

**Aged Care Nursing  
Clinical Placement  
Program**

*Student Information Guide*





# ACKNOWLEDGEMENT



## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Hunter Primary Care acknowledges Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the First Peoples of Australia and we pay our respects to their elders past, present and future who we share this great region with.



## DIVERSITY COMMITMENT

Hunter Primary Care is committed to embracing diversity and eliminating all forms of discrimination in the provision of health services. We welcome all people of diverse ethnicity, lifestyle choice, faith, sexual orientation and gender identity.


Hunter Primary Care acknowledges the program funding received from The Department of Health and Aged Care Nursing Clinical Placement Program.



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Welcome to the Aged Care Nursing Clinical Placement Program! This information guide aims to give prospective students information about the Aged Care Nursing Clinical Placement Program, information about the organisations and regions involved, what the student can expect on an Aged Care Clinical Placement and what is needed to register and commence an Aged Care Nursing Clinical Placement in the Hunter, New England, Central Coast, Manning, Mid North Coast and North Coast regions.

### **Who is Hunter Primary Care?**

**At Hunter Primary Care, our focus is on you. We listen. Care. Connect.**

Hunter Primary Care is a not for profit health and wellbeing organisation based in Newcastle and the Hunter Valley. For over 30 years we have been committed to meeting the needs of our community through collaboration with our network of trusted health partners. Hunter Primary Care delivers quality NDIS services, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health, mental health, aged care services and after hours primary care.

### **What is the Aged Care Nursing Clinical Placement program?**

**An opportunity for student nurses to experience the complex and rewarding career that is Gerontological Nursing.**

With funding from the Federal Department of Health and Aged Care Hunter Primary Care have created a unique Aged Care Clinical Placement program. The aims and objectives of the program are:

- To deliver high-quality professional clinical experience for nursing students in the care and support sector.
- The provision of experienced clinical facilitators to support students while on their placements.
- To expose nursing students to the range of rich and rewarding career pathways in the care and support sector, particularly gerontological nursing.

Hunter Primary Care are excited to have been awarded the contract to deliver Aged Care Nursing Clinical Placements for nursing students in the Hunter, New England, Central Coast, Manning, Mid-North Coast and North Coast regions.

## **Why should I choose Aged Care?**

**We know it's a rewarding privilege to work with older people as a Registered Nurse, and want you to experience these rewards as well.**

Your first nursing clinical placement is all about learning the foundations of being a great nurse: how to assist with activities of daily living, how to provide personal care, and how to manage time in a real life situation, so you can be both efficient and effective.

Subsequent aged care nursing clinical placements will help to prepare the student nurse to apply clinical assessment and critical thinking to competently manage complex care needs, essential for the Enrolled/Registered Nurse leadership roles in aged care.

An aged care placement is an opportunity to apply holistic care and develop communication skills with residents and families. It is a rewarding role with many learning opportunities. Our Aged Care Nursing Clinical Placement hosts are ready to share their enthusiasm for this complex field of nursing.

Don't forget, many residential aged care homes have over 100 beds, which is more than many hospitals, so there is an opportunity to encounter people with a variety of complex care needs.

## **What experiences and benefits can the different areas provide for me?**

**Rural. Remote. Coastal. Metropolitan. A location convenient for the student and a welcoming experience.**

Choosing an Aged Care Nursing Clinical Placement with Hunter Primary Care means having access to high quality host facilities, a knowledgeable registered nurse mentor throughout your shift and daily contact with your clinical facilitator.

Hunter Primary Care aims to place students in an area that is convenient for the student. Our host aged care providers can be found on the coast, in the country and in the city. They range from very small rural community organisations, to very large metropolitan organisations and provide a range of services including residential aged care, NDIS residential care, residential and community care, and standalone community care. Many of our rural hosts have some capacity to offer accommodation to nursing students choosing to attend a clinical placement with them.



## Who will be my registered nurse mentor and my clinical facilitator?

**Registered nurses invested in giving you a great experience in gerontological nursing.**

Your mentor throughout the day will be a registered nurse employed by the aged care provider. Together you can explore learning opportunities that may present through the day. They will help you to navigate both the workplace environment and the host organisation. Your mentor will be able to explain to you the unique differences between this organisation and others.

You and your mentor will be provided with learning guides to prompt discussion and questions about being an enrolled/registered nurse in the aged care sector. This learning guide has been developed from the perspective of what may happen on any given day when you are in charge of the shift after you graduate. The aim of these placements is to have you well prepared for the workplace. The learning guides will give you a great head start if you should choose a career in gerontological nursing.

You will also have daily contact with a clinical facilitator who is a different RN to your RN Mentor. They can assist you to:

- Plan for the next day
- Debrief and reflect on the day
- Collaborate with you and your mentor about learning opportunities
- Develop communication skills and plan for professional conversations.

Reflection is a vital part of being a dynamic registered nurse engaged in lifelong learning and improving your clinical practice. Your clinical facilitator and your learning guide will both prompt you to engage in a daily reflective practice, be sure to take advantage of this to help develop a daily habit throughout your career.

## What geographical regions will be included in the Aged Care Nursing Clinical Placement Program?

**New South Wales: North to Goondiwindi, Tenterfield and Tweed Heads, south to Woy Woy and Gosford, west to Mungindi and Wee Waa, and east to the Coast.**

The Hunter Primary Care Aged Care Nursing Clinical Placement program includes all of the Hunter New England Central Coast Primary Health Network (HNECCPHN) and North Coast PHN (Healthy North Coast) space and it covers a large area. See our map on the next page.

On our registration form we have divided the area into regions to make life a little easier. These regions are:

- Greater Newcastle (Newcastle, Port Stephens, Lake Macquarie)
- Hunter Valley (Merriwa, Murrurundi, Muswellbrook, Scone)
- Lower Hunter Valley (Maitland, Singleton, Cessnock, Dungog)
- Lower Mid North Coast (Forster/Tuncurry, Taree, Gloucester, Wingham, Tea Gardens/Hawks Nest)
- Peel Sector (Barraba, Gunnedah, Tamworth, Quirindi, Walcha)
- Tablelands Sector (Armidale, Glen Innes, Inverell, Tenterfield, Uralla, Guyra)
- Mehi Sector (Bingara, Moree, Narrabri, Wyallda, Wee Waa)
- Central Coast (Gosford and District, Wyong and District)
- Mid North Coast (Coffs Harbour, Dorrigo, Port Macquarie, Kempsey, Macksville)
- North Coast (Tweed Valley, Lismore, Casino, Byron Bay, Grafton)

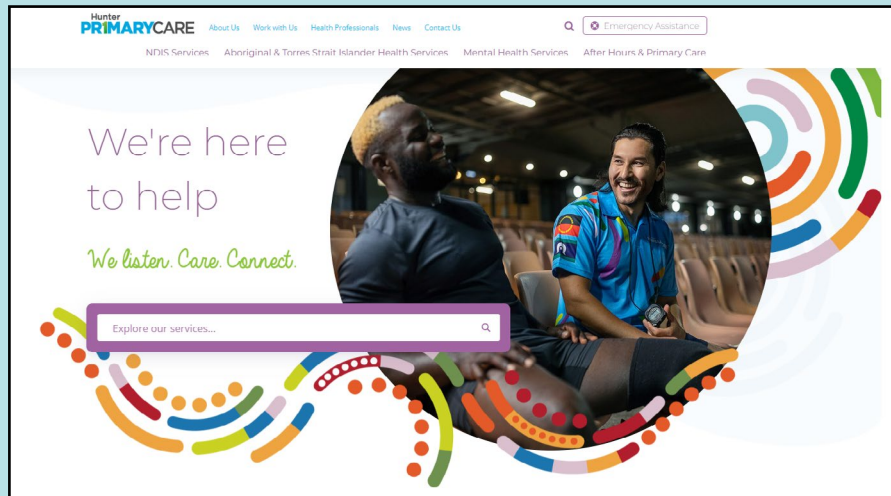
Do you live near any of these areas? Would you like to have a placement close to home? Perhaps the Hunter Primary Care Aged Care Nursing Clinical Placement program can help.

# SERVICE AREA MAP



## How do I register my interest?

Go to the Hunter Primary Care website [hunterprimarycare.com.au](http://hunterprimarycare.com.au)



- From the tabs across the top choose: After Hours & Primary Care
- Choose: Aged Care Nursing Clinical Placement Program
- Scroll down to: Students click to apply
- Complete the application form

Or click here

[CLICK HERE](#)

We will be in touch when we have a suitable placement for you.

## What credentials do I need prior to placement?

You will probably have most of these already from previous placements.

Prior to commencement of your Aged Care Nursing Clinical Placement, you are required to show your Aged Care Provider Host evidence of:

- Current Criminal Record Check
- Evidence of currency of vaccinations as per NSW Health
- Hepatitis B protection as described in your completed declaration form
- The completed Tuberculosis (TB) Assessment Tool
- Student Compliance | HETI ([nsw.gov.au](http://nsw.gov.au))

[CLICK HERE](#)

- Evidence of COVID19 vaccinations and current Influenza vaccinations
- Aged Care Statutory declaration

[CLICK HERE](#)



Students from overseas are also required to provide:

- Overseas Statutory Declaration

[CLICK HERE](#) 

If your placement host is an approved NDIS provider, you are required to have a current NDIS Worker Screening Check, or evidence of an application for the check.

If you do not have this, you are required to apply for one at least 2 weeks prior to commencement of your Aged Care Nursing Clinical Placement. Applications are made through [www.service.nsw.gov.au/ndiswc](http://www.service.nsw.gov.au/ndiswc) at your own expense. Use the name of your host provider as the employer name.

## Program Evaluation

On completion of your clinical placement, Hunter Primary Care will ask you to complete an evaluation of your placement. This will be in addition to the evaluation your university will ask for. These evaluations are very important for the ongoing success of the Aged Care Nursing Clinical Placement Program and will go towards the Department of Health and Aged Care's evaluation of the program nationally.

Of course, if you have any feedback that you feel is too important to wait for the evaluation you can contact the Hunter Primary Care Clinical Placement Coordinator by email or phone. Contact details are below.

## QUESTIONS?

Contact the Hunter Primary Care Aged Care Nursing Clinical Placement team:

**Email:** [AgedCareEdu@hunterprimarycare.com.au](mailto:AgedCareEdu@hunterprimarycare.com.au)

**Phone:** (02) 4935 3241.

If you would like to have a look at our resources please see link below:

[CLICK HERE](#) 

Thank you for considering an Aged Care Nursing Clinical Placements team with Hunter Primary Care.

We are look forward to working with you and seeing you excel in gerontological nursing.