

Three excellent reasons
to consider

Remote Area Nursing

in the Northern Territory



Northern Territory Government
Department of Health and Community Services

1800 000 648
www.nursing.nt.gov.au

Warning: this publication may contain the images of deceased Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander people

Three excellent reasons to consider *Remote Area Nursing*

in the Northern Territory

1

Rewarding work

- Aboriginal health
- Cross-cultural partnerships
- Extended Primary Health Care roles
- Autonomous practice with excellent support

2

Excellent conditions

- 6 weeks annual leave
- Fully or substantially subsidised housing
- Regular air fares to Darwin or Alice
- Generous studies assistance
- Remote tax exemptions
- Assistance with relocation

3

World-class professional development and support

Why I became hooked on remote area nursing



• *The rewards*

It is very raw - the elements, independent practice, two way cultural learning, confronting, self development ... the surrounds - where else do you get paid to visit areas the tourists never see? Clear bright blue skies, red sandy earth, wildflowers, spectacular thunderstorms, flooding rivers and the spiritual, majestic ranges of the Central Australian Region."

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The challenges ...

But Remote Area Nursing does present particular challenges. Among many other things, RANs need skills and knowledge to:

- Make frequent complex clinical decisions and professional judgements
- Manage a range of emergency situations
- Work effectively with the community and communicate in a cross cultural context
- Constantly reflect on practice and on research

All of this requires maturity, adaptability, experience, expertise and a willingness to learn and grow. Importantly, RANs also need practical, on-going professional development and support.

The support ...

The NT Department of Health and Community Services has recognised the unique needs and contribution of nurses working in some of Australia's most remote areas. The "Pathways to Professional Practice Program" is widely recognised as "best practice" in recruiting and supporting RANs.

The rewards

"To me the best thing about remote area nursing is being part of a highly collaborative, multi-disciplinary team. It is not easy, but when the team is really functioning it is fantastic. Particularly working in partnership with Aboriginal Health Workers. When that partnership is working well, I have my eyes (and practice) open to all sorts of things that I never even thought about when I first contemplated going bush..and I had been a nurse for years!! My skill and awareness base has broadened enormously in remote nursing. "

"I love Remote nursing because ... well it's real, the people are excellent, it's a place where wonderful camaraderie happens, the networks are wide...but the team is nicely small, the countryside is great, the highs and the lows mean it's not ordinary, the learning curve never stops and it sure beats the alternatives!"

*I just love it ...
and I learn something new every day!*

The rewards

"Where else but as a Territory Remote Area Nurse do you get to practice in all possible facets of health care, in beautiful untouched locations with a remarkable degree professional autonomy ... but with support when you need it ... and you can even wear RM Williams boots to work!"

"I enjoy being involved in Aboriginal health and working with Aboriginal people ... I feel certain that I am part of making a difference to the health status of people who are enormously disadvantaged ... yet Aboriginal people retain an enormous capacity to laugh and make you feel welcome. I just love it ... and I learn something new every day!"

What is the Pathways to Professional Practice Program?

“Pathways” is an integrated professional development and support system for Territory RANs. The program consists of:

- An encouraging, honest and helpful **recruitment** process
- A **four-week orientation** and induction program to provide basic information on remote area practice
- On-going access to **training modules** addressing critical areas of Primary Health Care practice
- **Standardised systems** as a basis for practice
- **On-going professional support:**
 - Management support and visits
 - Regular visits and on-going support from experienced Professional Practice Nurses
 - Participation in town-based RAN days
 - Regular telephone link-ups with other RANs
 - Participation in performance planning and feedback sessions
 - Remote Educator visits
 - Access to other relevant professional development.

What training is provided under Pathways?

Year 1

- > Orientation Program (3 weeks)
- > Workplace Induction (1 week)
- > Surviving and Thriving in the Bush (3-6 months after commencement)
- > Self-directed learning package “Giving Vaccines”
- > Self-directed learning package “Pharmacology”
- > One other learning module (in accordance with individual and team needs)

Year 2 and subsequent years

Up to three modules per year, selected to meet individual and team needs. Highest priority modules completed first.

Emergency Care*	Maternal Emergency Care
Chronic Diseases Management *	Sexually Transmitted Diseases
Well Women's *	Health Promotion
Well Men's*	Conducting Competency Assessments
Practical Paediatrics*	Mental Health/Alcohol and Other Drugs
Managing a Primary Health Care Service*	Research and Evaluation

* Along with the orientation, the completion of these modules provides a strong foundation for safe and effective remote practice.



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Interested?

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