



**Princess Alexandra Hospital**  
Geriatric and Rehabilitation Unit

## Graduate Nurse Program

### Hospital overview

Princess Alexandra Hospital (PAH) is a large 780 bed tertiary health care centre, providing care in most major adult specialties.

- We are one of Australia’s leading academic and research health centres.
- Our nursing excellence is internationally recognised, and we are the only hospital in Queensland that has prestigiously been formally recognised as a Magnet organisation since 2004 by the *ANCC Magnet Recognition Program®*.
- Continued Magnet recognition ultimately recognises excellence in the practice of our 2,400 nurses, the delivery of high-quality care, support for personal and professional development, the supportive team environment and the commitment and passion to safe person-centred care.

### Graduate program overview

The program is offered on a need only basis. The Geriatric and Rehabilitation Unit (GARU) graduate program is a rotational program where you experience each ward for approximately three months.

The two outpatient settings will be one week each. Your rotation will be given to you during orientation. GARU has a strong focus on the theory of rehabilitation and membership of our governing body Australasian Rehabilitation Association (ARNA) is strongly suggested.

The clinical rehabilitation transition program (CRTSP) is offered and shared with the Division of Rehabilitation. Educationally we link with both the Division of Medicine and the Division of Rehabilitation.

This program has articulation agreements with tertiary facilities in place and is inclusive of all GARU staff. All levels of experience are represented in this group.

The program has support from the Nurse Unit managers in the form of study group held for two hours every month for which attendees need to request on the roster.

### Unit information

GARU is made up of three units and the Day Hospital / GATE. There are 26 beds across all units.

- Bunya Ward: specialises in amputees and dermatological conditions.
- Cassia Ward: specialises in care of the stroke patient with orthopaedic patients and for patients following injury and patients requiring restorative rehabilitation.
- Banksia Ward: specialises in care of orthopaedic patients with some stroke patients following injury and frail older patients and patients requiring restorative rehabilitation.
- Day Hospital: day hospital is for patients who need ongoing therapy following discharge. There are also specialist OPD clinics such as Memory and Falls. This is run by nursing staff and is a transdisciplinary service.
- GATE (Geriatric Assessment through eHealth) is a team of nurses who perform comprehensive geriatric assessments on all older patients in the medical and surgical wards who are referred for rehabilitation, ACAT, TCP and geriatric consult. They also co-ordinate the waiting list for GARU.



## Hospital Initiatives

- Magnet®
- Planetree
- Commitment to Reconciliation
- Digital Hospital

## Program benefits

- A structured graduate nurse program that will assist you to transition from novice graduate nurse to a confident and skilled practitioner.
- The provision of education and support needed to build an enriching and rewarding professional career.
- Joining an organisation that is internationally recognised for nursing excellence and developing leaders of the future.
- A supportive clinical and educational environment that promotes competence and confidence in clinical practice.
- Diverse clinical specialties from which to choose.
- Multiple career development pathways with opportunities to progress and achieve your future nursing career goals.

## Graduate placement opportunities

- Rotation of all three wards in GARU
- Clinical rehabilitation transition support program
- Sessions with prosthetics and orthotics
- Social workers session
- Physiotherapy session
- Occupational therapy session
- Speech / audiology session
- Friday stroke meeting attendance
- Case conference attendance
- Memory clinic attendance
- Geriatric assessment through eHealth

## More information

GARU Nurse Education Team

Ph: (07) 3176 3104 or (07) 3176 6627

Visit [metrosouth.health.qld.gov.au](https://metrosouth.health.qld.gov.au) and search “graduate programs”.