

Aboriginal Health Worker Careers



Health

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NSW Health offers many career pathways for Aboriginal people whether you wish to have a career in a health support role of Aboriginal Health Worker or in a clinical role such as nurse or doctor. In NSW Health you can make a difference working in a team providing healthcare as well progress your health career path.

Aboriginal Health Education Officers mostly work in Health Promotion providing relevant information to and for Aboriginal individuals and communities. Many are employed in a range of very important roles such as Hospital Liaison Officers, Community Health Officers, Maternal and Infant Health, Mental Health, Sexual Health and Early Childhood Services. Just as important, is the delivery of culturally sensitive advice, understanding, knowledge and support to all health staff. These roles provide entry into the health worker and are identified positions no education pre-requisite required (Non-Graduate).

The following roles are generally referred to Aboriginal Health Worker roles and national qualifications are increasingly providing an education path for entry into the roles or a way of recognising existing workers skills and expertise. Qualifications are at Certificate IV or Diploma levels in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Primary Health (Community Care). Aboriginal Health Workers have the option to join a national association to gain support and/or network opportunities with other Aboriginal Health Workers nationally.

Aboriginal Health Education Officer (AHEO - Non-Graduate)

Aboriginal Health Education Officers mostly work in Health Promotion providing relevant information to and for Aboriginal individuals and communities. These positions also provide a very important support role to all health staff delivering services to Aboriginal people.

You can also entry these roles with a degree as an Aboriginal Health Education Officer (AHEO -Graduate)

Hospital Liaison Officer (HLO)

Includes areas of social work, working with patients, clients and visitors to the hospitals, monitors patient progress and assists in arranging services. These are entry level roles and identified positions

Chronic Care

Provides case management of patients with complex health needs as well as working with individuals in a community setting

Otitis Media (OM)

Provides hearing checks and referral procedures for children to Ear Nose & Throat (ENT) clinics, and to assists with monitoring treatment during and after a procedure

Early Childhood

Provides support to families with young children, home visits and general advice on health matters

Maternal Infant Health

Provides support and education to pregnant women and their babies

Sexual Health

Provide sexual health education to individuals and the community

Mental Health

Provides support and mental health care including social well being services for Aboriginal individuals, families and communities

Men's Health

Provides community developed programs for men

Women's Health

Provides community developed programs for women.

How can you start a career in Health?

Start by choosing and completing an accredited course in your chosen specialty area, for example:

- TAFE Vocational Education & Training (TVET) schools based Certificate I-III
- Vocational Education & Training (VET) post secondary school Certificate III-IV
- Traineeships/ Apprenticeships – Administration
- Cadetships – Allied Health Professions & Nursing and Midwifery

You can develop your knowledge and skills to enhance your career. For example, you can start a traineeship in administration or information technology which involves studying part time at TAFE and working for NSW Health. Another example is to undertake a cadetship in an allied health profession such as physiotherapy or nursing at university while working at NSW Health.

Common career or training pathways for you

You might start your career in health by simply training on the job as a Hospital Liaison Officer (HLO) whose role is to assist with communication between the hospital and patients, family or the local Aboriginal community. Or you might choose to be an AHEO working in other specialised roles like Early Childhood, Maternal & Infant Health or in one of the Chronic Care fields, such as Respiratory health. Other career pathways are in nursing, allied health, professions such as physiotherapy, speech or pathology and medicine.

You can start a nursing or allied health course through TAFE or university.

Some important personal attributes for health professions are

- A genuine interest in caring for others i.e. wanting to look after your community
- Ability to assume responsibility and a strong leadership role
- Capacity to cope with emergency situations
- Good communication skills
- High degree of motivation and self-discipline
- Initiative and self-confidence
- Mentally and physically fit
- Ability to assert responsibility
- Tolerance, patience and tact in dealing with people from a wide range of cultural backgrounds.



Where can you find more information?

To find out more information on careers in health, speak to your School Career Adviser, Job Search Networks or Employment Agencies and Education Institutions. For more information on clinical career pathways such as audiometry, medicine or oral health please refer to the Fact Sheet: Health Careers for Aboriginal Students and explore the links below.

NSW Health – Job search www.health.nsw.gov.au

On health courses Aboriginal Student Coordinators in Universities and TAFE.

TAFE NSW <https://www.tafensw.edu.au/>

NSW Universities <http://www.australian-universities.com/directory/nsw-universities/>

UAC <http://www.uac.edu.au/>

Scholarships

NSW Department of Health (DOH) www.health.nsw.gov.au/nursing/scholarships.asp

Royal College of Nursing Australia (RCNA) www.rcna.org.au

Australian Rotary Health Research Fund Scholarships www.australianrotaryhealth.org.au

NSW Nurses' Association – The Edith Cavell Trust Scholarship Rules www.nswnurses.asn.au

**Australian Kidney Foundation Scholarships & Grants
– Undergraduate Summer Vacation Scholarships** www.kidney.org.au

NSW Rural Doctors Network www.nswrdsn.com.au/

Puggy Hunter Memorial Scholarship Scheme www.rcna.org.au/scholarships/puggy_hunter

NSW Rural Allied Health Scholarships http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/rural/alliedhealth/rural_grants.asp

S.A.R.R.A.H (Services for Australian Rural and Remote Allied Health) www.sarrah.org.au/

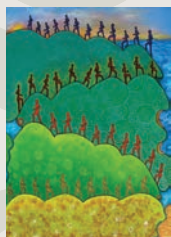
Cadetships

www.ics.deewr.gov.au

NSW Department of Health (DOH) www.health.nsw.gov.au

Aboriginal Workforce Development Unit (AWDU) cadetship@doh.health.nsw.gov.au

Nursing & Midwifery Office (NaMO) aboriginalnursing@doh.health.nsw.gov.au



Stepping Up by artist Jessica Birk.
Aboriginal people from all parts of NSW
on a journey towards the top of the hill.
With one foot firmly on the earth, the
other just hovering above in an effort to
achieve more, with the sky being the only
limit to people's opportunities.



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An initiative of NSW Health to halve
the gap in employment outcomes
between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal
people within a decade.



Designed by Aboriginal Elder Harold
Thomas in 1971. Yellow represents the
sun (giver of life) and yellow ochre. Red
represents the red earth (the relationship
to the land) and the red ochre used
in ceremonies. Black represents the
Aboriginal people.

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