



| NSW Department of Education

Health Care Worker

Health care assistants support health care professionals provide patients with direct support and services in health and community centres as well as private residences. They are understanding and helpful with patients and able to perform a variety of functions and services.

What health care workers do

Health care workers support the services provided in hospitals, clinics, community and residential facilities. They work with health professionals in a wide range of roles for the safety and comfort of clients in their care.

Health care workers may have specialised training and skills for assisting in operating theatres or providing nursing support in acute care settings. They may also work alongside allied health professionals who provide therapeutic treatments such as physical therapy, speech therapy, radiography, dental hygiene, sonography, dietetics, prosthetics and many other health support services.

Aboriginal health workers provide flexible, holistic and culturally sensitive health services to Aboriginal clients and the community, to achieve better health outcomes and better access to health services for Aboriginal people and their communities.

You'll like this job if...

You're compassionate, empathetic, attentive and proactive. You can communicate with a wide range of people. You're good at multi-tasking. You work well as a member of a team. You come up with practical solutions to problems. You're comfortable following instructions. You show initiative. You're organised.

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Will I get a job?

Strong growth in this occupation is predicted, with 13,200 new jobs in Australia in the next four years, bringing the total to 105,900.

What will I earn?

Up to \$950 median full-time weekly salary (before tax, excluding super).



A day in the life...

Work as a health care assistant may involve these tasks:

- help patients with their mobility and communication needs
- participate in planning the care needed for a patient
- follow therapy or care plans such as interventions to help those with dementia, physio or occupational therapy,
- observe and report changes in patients' condition
- assist with rehabilitation exercises, basic treatment and delivering medications
- create and facilitate culturally appropriate environments for Aboriginal people to receive health care
- develop, implement and evaluate Aboriginal specific health promotion programs within a multidisciplinary team
- provide direct support to therapists.

VET qualifications

The following government-subsidised qualifications are available in NSW:

Certificate III in Health Support Services (HLT33215)

- Up to 1 year full-time
- Available as a traineeship
- Graduates employed or in further study: 85.5%*

Certificate III in Allied Health Assistance (HLT33015)

- Up to 1 year full-time
- Available as a traineeship
- Graduates employed or in further study: 85.5%*

Certificate III in Health Services Assistance (HLT33115)

- Up to 1 year full-time
- Available as a traineeship
- Graduates employed or in further study: 80.5%*

Certificate II in Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander Primary Health Care (HLT20113)

- Up to 1 year full-time
- Available as a traineeship
- Graduates employed or in further study: 85.8%*

Certificate III in Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander Primary Health Care (HLT30113)

- Up to 1 year full-time
- Available as a traineeship
- Graduates employed or in further study: 59.6%*

Roles to look for

- Hospital orderly
- Patient services
- Assistant wards person
- Nursing support worker
- Assistant in nursing
- Personal care assistant
- Therapy aide/assistant
- Home carer
- Allied health assistant
- Support worker
- Trainee Aboriginal health worker
- Aboriginal health worker

Main employing industries

- Healthcare and social assistance

Other jobs you may like...

- Aged or disability carer
- Special care worker
- Dental assistant
- Support worker



To find out more regarding these related jobs, visit education.nsw.gov.au/job-guides.

Information sources

Income: Australian Government Department of Employment, Australian Jobs Report 2017, Occupation Matrix. ANZSCO ID: 2211. Earnings can vary greatly depending on the skills and experience of the worker, and the demands of the role. Career trend: Australian Government Department of Employment 2017 employment projections to May 2022. Graduate outcomes: National Centre for Vocational Education Research. *Approximately 6 months after they completed VET.

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