

Gradstart Program



Our team links patients to a mix of health disciplines to create ongoing health care management plans for the health and wellbeing of individuals and communities.

Primary and Community Health offers two GradStart Registered Nurse Streams;

- Community Health Nursing
- Child and Family Health

Community Health Nursing (CHN) is provided to people of all ages across the District. Services operate seven days a week, from 7:30am to 8:00pm. Services are provided in different environments according to client needs, including at home or at a health care centre. Any person may make a referral to CHN, including general practitioners, hospital wards, emergency departments, non-government services as well as clients and their families. CHNs provide a post-acute care, Hospital in The Home (HITH) service, including the administration of intravenous antibiotics and medications, injections and anticoagulation management, wound care (both acute and chronic), palliative care, integrated care and general nursing, including catheter care.

Child and Family Health nurses provide holistic care to women and their families aged 0- 5 years. Services operate Monday to Friday across the District between 8.30am – 5pm). All women who birth within the District are referred to Child and Family and then they are triaged. Child and Family Health offer clinic appointments, home visiting and targeted home visiting and work within a multidisciplinary team. Child and Family health nurses provide postnatal support especially with breastfeeding, monitoring child growth and development, in addition to delivering health promotion, providing early intervention and referrals, and support to vulnerable families.

Stream	Gradstart RN, Community Health Nursing
Duration	Offers a 12-month program across the six of the major Community Health Centres at Bowral, Bankstown, Fairfield, Hoxton Park, Rosemeadow, and Wollondilly.
Intake dates (subject to change)	Intake is in March each year.
Rotations / specialties	Each applicant will gain experience and knowledge during their 12-month placement as a Community Health Nurse (CHN) in a range of specialties including Wound Care, Hospital in the Home (HITH), Palliative Care and Continence Care. They will also gain skills in providing holistic care as an autonomous practitioner in the community.

Orientation and support	<p>We offer a dedicated face-to-face 4-week orientation for each of the new nurses at the start of the Program. The role will remain supernumerary until the Preceptor and the Clinical Nurse Educator (CNE) have worked with each graduate nurse to fulfill their competencies and until they feel confident to visit by themselves.</p> <p>Regular clinical supervision is also offered to staff as well as ongoing professional development. The New Grads have the support of a Preceptor, Gradstart Coordinator, District Service Consultative Teams for Wound management, Palliative Care and HITH and local CNE.</p>
Study days / education	Five targeted study days throughout the year and a Gradstart program is provided by SWSLHD Primary and Community Health.

Stream	Gradstart RN, Child and Family Health
Duration	12-month program across the six of the major Community Health Centres at Bowral, Bankstown, Fairfield, Hoxton Park, Rosemeadow, and Wollondilly.
Intake dates (subject to change)	February
Rotations / specialties	Each applicant within the Child and Family Health directorate will have the opportunity to work within a multidisciplinary team, either in a sustained home-visiting model or a clinic environment. The new graduate registered nurse will provide holistic care to women and families with children aged 0-5 years.
Orientation and support	<p>Child and Family Health provides a comprehensive and rigorous orientation program for every new graduate nurse. Graduates will remain supernumerary while working closely with their preceptor and the Clinical Nurse Educator to ensure all required competencies are achieved. This support continues until the graduate nurse demonstrates confidence and readiness to practise independently.</p> <p>Regular clinical supervision will be offered as well as ongoing professional development</p>
Study days / education	<p>Five targeted study days throughout the year and a Gradstart program is provided by SWSLHD Primary and Community Health.</p> <p>There are a number of study days for the Child and Family Health graduate nurse</p>