

Health Careers for Aboriginal Students



Health

good health—great jobs



Thinking of a career in Health?

A career in health provides many unique opportunities and opens the door to some fantastic experiences.

There is a wide range of exciting career options available in the NSW public health system.

Imagine working in a world-class teaching hospital in the heart of Sydney or broadening your horizons by providing holistic care to remote communities, you could be working in a multidisciplinary team, as part of a surgical team or providing health services to people in their homes.

So, what career opportunities are there for you?

You can have a very rewarding career as a doctor, a nurse or midwife, as a dentist, or in one of the many allied health professions such as physiotherapy, pharmacy or podiatry.

There are many health pathways to choose from that will enable you to find that career you have always dreamed of, for example, you can start a traineeship in administration or information technology which involves studying part time at TAFE while working for NSW Health, which could lead you to a future management position. Another example is to undertake a cadetship in nursing and midwifery or in an allied health profession such as physiotherapy at university while working at NSW Health. You can also apply for a scholarship and go to university and train to be a doctor or a dentist.

What can you do to further your career opportunities?

The most important first step is to stay at school and choose the right subjects. Choosing subjects that are appropriate to the career you want is really important.

Who's going to help you?

To help you with choosing the right subjects, you can talk with your Aboriginal Education Coordinator (AEC) or your Career Advisor (CA) at your school and you should discuss your future aspirations with your parents also.

For a number of TAFE courses you can study and work at the same time in a traineeship or apprenticeship.

School based opportunities

- TAFE Vocational Education & Training (TVET) schools based Certificate I-III
- Vocational Education & Training (VET) post secondary school Certificate III-IV

Opportunities post school

- Traineeships – Administration and Mental Health
- Pathways – Under/Graduate +/- Post/Graduate University and/or TAFE courses

Financial Assistance

- Cadetships – Allied Health Professions & Nursing & Midwifery
- Pathways – Under/Graduate +/or Post/Graduate University and/or TAFE courses
- Scholarships – Nursing, Allied Health, Medical & Dental

For university courses, there are scholarships and cadetships available which can help with some of the costs of education. A cadetship also provides you with the opportunity to work in a service for twelve weeks full time per year (paid) while studying.

What career prospects await you in Health?

Opportunities from these roles can lead to further study; for example: an Aboriginal Health Worker Officer (AHEO) with an interest in Audiometry could undertake a;

- Certificate IV in Audiometric Assessment, or
- Certificate IV in Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander Primary Health (Community Care)
- Diploma of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander Health.

Career and training pathways

You might start your career in health training on the job as an Aboriginal Hospital Liaison Officer helping communication between the hospital and community or you might choose to be an Aboriginal Health Education Officer in a role such as Health Promotion, Early Childhood, and Maternal & Infant Health or in one of the Chronic Care fields, such as Respiratory health.

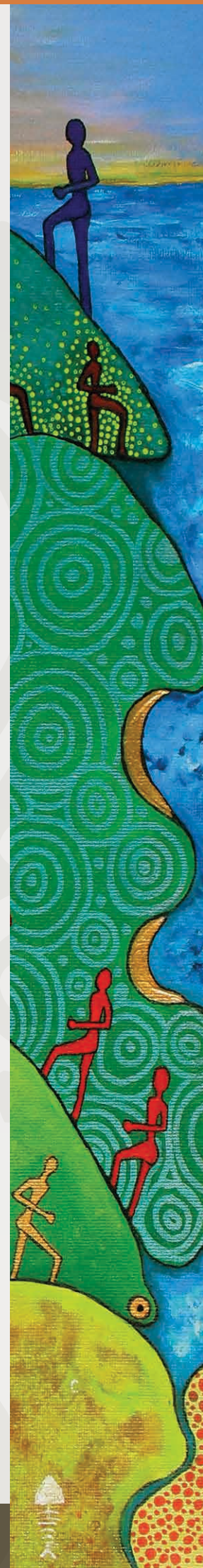
You can start as an Allied Health Assistant studying

- Certificate III in Allied Health Assistance while at school (VET in schools program). This can lead to
- Certificate IV in Allied Health Assistance and then a university course specific to one profession e.g. physiotherapy or speech pathology,
- Diploma, Degree and a Post Graduate

Or you can start as an Assistant in Nursing and go on to study Nursing and Midwifery. Professions also include Medicine and Allied Health.

Important personal attributes for health professions

- 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/>

Cadetships

NSW Ministry of Health (MOH)

www.health.nsw.gov.au

Health Education and Training Institute (HETI)

cadetship@doh.health.nsw.gov.au

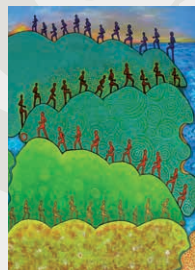
Nursing & Midwifery Office (NaMO)

aboriginalnursing@doh.health.nsw.gov.au

SHPN (WPD) 130483

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Further copies of this document can be downloaded from the NSW Health website www.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.



The Health Education and Training Institute (HETI) is one of the statutory health organisations enhancing NSW Health services. HETI is building health workforce capacity and improving the quality of education and training across New South Wales.



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.