

# Year 11 students in 2009

## Have you considered a career in nursing?

The transition program is an innovative and practical program run in partnership between industry and education.

**The Transition to Registered Nursing Program (TRNP) is a partnership between industry and the education sector. The partners are the Association of Independent Schools of WA, the Catholic Education Office of WA, the Department of Education and Training, Curtin University of Technology, St John Ambulance and the Chamber of Commerce and Industry on behalf of members in the health and aged care sectors.**

The program was established with four overarching objectives in mind:

1. To introduce students to the nursing profession during Years 11 and 12 through a range of structured workplace and off-the-job learning experiences;
2. To provide appropriate transition experiences that lead to students who are suitably prepared for studies in Registered Nursing;
3. To add value to the current procedures and to identify other important attributes in prospective entrants that may not be determined in the current Tertiary Entrance Ranking selection process; and
4. To reduce attrition rates in the nursing workforce in the first two years following graduation.

### Application and selection process

Students are selected to participate in the program through a competitive application process. To be eligible for selection, students must satisfy the following criteria: Students must be studying at least four WACE courses that will lead to a WACE examination and potential TER in Year 12.

Students must submit a written application, comprising:

- a completed application form (Form A)
- copies of their two most recent school reports; and
- the school reference form (Form B)

Students are short-listed for interview on the basis of their written application and the academic ability to complete the course.

Interview panels comprise one representative from the Education sector and two representatives from a Registered Nursing background.

Final student selection is based on the written application and interview performance. Up to 35 students will be accepted into the program this year.



Department of  
Education and Training

**Curtin**   
University of Technology



CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY  
WESTERN AUSTRALIA

# Nursing Transition Program

## Program activities and timeline

Students commence the program in Semester 2 of Year 11 and continue into Year 12. Table 1 (below) outlines the timeline of activities.

Activity	Date	Duration
Close of applications (full package)	Friday 26 June 2009	
Notification of successful students proceeding to interview. Also unsuccessful students.	Mid-July	
Student Interviews	August 3,4,5 and 10,11,12	
Letter of offer and acceptance sent to students selected for the program. Unsuccessful students will also be advised via letter.	Week commencing August 17	
Student Induction	Mid September	Half day
Student vaccinations and screening	Prior to first placement	N/A
Senior First Aid Course (1st training component) Provided by the St John Ambulance	September 2008 (Week 10, Term 3)	2 days
Introduction to Essential Health Care (2nd training component) Provided by Brightwater Training & Development	September 2009 (Week 10, Term 3)	3 days
First work placement (acute hospital)	Christmas Holiday Period 2009/2010	55-60 hours
Introduction to Curtin Campus; Nursing Physical Assessment (3rd training component) Curtin School of Nursing & Midwifery	Late January 2010	1 day
Second work placement (aged care facility)	Christmas/April/July Holidays 2010	55-60 hours
Intro to Curtin library; Nursing Reflective Practice (4th training component) Curtin School of Nursing & Midwifery	July holidays 2010	1 day
Aged care assignment due to the RTO Brightwater	August 2010	N/A

## Off the job training

There are four off-the-job training components. The first is a Senior First Aid Course, delivered by St John Ambulance over 2 full days. This service is provided free-of-charge by St John Ambulance. Students who have a current Senior First Aid Certificate may be eligible for an exemption from this training component.

The second off-the-job training component, Introduction to Essential Care, is specifically designed to familiarise students with some of the elements of patient care prior to their hospital and aged care placements. The 3-day course, delivered by Brightwater Care Group, a Registered Training Organisation, covers all the material required for competence in:

- work effectively with older people (CHCAC318A)
- follow safety procedures for direct care work (CHC0HS312A)
- provide food services (CHCAC316B)
- apply first aid (HLTFA301B)

The four units of competency completed during the first and second off-the-job training sessions form part of the requirement for a Certificate III in Aged Care, a nationally recognised qualification. The full Certificate III comprises 14 units in total. Brightwater provide a certificate of attainment.

The third and fourth off-the-job training components build on the lessons learned during earlier off-the-job training components and introduce students to Curtin University campus.

# Nursing Transition Program

## Workplace Learning

Students in the TRNP will be completing Workplace Learning: Employability skills (Mode 2).

This provides students with opportunities to develop skills in the workplace and gain credit towards secondary graduation.

Students are required to undertake a minimum of 110 hours of training in the workplace during which skills are monitored and assessed under the supervision of an appropriate industry person. To gain practical exposure to the nursing environment students undertake two work placements, one in an acute hospital and the second in an aged care setting.

The work placement consists of practical activities under the direction and supervision of a trainer/workplace supervisor, usually a registered nurse. Where possible, during the course of the work placement, students are exposed to registered nursing in a variety of roles.

Each student receives a Log Book which provides a record of his/her workplace learning and assessment. Students are required to record their daily tasks in the Daily Training Schedule and list those whom they have worked with during the day. This is then presented to the workplace supervisor for signing and providing work performance feedback.

Workplace Learning provides a framework for the development of skills in the workplace common to a broad industry sector as well as industry specific skills.

Examples of tasks students might be asked to perform whilst on work placement:

- personal care of patient/resident;
- making beds;
- escorting residents within the aged care facility / patients to the front reception of the hospital;
- talking with patients/residents;
- taking observations of patients/residents under direct supervision;
- serving of meals and arranging of patient/resident flowers; and
- cleaning and storing of equipment.

Following the completion of their aged care placement, students are required to submit an assignment relating to activities undertaken during their placement. The assignment forms part of the assessment for the second off-the-job training component.

## Participating Health Care Partners

The program is very pleased to acknowledge the support of the industry partners. These host organisations provide the Workplace Learning component for the students.

### The Hospitals involved are:

- \* Attadale Private Hospital
- \* Bethesda Private Hospital
- \* Glengarry Private Hospital
- \* Hollywood Private Hospital
- \* Joondalup Health Campus
- \* Mercy Hospital Mt Lawley
- \* Peel Health Campus
- \* South Perth Hospital
- \* St John of God Hospital – Bunbury
- \* St John of God Hospital – Murdoch
- \* St John of God Hospital – Subiaco
- \* Waikiki Private Hospital

### The Aged Care Facilities are:

- \* Amana Living
- \* Baptist Care
- \* Bethanie Group
- \* Brightwater Group
- \* Mercy Care
- \* RAAF Association
- \* Rosewood Care Group
- \* RSL Care
- \* Silver Chain Nursing Association
- \* SwanCare Group
- \* St Ives Care Group
- \* Uniting Church Homes

# Nursing Transition Program

## **Successful completion of the Program**

Students who satisfactorily complete all work placements and off-the-job training components of the program and achieve the required grades in their final Year 12 school-based assessment will be offered direct entry to the Bachelor of Science (Nursing) course at Curtin University, without the necessity to sit the WACE Examinations. Although the minimum required grades may vary slightly from year to year, students who achieve a minimum of a C-grade in 4 WACE courses, including English, could expect to gain an offer of a place.

## **Other important information**

### **Costs of participating in the Program**

The TRNP is unfunded, therefore it is not possible to assist students with any costs associated with participation in the program.

There is a cost of \$220 per student for the second off-the-job training component, however, in the past this cost has generally been covered by schools/systems. Students should check with their schools in relation to this cost. Other parts of the program are provided at no cost to participants.

There will be some costs associated with vaccination and TB screening, necessary before undertaking hospital placements, although these are likely to be minimal for students who are up-to-date with their childhood vaccination schedule. These costs will need to be met by students/parents.

### **Duty of Care and insurance arrangements**

Duty of Care for TRNP students rests with their respective schools. As such, a representative of the school is required to visit the student's workplace on at least one occasion during each placement.

All students are insured by their school (in the case of Catholic and Independent schools) or by the Department of Education and Training (in the case of government schools) against personal accident or injury during their work placement. Students are also insured against public liability claims for personal injury or property damage to third parties, but insurance cover does not extend to accidental damage caused by the student.

### **Vaccination requirements**

It is a requirement of the program that students undergo health screening, which may include some vaccinations. In accordance with Curtin University requirements, TRNP students must be screened/vaccinated for the following:

- Hepatitis B;
- Influenza;
- Diphtheria, Polio, Tetanus, Pertussis;
- Varicella (Chicken Pox);
- Tuberculosis;
- Methicillin Resistant Staphylococcus Aureus; and
- Measles, Mumps and Rubella

### **Students attending non-metropolitan schools**

During its first five years of operation, only students attending schools in the Perth metropolitan area were eligible to participate in the Transition to Registered Nursing Program. The program is now also available to students living and attending schools outside the Perth metropolitan areas. Regional students are welcome to apply, however, travel and accommodation costs for regional students will need to be met by students/parents. Most of the program activities occur during school holidays, so there is little disruption to school commitments. Training and work placements occur in the metropolitan area. Where possible, work placements for successful regional students will be made within their region.

# Nursing Transition Program

## Further information

Further information is available from your school coordinator or the contacts listed below:

Catholic Schools:

\*Frank Italiano (08) 6380 5313  
italiano.frank@cathodnet.wa.edu.au

Independent Schools:

\*Fran van Riessen (08) 9441 1621  
fvanriessen@ais.wa.edu.au

Government Schools:

\*Louise Morrison (08) 9264 8106  
louise.morrison@det.wa.edu.au

Chamber of Commerce & Industry of WA:

\*Anne Griffiths (08) 9365 7685  
anne.griffiths@cciwa.com

## Application Information Details

This document outlines the processes involved in making an application for entry into the TRNP. It is important to read the following details carefully to ascertain if you are eligible to apply as well as to ensure all procedures are followed and the application is complete.

## Eligibility Criteria

Students should check the following eligibility criteria. Students must satisfy **ALL** the criteria. Applications from students who do not meet all the requirements will not be considered.

1. Students must be enrolled in Year 11 studies at a government, Catholic or independent school in Western Australia.
2. Students must be as certain as they can that they wish to pursue studies in Registered Nursing when they graduate from Year 12.
3. Students must be studying at least four courses which will lead to a WACE examination and potential TER in Year 12. This must include, in Year 11, English at a minimum level of 1C/1D. (Note that English 1A/1B is not acceptable). It is preferred, but not essential, that students are studying Human Biology or Integrated Science and a TEE Mathematics (again 1A and 1B is not acceptable). Year 11 pathways which do not lead to Stage 2 units in Year 12 will not satisfy the criteria.
4. To maximise selection potential, students studying Stage 1 courses in Year 11 should be achieving a minimum grade of B. Students studying Stage 2 courses in Year 11 should be achieving a standard of at least a strong grade of C.

## Before Applying

Before applying for entry into the TRNP students should have undertaken the following steps:

- carefully read and understood the nature of the program;
- conducted some research about what Registered Nursing involves and the sorts of skills and competencies required of Registered Nurses;
- discussed their application with a school representative who can provide relevant career and study advice. This may typically be the School Counsellor, Year 11 Coordinator, Deputy Principal or VET Coordinator;
- determined that the school will provide strong support for the student in the School Reference Form (Form B) and;
- discussed the application with parents/guardians and ensured that they support the student's involvement.

# Nursing Transition Program

## Written Application Procedures

The initial written application procedures for entry to the Registered Nursing Transition Program involve three aspects:

1. Information Sheet completed by student and parent (Form A). Students must ensure that all aspects of this form have been completed and signed. The sections requiring student responses may be handwritten or typed. Generally, the space provided will be sufficient. The reviewers of the application are interested in clear, concise responses and do not require longer discussions. Students are advised to discuss their responses before finalising the application form. Untidy, misspelt, badly written applications will disadvantage the student.
2. Photocopies of two most recent school reports - final Year 10 report and a Semester 1 Year 11 report. The Year 10 report should include details of subjects and grades as well as written comments by teachers. It is typically printed on school letterhead and signed by the Principal or their representative. If, for any reason, students do not have a Year 10 report, they will need some form of official results summary or transcript from the school attended at that time. In respect of the Year 11 report, it is acknowledged that a formal report indicating grades achieved may not have been written at the time of application. In this case, an interim progress statement indicating school based ratings and projected grades, signed and on school letterhead, would be accepted.

\*\* Please note that photocopies of the original documents should be submitted, as application packages will not be returned to students unless specifically requested.

3. School Reference Form (Form B) to be completed by a representative of the school, signed and stamped using an official school stamp or seal. This must be completed solely by a representative of the school who knows the student well. It could be the School Counsellor, Year 11 Coordinator, Deputy Principal etc. It must be signed by the Principal. A photocopy of this form will not be accepted. Students are advised to determine that they will receive a favourable reference from the school before commencing the application process.

Students should ensure that all three requirements listed above are submitted as part of the written application.

No further documents such as CVs/resumes are required and should not be submitted. Application packages that are incomplete in any way will not be considered.

Please note that the closing date for the written application is **Friday 26 June 2009**.

Completed packages should be mailed before that date to:

Anne Griffiths  
Policy Adviser, Education & Training  
Chamber of Commerce & Industry of WA  
PO Box 6209  
EAST PERTH WA 6892

Or handed in at:

The Chamber of Commerce & Industry of Western Australia  
180 Hay Street, East Perth  
Tel: (08) 9365 7685