



# Registered Nurse

A registered nurse (RN) is a healthcare professional who provides highly skilled and evidence-based care to people (individuals, families, groups, and communities) across the life-continuum. They are accountable for the management of people in their care, conducting comprehensive assessments and care plans. RNs supervise and when appropriate delegate care to assistants in nursing (AINs), enrolled nurses (ENs), student nurses, and other healthcare workers.

Example of responsibilities are:

- the assessment, planning, and delivery of care to people who have acute and/or chronic physical and mental health issues
- developing, reviewing, and maintaining nursing care plans
- ongoing monitoring and evaluation of the nursing care provided and identification of where care needs to be escalated or altered due to the changing health of the person
- performing treatments and administering and monitoring medications and IV therapy
- interpreting tests and reports
- providing emotional and psychological support to people and their families
- participating in medical or surgical procedures as a part of a multidisciplinary team
- educating people about treatment plans, follow up care, and referral to specialist services.

## Start your career as an RN

To become an RN, you need to complete a Bachelor of Nursing or Bachelor of Science (Nursing) through university. These courses are 6 or 7 semesters, 3 or 3 and a half years full time to complete, and include 800 hours of clinical practice. Currently in WA there is one university that offers a dual degree in nursing and midwifery – Bachelor of Science (Nursing)/Bachelor of Science (Midwifery) that leads to becoming an RN and a midwife. To learn more about these courses and explore the many other pathways available scan the QR code.



## Support to become an RN

There is various support available to complete your studies offered by the Australian Government and WA Health.

These include:

- Commonwealth Supported Place
- Higher Education Loan Program
- WA Chief Nursing and Midwifery Office Scholarships
- working as a student AIN.

## Where can you work and what can you earn?

In WA Health, RNs can work in many areas including:

- hospitals
- community health
- surgical and medical care
- mental health
- intensive care
- emergency
- theatre.

RNs are paid as per the current industrial agreement. To find out current rates of pay, scan the QR code.

## Grow your RN career

Promotional opportunities exist in all healthcare settings and are accessible to individuals with suitable experience, skills, and/or qualifications. Below are just a few of the possibilities. To find out more about all the opportunities available scan the QR code.

**Clinical nurse and area manager** – a senior RN who has an interest in leadership can apply for these promotional positions. These are leadership roles that require coordination and management of a unit on a shift-by-shift basis, using advanced skills and knowledge to deliver care to patients and families.

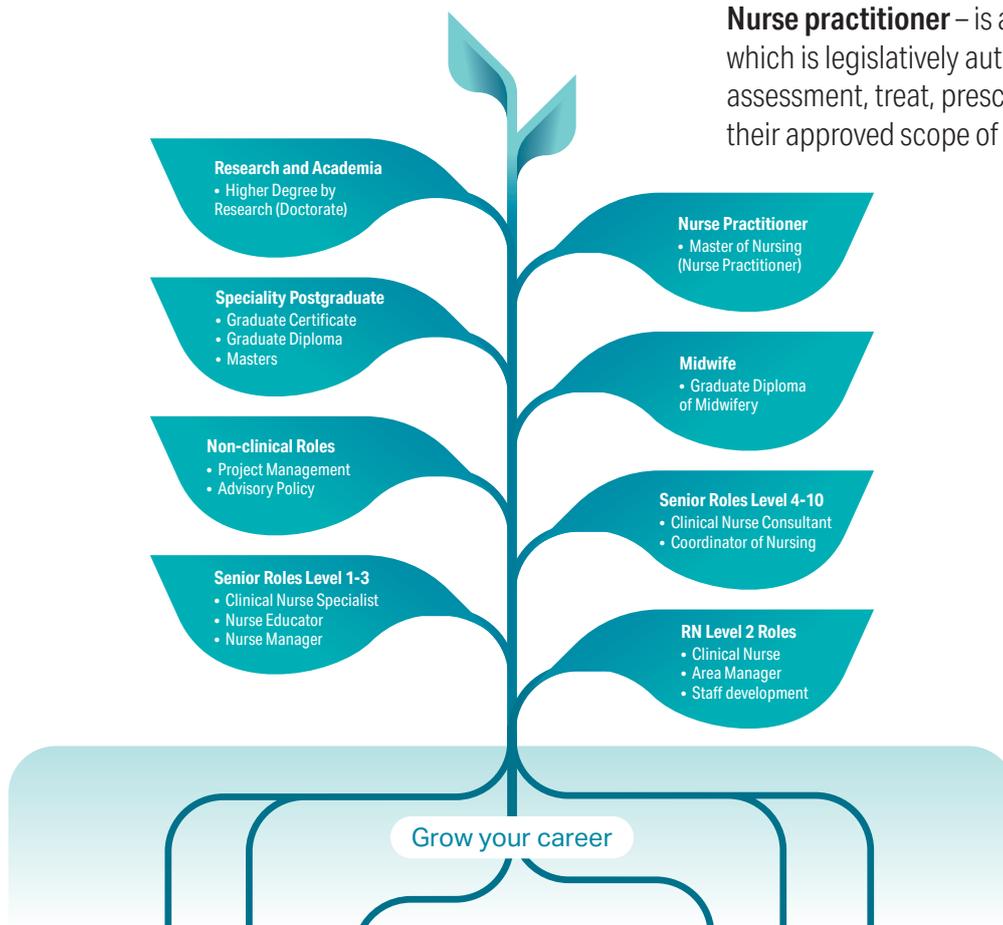
**Clinical nurse specialist and clinical nurse consultant** – these positions are available for RNs who have achieved a level of knowledge, experience, and expertise in a particular field or clinical specialty. They provide direct clinical care, education, and consultancy services, with the practitioners considered an expert in their specific field of practice.

**Education** – an RN that has a passion for teaching may progress to being a staff development nurse or nurse educator and plans, develops, and delivers educational programs within the hospital or area of service, and supports and educates others within the nursing team.

**Leadership and management** – RNs may develop from clinical, specialist, consultant, or education roles towards a career in leadership and management. These roles practice both independently and as part of a multidisciplinary team to deliver evidence based, patient-centred care.

**Speciality postgraduate** – for RNs looking for career progression or wanting to enhance their foundational knowledge in a specialty area, consider a postgraduate qualification via a graduate certificate, graduate diploma, or master's degree to pursue. There are many courses available in areas such as leadership, education, acute care, advanced practice, wound, ostomy and continence, critical care, neonatal care, mental health, child health, and diabetes.

**Nurse practitioner** – is an advanced practice role which is legislatively authorised to undertake diagnostic assessment, treat, prescribe, and refer patients within their approved scope of practice.



Where can I find more information?  
Scan the QR code to take you to our website.



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