

Hunter New England Area Health Service



John Hunter Children's Hospital Tertiary Referral Hospital

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No of Beds: 106

Area Health Services are sub-divided into health networks/clusters to improve the integrated delivery of health services in each region. The 'eight' health clusters in Hunter New England Health are Mehi, McIntyre, Tablelands, Peel, Lower Mid North, Upper Hunter Health, Lower Hunter Health and Greater Newcastle. John Hunter Children's Hospital is a Tertiary Referral Hospital and is part of the Greater Newcastle Cluster. It is the flagship of Kaleidoscope, the colourful name given to all children's health services in Newcastle, the Hunter valley and Lower Mid North Coast.

Formed in 2002, Kaleidoscope is an integrated area wide child health service that brings together a range of primary, secondary and tertiary inpatient and community-based services for children and young people in Newcastle, the Hunter Valley and the Lower Mid North Coast.

Kaleidoscope aims to provide seamless health care between the home, the community and hospital.

Extending from the flagship John Hunter Children's Hospital in Newcastle, Kaleidoscope also includes children's facilities at hospitals across the region, including Maitland and Muswellbrook, as well as the wide range of community-based services, mental and dental health.

Administratively it is led by an Area Director and divided into four geographic areas – Newcastle, Lower Hunter, Upper Hunter, and Lower Mid North Coast.

The John Hunter Children's Hospital is a 106 bed facility located within the John Hunter Hospital and serves as a tertiary referral centre specifically to the Hunter New England Health Region and frequently beyond. It has a range of tertiary specialist services including thoracic medicine, neurology, endocrinology, immunology, oncology, paediatric surgery, neonatal intensive care and, in collaboration with the John Hunter Hospital, paediatric intensive care services.

Our services include: As stated above.

Accommodation available/type:

At this facility, there is no on-site accommodation however rental accommodation is available locally.

Transport description: Public timetables and fares are available via the [Transport Infoline](#).

Program Structure- Aim

The New Graduate Transitional Support Program conducted by John Hunter Children's Hospital (JHCH) has been designed to facilitate the transition of the newly registered nurse, from a student to the role of professional health care worker. The emphasis in the program is placed on clinical practice in relevant clinical areas, while providing the opportunity to consolidate prior knowledge. The aim of the program is to provide a supportive environment, designed to develop confidence as a member of the multi-disciplinary health care team. A further aim is to facilitate a broad range of paediatric and neonatal nursing experiences.



The program is designed with three rotations (one for 6 months and two for 3 months each) throughout various clinical areas within the John Hunter Children's Hospital and Nexus and offers support through the allocation of preceptors and supernumerary periods. The Nurse Educators offer support during this transitional year through debriefing sessions and individual coaching as necessary. To encourage the growth of new Paediatric nurses there are also education opportunities through specific education inservices and study days. The clinical portfolio is used as a key tool to plan, implement and evaluate learning and development.

Outline of Employment

The new graduate is employed for a period of twelve months in a full time capacity.

New graduates have an opportunity to rotate through Paediatric Medicine, Adolescent/Day Stay Unit, Paediatric Surgery/Oncology, Neonatal Intensive Care Unit and NEXUS - Child Adolescent Mental Health Unit.

Orientation

Each participant, prior to commencing the first clinical rotation, undertakes a comprehensive five day JHCH orientation program. A further two education study days aimed specifically at the ongoing needs of the beginner practitioner, are conducted throughout the program.

Preceptorship

Each program participant is assigned a clinical preceptor who will be the new graduate's chief resource person throughout the program. The new graduate and preceptor work identical rosters for the first two weeks of the first clinical rotation. During this time the preceptor works in a supernumerary capacity to support the new graduate nurse.

A 'New Graduate Clinical Competencies Handbook' and discipline specific learning package is also made available to the new graduate to assist them to identify their learning needs.

Evaluation

Participant assessment is undertaken by:

ongoing informal evaluation of progress by assigned preceptor through each unit, with a staff performance appraisal at the end of each clinical rotation.

participation in continuing education programs is available.

Contact information:

If you require further information about this health facility, contact the Nurse Manager, Career Development Recruitment & Retention, Hunter New England Health, Ph: (02) 4985-3239, Fax: (02) 4985-3475 or Email: doreen.holm@hnehealth.nsw.gov.au.

Alternatively, contact either the:

Paediatric Nurse Educators - JHCH, Ph: (02) 4921- 4463 or Email:

margo.nancarrow@hnehealth.nsw.gov.au OR elizabeth.newham@hnehealth.nsw.gov.au OR

Neonatal Nurse Educator - JHCH, Ph: (02) 4921-4468 or Email:

justine.parsons@hnehealth.nsw.gov.au.
