

Te Hokinga mai ki te Tāpuhitanga

Returning to Nursing Practice

Why should I return to nursing?

With the recent global COVID-19 pandemic putting nurses, midwives, Kaiāwhina and kaimahi hauora in the forefront of the public eye, there has never been a better time to return to nursing. In fact, Nursing Council has issued more than 400 interim practising certificates this year to nurses returning to practice to help out in the COVID-19 pandemic, and has received 2000 more inquiries. However, we are still predicting shortages of experienced nursing staff, and Māori nurses in particular, as the health system works towards Pae Ora and the achievement of health equity.

We know that you already have the skills and experience to make a big difference to our people and their whānau, so we are keen to get you back. To support you, MidCentral DHB is offering a Return to Nursing Practice Programme.

What if I have been out of practice for less than 5 years?

If you have been out of practice for less than 5 years, already hold Te Kaunihera o Aotearoa Nursing Council of New Zealand registration, and your registration is still active, you can apply for a nursing position on the MDHB vacancies page. When you are appointed you will be supported by the DHB's Return to Nursing Practice Programme, to assist you to update your knowledge and skills.

If you have been out of practice for less than 5 years, already hold Nursing Council registration, but your registration has expired, our Return to Nursing Practice Programme will support you to renew your registration and re-enter practice with competence and confidence.

What if I have been out of practice for 5 years or more? Do I need to retrain?

If you have been out of practice for 5 years or more, contact the Nursing Council (nznurse@nursingcouncil.org.nz). Tell them what you have been doing since you last practised and they will contact you to discuss options that may include:

- completing a Nursing Council approved return to nursing programme
- having a potential employer who is willing to support your return to nursing
- placing conditions on your scope of practice, with training requirements identified, so that you can return to practice to meet these.

Come to our Return to Practice Drop in sessions, let us know the outcome of Nursing Councils' assessment, and we will see how we can support you.



How much will the programme cost?

If you have been out of practice for more than 5 years, and are required to complete a Nursing Council approved Return To Nursing programme, you may need to do this through a Tertiary Provider (you can find a list of providers on the Nursing Council website). Fees are around \$2,442.59 for domestic students. We will be able to offer you advice on options for fee payments at the Return to Practice drop in session.

If you have been out of practice for less than 5 years, there will be no cost to you for the DHBs' Return to Nursing Practice Programme.

Unfortunately, we cannot support overseas nurses who have not previously registered with Nursing Council.

How do I get onto the programme?

You will be asked to attend an interview, prior to being offered a position on the Return to Nursing Practice Programme. All applicants will follow the normal MDHB recruitment processes.

Can I work flexibly?

Flexible working is an option. Discuss this at interview with the Charge Nurse who is supporting your clinical placement.

How long will the course be?

Clinical: We will work to provide you with a placement that matches the clinical areas you will have worked in previously. You would be required to undertake 200 clinical hours, with a minimum of three clinical days per week, so the programme could be easily completed in eight weeks. These days can be catered to fit around you and your whānau.

Theory: The weekly study days are facilitated by Ngā Manu Teka Practice Development Nurse Educators. Study days will update you on any new developments in nursing, culturally responsive practice, and workshops and skill stations will be provided.

How will I be supported?

We will provide orientation and mentoring with access to clinical support from a ward / unit buddy, and access to an educator to reinforce learning opportunities.

On programme completion, we will offer successful graduates either full-time or part-time employment. There will also be ongoing opportunities to continue your professional development after the programme, which will support your career pathway into clinical, leadership or management roles.

If you identify as Māori, you will receive cultural support throughout the programme.

What happens when I finish the programme?

Apply to Nursing Council for a New Zealand Registered Nurse practising certificate. Provide evidence in the required domains of professional responsibility, management of nursing care, interpersonal relationships, inter-professional health care and quality improvement

Whakapā mai Contact us:

For more information on the Return to Nursing Practice programme at MidCentral DHB, please contact Yvonne Stillwell on yvonne.stillwell@midcentraldhb.govt.nz.

