

Information on Visa Sponsorship for Overseas Registered General Nurses by the WA Department of Health to work at Royal Perth Hospital on a Temporary Visa.

This agreement allows for the sponsorship of Registered Nurses recruited from overseas for a temporary visa.

Conditions apply and registered nurses will need to meet the following requirements:

- Have a recognised tertiary qualification, or equivalent, in nursing (ie minimum 3 years full-time study in nursing);
- Have current nursing registration with the Nurses Board of Western Australia (NBWA) prior to their visa being approved. The Nurses Board of WA can be contacted at Locked Bag 6, East Perth, Western Australia, 6892, Australia. Their web site is www.nmbwa.org.au. In some instances the Nurses Board may require an assessment of your qualifications by the Australian Nursing Council Incorporated. **Please make sure all documentation required by the NBWA (set out in their procedure for registration) are sent with the application or it won't be processed;**
- If from a non-English speaking background then successfully complete the nursing version of the occupational English language test, International English Language Testing System (IELTS) or equivalent;
- Work only for the sponsoring employer (Metropolitan Health Service) for the contracted period. It is possible to resign within this period but two weeks notice is necessary. Under the conditions of the sponsorship Royal Perth Hospital is required to contact the Department of Health to notify them of your resignation. If transferring to another Metropolitan Health Service hospital, the Department of Health will undertake this. If resigning from the Metropolitan Health Service you will have to leave the country within 28 days of the date of resignation or obtain another visa;
- Work full-time for the length of the visa, ie minimum of 38 hours per week.

The temporary sponsored visa allows Registered Nurses to travel to and work at Royal Perth Hospital for one to four years. The applicant's spouse and dependents may travel and work on this visa as well.

SELECTION CRITERIA

Applicants must meet the employment selection requirements of Royal Perth Hospital. Sponsored nurses are entitled to the same employment conditions as Australian nurses.

The selection process will include a personal or telephone interview using a conference phone. A senior Nurse Manager and a senior Clinical Nurse will conduct the interview. Questions will relate to practical situations in the applicant's area of nursing expertise and concentrate on skills, competencies and safety issues.

Reference checking will also be carried out and applicants should include the names and contact details of two referees who can support the application and provide a commentary on the applicant's recent clinical work. Contact by e-mail or fax is preferred.

An Offer of Employment letter will be issued to successful applicants and will be for full-time employment at level one under the ANF Award. A contract will be issued for signing once the applicant has arrived in Perth with the appropriate work visa. The salary point within level one will depend on years of relevant full-time experience since qualification as a Registered Nurse. Records of service are required from previous employers to confirm your experience.

The whole process from initial application to issue of the visa usually takes on average three to six months. Applicants are expected to commence employment within a month of receipt of their visa. More time can be negotiated with the Nurse Manager.

CRIMINAL RECORD SCREENING

A person recommended for appointment at RPH will be subject to a criminal record check prior to that appointment being confirmed. This must be undertaken in the country where you reside. If you have not been living in that country for more than 12 months, then an Interpol criminal record clearance is required. It is the responsibility of the applicant to arrange and pay for this prior to entering Australia. Proof will be required before commencing employment at Royal Perth Hospital.

HEALTH COVER

Citizens of countries with reciprocal arrangements for health cover in Australia will be eligible for free emergency treatment in a public health service. Sponsored employees must arrange for themselves and their accompanying family members to be covered by Overseas Visitors/Temporary Resident Comprehensive Private Medical Insurance during their stay in Australia. Further info can be obtained from: HBF www.hbf.com.au HBF give 10% discount if you have their flier (available from HBF), Australian Unity: www.austunity.com.au, Medibank Private: www.medibank.com.au, GMHBA: www.gmhba.com.au

FURTHER INFORMATION

If you have any further queries please contact the Nurse Manager – Recruitment and Retention via email rph.nursing.recruitment.officer@health.wa.gov.au, the RPH website at www.nursingwa.com.au or phone +61 8 9224 2345 (Perth City) or +61 8 9382 7391 (Shenton Park).

For more information and useful facts regarding immigration see <http://www.immi.gov.au/>