</b>	The Aboriginal student intake test is a culturally appropriate assessment of skills and knowledge, which facilitates the fast tracking of Indigenous students into a bridging or undergraduate course at Edith Cowan University.
<b>Murdoch University</b>	K-Track is the first half of a two-part bridging program. It consists of three modules, taught over three days per week. These modules will help brush up computer skills, improve writing ability and develop capacity to think critically and scientifically.
<b>University of Western Australia</b>	Aboriginal Orientation Course is a 12 month enabling course, which has both an Arts and a Science stream, which will prepare students for entry to all undergraduate courses at UWA. The Advanced Diploma in Medical and Aboriginal Health Sciences 12 month program is for mature age people to assist their study in health sciences.
<b>University of Notre Dame Australia</b>	The University of Notre Dame Australia has a range of entry pathways and support for Aboriginal students entering the university.

## 6. Support for Aboriginal students

As an Aboriginal student there are extra services available to you at most universities and higher education facilities. The staff are welcoming, supportive and friendly and will be able to give advice on how to join a course and stay on track. Some of the information and services offered include:

- mentoring assistance and cultural support
- financial support through scholarships and Abstudy
- tutoring assistance and access to learning resources and study aids
- information on bridging programs and ways to qualify or enable entry into courses
- general student advice, connection and engagement with other Aboriginal students
- distance learning information
- accommodation and childcare information and assistance.

Look into these free and confidential services and find out how they can assist you on your learning journey. More information is available at the back of this booklet in Section 9.

## 7. Health career profiles: what should I do?

So you want to work with WA Health – that is the easy bit. Now all you need to do is decide what you want to do. As you would expect there are a huge number of occupations to choose from. The job profiles over the next few pages are examples that cover some of the jobs available in health.



# Aboriginal Health Worker

## What do they do?

Aboriginal Health Workers (AHWs) work as a part of a team with other health professionals to give advice, share information and provide support to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. The types of tasks AHWs perform include health checks like blood pressure and blood sugar (glucose), check ears and apply dressings on wounds. This may happen in a clinic or in the community.

## How long does it take to become an Aboriginal health worker?

You need to complete a Certificate IV in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Primary Health Care (Practice) to be an AHW. This course can take up to 12 months. If you successfully complete the Certificate IV in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Primary Health Care (Practice) this allows you to seek registration with the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Authority as Aboriginal Health Practitioner.

## What skills and abilities do I need to be an Aboriginal health worker?

To be an AHW you will need to have an understanding of Aboriginal culture and communities, work well with other people and be able to talk with a patient or other health professionals.

# Aboriginal Mental Health Liaison Officer / Aboriginal Welfare Officer

## What do they do?

Mental health workers provide support and care to patients and families experiencing mental health issues. The type of care provided can involve counselling, rehabilitation, referrals to treatment services and programs for the individual. As a mental health worker you can work in a range of workplaces including in hospitals and the community setting.

## How long does it take to become a mental health worker?

There are a range of study programs provided including the Certificate IV in Mental Health which takes 1 year.

## What skills and abilities do I need to be a mental health worker?

As this job involves working closely with people you require a caring and supportive attitude, excellent communication skills, the ability to relate to people with a wide range of backgrounds, patience, discretion, and mediation skills.



# Clinical Psychologist

## What do they do?

A clinical psychologist works with patients and families to support them to better manage their emotional and personal issues, mental illness or health problems. They work in a range of places that may include hospitals, private practice, schools, government and the community.

## How long does it take to become a clinical psychologist?

You will need to complete a university degree in psychology (4 years) and an additional post graduate degree (Masters) which will take 2 years. Once your studies are finished you are required to work as a registrar under supervision for 2 years.

## What skills and abilities do I need to be a clinical psychologist?

You need to be committed to completing the necessary studies, want to help people, have an interest in knowing how the mind works, and be a good communicator and listener. Being able to maintain the client's trust and confidentiality is very important in this role.

# Dentist

## What do they do?

A dentist works with patients to care for and provide treatments for teeth and gums. This job can include cleaning teeth, repairing or removing teeth, treating infections and diseases, fitting crowns and dentures. Dentists can work in public or private dental clinics in both metropolitan and remote areas.

## How long does it take to become a dentist?

Becoming a dentist involves completing an entry degree (undergraduate) which takes 3 years, and then undertaking further studies (post-graduate) for 4 years to become a Doctor in Dental Medicine. There are a range of specialties that require extra training.

## What skills and abilities do I need to be a dentist?

To be a dentist you need to be able to work with people, be patient and able to concentrate, committed to studies, a good communicator and be organised.

# Dietitian

## What do they do?

A dietitian helps people understand the relationship between food and their health and how to make the right food choices. Dietitians work in a range of places including hospitals, community and private clinics, nursing homes and in government.

## How long does it take to become a dietitian?

A degree at university to become a qualified dietitian takes up to 4 years.

## What skills and abilities do I need to be a dietitian?

You need to have an interest in general health and wellbeing, be committed to studies, enjoy food and food preparation, and have an interest in how food is used by the body. To be a good dietitian you need to be able to relate with people well and work as part of a team with other health professionals.



# Doctor

## What do they do?

As a doctor your role is to diagnose and treat people's illnesses, injuries and diseases in hospitals and the community. Once you qualify as a doctor you can undertake further training to specialise in a particular area. Examples of specialties include general practitioner (GP), obstetrician (pregnancy specialist), paediatrician (child medicine specialist), intensive care or radiologist (x-rays).

## How long does it take to become a doctor?

To become a doctor, you must complete a Doctorate in Medicine. The training requirements can vary across universities. Some universities have a direct entry medical program and others require another degree before doing post graduate studies in medicine to become a Doctor in Medicine.

## What skills and abilities do I need to be a doctor?

To be an effective doctor, you need to be hardworking, dedicated and motivated to study. The job involves working closely with patients and their families in sometimes challenging situations. You require the ability to work under pressure, communicate well with patients, show understanding and sensitivity, make decisions and work in a team with other health professionals.

# Finance/Administration Officer

## What do they do?

As a finance/administration officer, there are a variety of positions available within health and other government departments. These include data entry, maintenance of financial records, electronic and filing of hard copies of documents, payroll, human resources, budgeting and finance, financial reporting, auditing, policy and administrative support.

## How long does it take to become a finance/administration officer?

Some positions may require higher education qualifications for specific areas. Training Institutes also have a range of courses available.

## What skills and abilities do I need to be a finance/administration officer?

You need to be good at maths and have computer skills, have an analytical mind, able to work in a team as well as on your own, be organised, as well as complete work quickly and efficiently. You need to be able to prepare reports, briefing notes and reply to ministerials.

# Nursing and Midwifery

## Enrolled Nurse

### What do they do?

Enrolled Nurses (ENs) provide nursing care to patients under the supervision of the Registered Nurse (RN). This may include care planning, measuring vital signs, screening, giving medications, managing wounds, assisting patients with activities of daily living and providing support to families. ENs also provide care to patients while working in a range of settings such as hospitals and in the community.

### How long does it take to become an enrolled nurse?

You need to complete the Diploma of Nursing at either an Aboriginal training organisation (Marr Mooditj Training) which takes 1.5 years; an equivalent training institute; a private organisation or at Challenger Institute (1 year). Once you become experienced, ENs can apply for an advanced skill classification in their area of specialty such as renal (kidney) care, mental health, perioperative, aged care, anaesthetics and cardiac care.

### What skills and abilities do I need to be an enrolled nurse?

You need to be a confident communicator, a good listener, work well with people, friendly, compassionate and helpful. In this job it helps to be organised and have excellent time management skills, as well as an interest in the care and wellbeing of patients and their families. ENs work closely with RNs and other members of the health care team, so you need to be able to seek advice and learn continually.

# Registered Nurse

## What do they do?

Registered Nurses (RNs) practise independently, providing nursing care which includes the planning and coordination of complex care, promotion and maintenance of health, prevention of illness, administration of medicines and treatments such as managing wounds for patients. This role also involves referral and consultation with other health professionals, supporting families, managing patient health issues or delivery of health promotion and education programs. RNs can work in a range of settings including hospitals, the community, residential care, or in policy, research, management and education.

## How long does it take to become a registered nurse?

There are several pathways to qualify as a RN including:

- become an Enrolled Nurse (EN) first (takes 1 to 1.5 years), followed by completing the EN to RN conversion (takes approximately 2 years)
- enrol in a Bachelor of Science (Nursing) degree (takes 3 to 3.5 years)
- enrol in a dual degree (to become a RN and Midwife) at Edith Cowan University (takes 4 years).

## What skills and abilities do I need to be a registered nurse?

RNs need to take responsibility for the care of patients, problem solve, make decisions sometimes under pressure, and use initiative. It is helpful to have excellent communication skills and be confident in working with people from a wide range of backgrounds and with other health professionals.





# Midwife

## What do they do?

A midwife works in partnership with women and families to provide care, support and advice during pregnancy, labour and after the birth. They provide parenting advice about newborn babies, women's health, sexual and reproductive care. Midwives can work in a range of settings including hospitals, clinics, in a woman's home or in the community.

## How long does it take to become a midwife?

There are a few ways to qualify as a midwife including:

- become a Registered Nurse (RN) first (takes 3 to 3.5 years) and then complete an 18-month postgraduate course in midwifery
- enrol in a dual degree to become a RN and Midwife at Edith Cowan University (which takes four years).

## What skills and abilities do I need to be a midwife?

To be a midwife you need to be caring, have an interest in supporting and advising women during pregnancy and birth, have good communication and listening skills, have confidence to work on your own or in a team of health professionals. It is important in this role to be able to take responsibility and use your initiative when under pressure.

# Occupational Therapist

## What do they do?

An Occupational Therapist (OT) works with patients, families and carers to support them to manage their physical, psychological and social needs due to illness and disability. The range of support may include providing equipment to help with physical needs, develop skills to manage social problems, improve communication skills, and link people to services and programs. OTs make modifications or changes to their client's home and work environments to assist in their everyday life. OTs can work in a range of workplaces including hospitals and the community.

## How long does it take to become an occupational therapist?

To become an OT you need to complete a degree at university that takes 4 years.

## What skills and abilities do I need to be an occupational therapist?

To be an OT you need to be interested in helping patients, families and carers from all walks of life, have good problem solving skills, be a lateral thinker, motivated to study and be able to talk to patients, families and other health professionals.

# Physiotherapist

## What do they do?

A physiotherapist is a health professional involved in preventing and treating injuries or disabilities caused by illness, injury or disease. Physiotherapists work in a range of places including in hospitals and the community.

## How long does it take to become a physiotherapist?

To become a physiotherapist you need to complete a university degree which takes up to 4 years.

## What skills and abilities do I need to be a physiotherapist?

You need an interest in helping people, have patience and a good level of physical fitness. It is important to be able to build rapport and trust with patients and work well with other health professionals, possess problem solving skills, as well as be committed to your studies.



# Policy Officer

## What do they do?

As a policy officer you can work in a range of areas across health and are responsible for planning, developing, reviewing and implementing health policies. A health policy refers to decisions, plans, and actions that are undertaken to achieve specific health care goals within a society.

## How long does it take to become a policy officer?

Policy skills can be developed through a range of disciplines and workplace experiences. A tertiary qualification is desirable but not essential. Relevant undergraduate studies in health and policy can take 3 to 4 years to complete.

## What skills and abilities do I need to be a policy officer?

To be a good policy officer requires having some knowledge and understanding of the particular policy area. Some useful skills and abilities to have include good research, analytical and communication skills, especially in writing. You need to be able to work independently but also be part of a team, be organised, able to meet tight deadlines and work under pressure.

# Project Officer

## What do they do?

A project officer is responsible for planning, coordinating and managing the various steps for setting up a project and reviewing it to see that it successfully works. There are many interesting and varied project officer roles across all areas of health in government, business, hospitals and the community.

## How long does it take to become a project officer?

To become a project officer a university qualification is desirable but not essential. Project officer skills can be developed through a range of studies and workplace experience. You can complete a university degree, undertake studies in a health related course (3 years) or a health promotion/prevention course (1 year).

## What skills and abilities do I need to be a project officer?

To be a good project officer, it is helpful to have strong organisational and planning skills and have the ability to pay attention to details. It is important to understand project methodology, be good at talking and writing plans. The ability to work with people as part of a team or one-on-one, to work under pressure and meet tight deadlines are required skills.

# Social Worker

## What do they do?

Social workers work with patients, families and carers to provide support and advice on managing and solving personal and social problems. They help people to understand and cope with issues in their everyday lives. Assistance may include advice and information on how to access community services, programs and other types of support available. They work in a range of workplaces in hospitals and the community.

## How long does it take to become a social worker?

A 4 year undergraduate degree from a university is required to qualify as a social worker.

## What skills and abilities do I need to be a social worker?

Being caring, patient and compassionate are key attributes required for this job. You need to be able to relate well to patients, families and carers as well as other health professionals. It is important to be a great listener, organised and able to use your judgment to make sound decisions.

# Speech Therapist/Pathologist

## What do they do?

A speech pathologist diagnoses and treats people with communication disorders and assists people to overcome difficulties in speech, language, reading, fluency and using voice.

They work with people who have difficulty communicating because of stroke, brain injury, dementia, learning disability, hearing loss and other life-changing conditions and illnesses.

A speech therapist is also trained to help those who experience challenges swallowing food and drink safely.

## How long does it take to become a speech therapist?

To qualify as a speech therapist you to complete a university degree which takes up to 4 years.

## What skills and abilities do I need to be a speech therapist?

An interest in helping people to improve their quality of life by improving their speech, language, social skills and confidence.



## 8. Aboriginal-specific professional health bodies

Aboriginal people working in health play a vital role in addressing the health and wellbeing of Australia's First Peoples. In order to close the gap in terms of Aboriginal peoples' health, more Aboriginal people must be encouraged to consider, pursue and succeed in working for WA Health.

There are several organisations which support Aboriginal people working in health, and provide ongoing training and networking opportunities.

Below is a list of the main groups. Check out their websites for more information on scholarships and the pathways into working in health.

### **Congress of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Nurses and Midwives (CATSINaM)**

[www.catsinam.org.au](http://www.catsinam.org.au)

CATSINaM aims to promote, support and represent Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander nurses and midwives to close the gap in health for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

### **National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Worker Association (NATSIHWA)**

[www.natsihwa.org.au](http://www.natsihwa.org.au)

NATSIHWA supports and represents Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health workers and practitioners.

## Australian Indigenous Doctors Association (AIDA)

[www.aida.org.au](http://www.aida.org.au)

AIDA works to promote and encourage leadership, partnership and scholarships in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health and education.

AIDA pushes for improvements in Indigenous health in Australia and encourages Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to work in medicine by supporting Indigenous students and doctors.

## Indigenous Allied Health Australia

[www.indigenouslyalliedhealth.com.au](http://www.indigenouslyalliedhealth.com.au)

Indigenous Allied Health Australia Ltd. (IAHA) is the national Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people working in allied health roles such as occupational therapy and physiotherapy.



# 9. Need more information?

## WA Health Jobs

Search for jobs at WA Health. Go to [www.jobs.health.wa.gov.au](http://www.jobs.health.wa.gov.au)

## Training institutes

### Aboriginal Health Council of WA

450 Beaufort Street  
Highgate WA 6003  
Phone: 9227 1631  
[www.ahcwa.org.au](http://www.ahcwa.org.au)

### Bega Garnbirringu, Kalgoorlie

51 MacDonald Street  
Kalgoorlie WA 6430  
Phone: 9022 5560  
[www.bega.org.au](http://www.bega.org.au)

### Centre for Aboriginal Primary Health Care Training, Education and Research, Broome

PO Box 1377, Broome WA 6725  
Phone: 9193 6043  
[www.capter.kamsc.org.au](http://www.capter.kamsc.org.au)  
Email: [indigenoushealth@kamsc.org.au](mailto:indigenoushealth@kamsc.org.au)

### Central Regional TAFE

Campuses include Batavia Coast Maritime Institute,  
Carnarvon, Exmouth, Geraldton, Kalgoorlie, Merredin, |  
Moora, Northam, Technology Park and Wiluna.  
[www.centralregionaltafe.wa.edu.au/](http://www.centralregionaltafe.wa.edu.au/)

### **Marr Mooditj Aboriginal Training Inc**

295 Manning Road

Waterford WA 6152

Phone: 9351 9344

[www.marrmooditj.com.au](http://www.marrmooditj.com.au)

Email: [reception1@marrmooditj.com.au](mailto:reception1@marrmooditj.com.au)

### **North Metropolitan TAFE**

Campuses include Perth, Leederville, East Perth,

Mt Lawley and Nedlands

[www.northmetrotafe.wa.edu.au/](http://www.northmetrotafe.wa.edu.au/)

### **North Regional TAFE**

Campuses include Broome, Derby, Fitzroy Crossing,

Halls Creek, Wyndham, Kununurra, Karratha, Roebourne,

Newman, Port and South Hedland, Tom Price.

[www.northregionaltafe.wa.edu.au/](http://www.northregionaltafe.wa.edu.au/)

### **South Metropolitan TAFE**

Campuses include Armadale, Balga, Beaconsfield,

Bentley, Carlisle, E-Tech Fremantle, Henderson,

Kwinana, Maritime Fremantle, Midland, Murdoch, Peel,

Rockingham and Thornlie

[www.southmetrotafe.wa.edu.au/](http://www.southmetrotafe.wa.edu.au/)

### **South Regional TAFE**

Campuses include Albany, Bunbury, Busselton, Collie,

Denmark, Esperance, Harvey, Katanning, Manjimup,

Margaret River, Mount Barker and Narrogin.

[www.southregionaltafe.wa.edu.au/](http://www.southregionaltafe.wa.edu.au/)

### **Wirraka Maya Health Service**

17 Hamilton Road

South Hedland WA 6722

Phone: 9172 0410

[www.wmhsac.com](http://www.wmhsac.com)

## Universities

### **Curtin University**

#### **Centre for Aboriginal Studies**

Kent Street, Bentley WA 6102

Phone: 9266 7091

[www.karda.curtin.edu.au](http://www.karda.curtin.edu.au)

Email: [cas.enquiries@curtin.edu.au](mailto:cas.enquiries@curtin.edu.au)

### **Edith Cowan University**

#### **Kurongkurl Katitjin, Centre for Indigenous Australian Education and Research**

2 Bradford Street, Mount Lawley WA 6050

Phone: 134 328

[www.ecu.edu.au/schools/kurongkurl-katitjin](http://www.ecu.edu.au/schools/kurongkurl-katitjin)

Email: [kk@ecu.edu.au](mailto:kk@ecu.edu.au)

### **Murdoch University**

#### **Kulbardi Aboriginal Centre**

90 South Street, Murdoch WA 6150

Phone: 9360 2128

[www.murdoch.edu.au/Kulbardi](http://www.murdoch.edu.au/Kulbardi)

Email: [kulbardi@murdoch.edu.au](mailto:kulbardi@murdoch.edu.au)

### **University of Notre Dame**

32 Mouat Street

Fremantle WA 6959

Phone: 9433 0555

[www.nd.edu.au](http://www.nd.edu.au)

Email: [admissions@nd.edu.au](mailto:admissions@nd.edu.au)

### **University of Western Australia (UWA)**

#### **School of Indigenous Studies**

35 Stirling Highway

Crawley WA 6009

Phone: 6488 3428

[www.sis.uwa.edu.au](http://www.sis.uwa.edu.au)

Email: [sis@uwa.edu.au](mailto:sis@uwa.edu.au)



## Graduate Program Contacts

### **Nursing and Midwifery Graduates**

Free call: 1800 11 22 72 (free from land line only, within Western Australia)

Phone: 9222 4075

<http://ww2.health.wa.gov.au/Careers/Occupations/Nursing-and-midwifery/Graduate-nursing-and-midwifery>

Email: [GNC@health.wa.gov.au](mailto:GNC@health.wa.gov.au)

### **Graduate Development Program (non-clinical)**

Phone: 9222 6457

<http://ww2.health.wa.gov.au/Careers/Graduate-Development-Program>

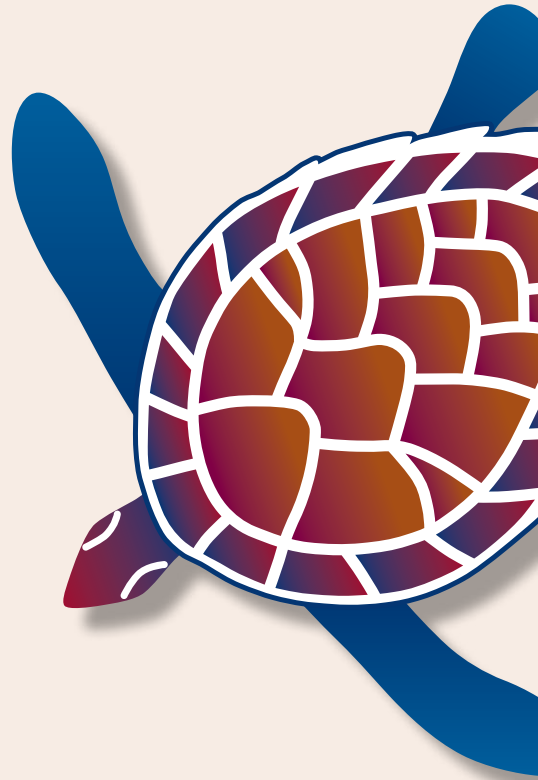
Email: [GraduateProgram@health.wa.gov.au](mailto:GraduateProgram@health.wa.gov.au)



# Notes



# Notes





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

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