



We're building healthier communities.

Welcome to **Katherine Hospital**

Described as the place where the outback meets the tropics, Katherine is the third largest town in the Northern Territory. Ideally positioned between three areas of outstanding beauty and environmental significance, it offers the perfect base for exploring the Gulf region, the southern part of Kakadu and Nitmiluk National Park - home to the world-famous Katherine Gorge (Nitmiluk).

Katherine Hospital services about 20,000 people living in a catchment area of 340,000 square kilometres between the West Australian and Queensland borders. More than half of these people live in remote areas bordered by Dunmarra in the south and Pine Creek in the north. Our services are also available to the hundreds of thousands of tourists from around the world who visit our region each year.

Located about 3.5 kms from town, Katherine Hospital is a modern facility with 60 beds. It is staffed by about 13 hospital medical officers, 80 nursing staff and 80 support staff.

“*First impressions count! The hospital is encompassed by lush, well-maintained gardens with each of the work units providing open access to the beautiful surroundings. My initial encounter with the staff was an open, friendly approach; a cup of tea on offer from the Nursing Director for both my husband and myself and an exclusive tour for the two of us. The work units maintain that aura of friendliness that you often see in smaller rural hospitals and whether it's related to the isolation from family or that the locals realise its importance in helping people to stay, I'm not sure. Katherine hospital accepts patients from a huge referral area, so nursing practice encompasses an exciting and often unique array of chronic and acute conditions. Whether it's the location, a small town place or the younger population, people make the effort to socialise and work towards making it a great place to live and work. So on days off, Katherine has many things on offer and is central to some unique experiences and places including canoeing down Katherine River, camping at Gregory National Park, a boat cruise through Nitmiluk Gorge, exploring Kakadu and some city life in Darwin...all within a few hours drive. In considering all this, maybe that's why I'm still here!*”

Judy Burke RN

Services & support

We provide non-specialist medical, diagnostic and treatment services for both inpatients and outpatients and play a strong role in education and training, research and health promotion. Our hospital is well equipped, not only to provide the best possible care for our patients, but also to support the well being of our staff.

Patient services include:

Midwifery
Emergency Department
Paediatric
Renal Dialysis
Outpatient Department
Medical
Surgical
Operating Theatre

Physiotherapy, radiography, laboratory and pharmacy services are also available at the hospital, along with patient travel services.

Katherine Hospital is accredited by the Australian Council on Healthcare Standards, and the services and approach of our midwifery ward means we have also been accredited as a Baby Friendly Hospital by UNICEF and WHO.

Specialist medical services

As part of a Territory-wide hospital network, Katherine Hospital has access to specialists from Darwin in the areas of general surgery, paediatrics, medicine, gynaecology, ophthalmology, ENT, renal, orthopaedics and cardiology. The hospital works closely with the Aerial Medical Service, providing a base for emergency retrievals within the district and inter-hospital transfers.

Working in remote & Aboriginal health

Katherine Hospital is committed to education in rural, remote and Aboriginal health and our management team works closely with the Aboriginal Health Boards to provide integrated health services to the region and enable staff from both organisations to work together.

We employ Aboriginal Health Workers and Aboriginal Liaison Officers, encourage carers for Aboriginal children admitted to hospital, and recognise the specific health needs of Aboriginal people at the hospital.

Great salary and benefits

In addition to salaries among the highest in Australia, up to seven weeks annual leave and salary sacrificing options, we offer many other attractive conditions and benefits, including:

- Relocation assistance
- Subsidised housing
- Professional Development Allowance after one year of service
- Post-graduate allowance.

Accommodation

There are plenty of accommodation options for our nurses. Our on-campus bedsits and one-bedroom units are fully self-contained and have all the necessary 'mod-cons', including air conditioning. Residents have everything at hand to enjoy a fantastic lifestyle – including swimming pool, tennis court, barbeque and social club. And the Katherine River is just a short walk from the units.

Staff training

The hospital's Workforce Development Unit offers many training and education programs including a First Year Graduate Program for tertiary trained nurses. All nurses have access to a comprehensive in-service education program, with courses in midwifery, orthopaedic nursing, neonatal nursing, paediatrics, critical care and advanced cardiac life support.

Making the move easy

Once you've decided to join our team at Katherine Hospital, we'll do our part to make your move as easy as possible.

As well as offering financial support for relocation, we also provide a comprehensive orientation program that involves Aboriginal cultural awareness and a Familiarisation Day, which includes spending some time in the ward area.

About our Town

Located on the Stuart Highway, 320km south of Darwin, Katherine is at the crossroads of the tourist trails in the Northern Territory's Top End. The town is home to a multicultural urban population of 11,000 people who enjoy the monsoon tropical climate.

The town of Katherine has everything to suit sporting and outdoor enthusiasts including clubs, gyms, an Olympic pool, golf course and bowls green. If food

is more your thing, there are plenty of restaurants and cuisines to tempt you. If you're looking for entertainment, we have a thriving regional arts community, museum, Aboriginal art and cultural centre and new three-theatre cinema complex.

For families there is no shortage of education, with five primary schools, two high schools and Charles Darwin University campus that incorporates the NT Rural College. For those with children, Katherine has two crèches and a family day care facility.

Located 30 kilometres north-east of Katherine township is the beautiful 2,920 square-kilometre Nitmiluk National Park (Katherine Gorge). The name 'Nitmiluk' is the traditional Jawoyn landowners' word for Cicada Dreaming, which is one of the area's important traditional stories. Numerous art sites remain, some more than 7,000 years old.

The spectacular Nitmiluk is made up of 13 sandstone sections that can be explored by guided boat tours – or at a more leisurely pace by canoe. Another popular attraction is Edith Falls – a wonderful swimming hole fringed by lush green foliage and fed by cascading waterfalls. Nitmiluk National Park offers good camping facilities and more than 100 kilometres of bushwalking tracks.

Other beautiful attractions in Katherine include the ancient Cutta Cutta Caves, Katherine Hot Springs, Historical Springvale Homestead and the Katherine River, which winds through the centre of town offering a perfect spot for barramundi fishing, swimming, and canoeing.

A tropical monsoon climate

Katherine has a sub-tropical climate, with distinct wet and dry seasons. Average annual rainfall of 1040mm is mainly received in January to early March, while temperatures range from 25° to 35° Celsius, with an occasional 40° during November and December, usually accompanied by very high humidity. The Dry Season has beautiful weather with temperatures regularly dropping down to 10° Celsius overnight.

There is no shortage of water and sunshine to support the fast growing agricultural and horticultural industries in the region.

Want to know more?

If you're considering joining our team at Katherine Hospital, we suggest you check out our web site at www.nursing.nt.gov.au

Or call our nursing recruitment hotline today on **1800 000 648** or email us at nursinginfo.ths@nt.gov.au

Our staff will answer any questions you have about living in Katherine and working at our hospital.