

Nurse Practitioners

...may be found in many different areas of Healthcare ranging from:

- Paediatrics to Aged Care
- Physical and Mental Health Care
- They also practice in geographical locations extending from metropolitan to rural and remote areas.



For more information on Nurse Practitioners:

Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia
www.nursingmidwiferyboard.gov.au

Australian College of Nurse Practitioners
www.acnp.org.au

International Nurse Practitioner/Advanced Practice Nursing Network
www.icn-apnetwork.org

Your Local Nursing and Midwifery Office

NSW www.health.nsw.gov.au/nursing
ACT www.health.act.gov.au/professionals/nursing-midwifery
VIC www.nursing.vic.gov.au
TAS www.dhhs.tas.gov.au/healthprofessionals/nursing
SA www.nursingsa.com
WA www.nursing.health.wa.gov.au
NT www.nursing.nt.gov.au
QLD www.health.qld.gov.au/ocno

acnp

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What is a Nurse Practitioner?



australian college of
nurse practitioners

Transforming Healthcare.

The Nurse Practitioner role provides a new level of service for our community. It is designed to provide timely access to healthcare for all Australians.

A Nurse Practitioner (NP) is a Registered Nurse who has completed both advanced university study at a Masters Degree level and extensive clinical training to expand upon the traditional role of a Registered Nurse. They use extended skills, knowledge, and experience in the assessment, planning, implementation, diagnosis and evaluation of care required.¹



Nurse Practitioners work as key members of the healthcare team and collaborate with other nurses and healthcare professionals including GPs, medical and surgical specialists, physiotherapists, dietitians, occupational therapists and many others. They work in a variety of locations, both in hospital and community settings.

This innovative role aims to:

- **Improve client and community - focussed clinical outcomes**
- **Improve access to treatment**
- **Provide cost-effective care**
- **Target at-risk populations**
- **Provide outreach services in rural and remote communities**
- **Provide mentorship and clinical expertise to other health professionals**

The role of the Nurse Practitioner was created to address the changing healthcare needs of our community.

Through their training and expertise Nurse Practitioners are able to autonomously perform advanced physical assessments, order diagnostic tests, interpret the results of these tests, initiate referrals to relevant healthcare providers, and prescribe appropriate medications and other therapies as needed.

The expanded role of the NP is clearly defined by the scope or specialty area in which the NP practices.



The Nurse Practitioner title can only be used by a person who has been endorsed by the Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia.

Although the role is relatively new to healthcare in Australia, Nurse Practitioners have provided healthcare in other countries like the United States since the 1960s. The first 2 Nurse Practitioners in Australia were authorised in New South Wales in 2000.

1. Glenn Gardner, Jenny Carryer, Sandra Dunn & Anne Gardner (2004) Nurse Practitioner Standards Project: Report to Australian Nursing and Midwifery Council, p. vi, from the Royal College of Nursing, Australia's (RCNA) position statement on Advanced Nursing Practice.