

Allied Health Assistant

What does an Allied Health Assistant Do?

Allied Health Assistants assist professional staff by visiting clients, preparing written and verbal reports, and helping with personal care that clients or carers may not be able to attend to.

Allied Health Assistants are not qualified to diagnose conditions or prescribe treatment. They work under the direction of professional staff such as doctors, social workers, physiotherapists, speech pathologists, occupational therapists, divisional therapists and nurses

Skill Level

The pathways related to Allied Health Assisting are as follows:

- Certificate III in Allied Health Assisting
- Certificate IV in Allied Health Assisting (a pathway from Certificate III)

Completing of these Certificates may also lead to higher education qualification in allied health or related health careers, including a university degree as an Allied Health Professional

A day in the life of an Allied Health Assistant

There are four main areas in which an Allied Health Assistant may perform a number of tasks under the supervision of the relevant therapist

- **Community Health Nursing Aide/ Assistant**

Provides care for the sick, aged, disabled in the home and those on prolonged periods of bed rest, including personal hygiene care such as showering, bathing and dressing. Makes sure the client has a healthy diet

- **Occupational Therapy Aide/ Assistant**

Assists with the provision of client based services in a home; clinic; hospital; or day centre setting. Constructs, adjusts and fits aids and equipment, including splints. Under direction of an Occupational Therapist, assists clients in self-care, skills of daily living, diversional and other rehabilitation activities

- **Physiotherapy Aide/ Assistant**

Assist clients with exercise or rehab programs, delivers self-care and rehabilitation equipment to the patient at home, in hospital or in a clinic setting. Adjusts equipment to suit the client's needs and demonstrates the use of equipment. Lifts transfers and generally assists in moving patients within their homes or to hospitals or places of treatment

- **Speech Pathology Aide/ Assistant**

Assist in the provision of therapy to clients once a Speech Pathologist has assessed the client and devised a suitable program. Assists and trains clients in the use of electronic and non-electronic alternative communication systems. Helps to make or prepare equipment to use with clients