

Aged Care Nursing and Allied Health Dementia Care Scholarships

Sector Newsletter Article

'I would 100% recommend applying for this scholarship to those that work in aged care'

The Aged Care Nursing Scholarships program has been expanded. Scholarships are available to nurses, personal care workers and allied health professionals. Applications for studies in 2022 are open until 5 May 2022.

Belinda works as an aged care quality manager and studied nursing several years ago. She highly recommends aged care scholarships to others that work in the aged care sector.



The scholarship supported Belinda to graduate faster.

'I studied a Bachelor of Nursing as a mature aged student and used the scholarship money to help support me and my family while completing the study. The scholarship funds allowed me to take leave without pay to finalise my placements, without having to worry about a wage. It helped me to graduate faster, accelerate my career and enabled me to learn so many different skills.'

Chief Nursing and Midwifery Officer Adjunct Professor Alison McMillian said that '1,500 new scholarships are available to nurses, personal care workers and for the first time, allied health professionals working in aged care. This includes a guaranteed minimum of 20 scholarships per year for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.'

'The scholarships include a wide range of study areas including palliative care, dementia care and infection prevention and control,' Adjunct Professor McMillian said.

Chief Allied Health Officer Dr Anne-marie Boxall said 'the introduction of scholarships for allied health professionals will enhance aged care quality.'

'This first-time investment in allied health scholarships recognises the important role of these professionals in aged care, and the focus on dementia related qualifications will lift the quality of care in this core business for aged care.'

Aged care registered nurse, Isobel, didn't think she would be able to afford to do extra study.

'As a solo parent of two children with additional needs, I didn't think it would be possible to afford to spend money on education for myself. Having a scholarship made me continue the course, even when it was hard, and it would have been much easier to just quit.'

Isobel is working to complete a Graduate Certificate in Leadership and Management, with a focus on healthcare.

'I would definitely recommend the scholarships to those who work in aged care. I feel like a lot of what the scholarship has done for me is give me confidence in my work, and help me change some of my approaches.'



Isobel is working to complete a Graduate Certificate in Leadership and Management



Garrison has worked in aged care for most of his career and has received several scholarships.

Garrison has worked in aged care for most of his career. He's completed several scholarships which helped him to progress from an assistant in nursing, to an enrolled nurse then a registered nurse. Garrison's most recent scholarship was a master's degree, allowing him to progress into management.

'My favourite part of study was the engagement with our lecturers and my cohort, a lot of who were mature age like me. We all had such a passion for patient-centred care, and better outcomes for dementia patients.'

'If I identify someone with a passion for aged care, I point them in the direction of the scholarships. I've been so lucky with the scholarships I've had over my career. It's never too late to take up study.'

Students will be eligible if they are studying a Graduate Certificate, Graduate Diploma or Masters in a course relevant to the care of older people, or leadership and management.

Scholarship recipients will also be eligible for a completion bonus on successfully finishing their course.

The Aged Care Nursing and Allied Health Dementia Care Scholarship Program is part of the reform package which includes growing a highly skilled aged care workforce. The [Aged Care Workforce Action Plan: 2022–2025](#) outlines the 40 initiatives addressing workforce challenges.

Are you looking to advance your career in aged care?

Find out more on the [Australian College of Nursing website](#). Applications for studies in 2022 are open until 5 May 2022.