



Postgraduate Nursing Education on the West Coast

Who Are We?

The West Coast District Health Board (WCDHB) administers funding from Health Workforce New Zealand (HWNZ) for West Coast nurses wanting to undertake postgraduate (level 8) study toward qualifications including: certificates, diplomas, and clinical masters.

The WCDHB Associate Director of Nursing-Workforce Development, based in Greymouth, coordinates this funding on behalf of the West Coast region.

Why Postgraduate Study?

Postgraduate study is designed to prepare nurses to meet the challenges of a changing West Coast healthcare environment and to provide enhancement of individual nursing practice. It is a commitment to both personal and professional development.

Nurses seeking to advance their clinical practice (i.e. gain prescribing rights) will find that postgraduate study is a requirement that may be set by the employer and/or regulatory body (i.e. the Nursing Council of New Zealand).

HWNZ Funding for Postgraduate Study

HWNZ funding is available for:

- The payment of university fees
- Study release for attendance at compulsory study blocks
- Subsidising travel and accommodation costs

Additional funding may be available to support the acquisition of clinical supervision hours required for specific papers (i.e. some advanced health assessment papers and all prescribing practicums).

Funding is NOT paid directly to the trainee.

Eligibility Requirements

Before applying, you will need to ensure that you meet all of the eligibility requirements.

These criteria require all applicants to:

- Be registered with the Nursing Council of New Zealand as a Registered Nurse or a Nurse Practitioner under the Health Practitioners Competence Assurance Act (2003)
- Hold a current Annual Practising Certificate (APC) with no restrictions that would negatively impact on the ability to participate in an educational programme
- Be currently employed as a Registered Nurse by a health service that is funded by the WCDHB or Ministry of Health from Vote Health
- Be a New Zealand citizen or hold a New Zealand residency permit as conferred by the New Zealand Immigration Service
- Have evidence of support from their current employer to meet the training requirements
- Meet the entry criteria required by the education provider

For further information, please read the HWNZ Postgraduate Nursing Training Specification document, which can be found on the WCDHB Nursing and Midwifery homepage: www.westcoastdhb.health.nz/services/nursing_n_midwifery/default.asp.

Career Planning

Career planning is the process of formulating career goals and identifying the steps and resources needed to achieve these goals. It is an ongoing, future-focussed professional pathway and is not limited to specific jobs.

Short Term (1-3 year) career planning is centred on acquiring specific skills and knowledge fairly immediately.

Long Term (3-5 year) career planning is developmental and focussed on future interests and development intentions.

Career planning support is available from your manager, nurse educator, senior nursing colleagues, mentors, and the WCDHB Associate Director of Nursing-Workforce Development. It is important that formal discussions take place with your line manager(s) regarding your career aspirations, strengths, and development needs.

The following resources may be useful, which can be found on the WCDHB Nursing and Midwifery homepage (www.westcoastdhb.health.nz/services/nursing_n_midwifery/default.asp):

- Career planning Diagram for RNs
- RN Career Planning Worksheet

The Postgraduate Nursing Forum has also developed some diagrams to help determine the educational preparation that may be required for your career. These diagrams can also be found on the WCDHB Nursing and Midwifery homepage (www.westcoastdhb.health.nz/services/nursing_n_midwifery/default.asp).

Contact Us

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