

Registered Nurse GradStart 2025

Garrawarra Centre

Why Garrawarra Centre for your GradStart year?

Garrawarra Centre offers the opportunity for new Registered Nurses to develop your clinical skills and practice in a specialist Aged Care service.

As a new Registered Nurse, our supportive and challenging program will give you the opportunity to develop and consolidate your clinical skills thus providing you with a fulfilling introduction and firm foundation to your ongoing career as a Registered Nurse.

Garrawarra Centre for Aged Care is an accredited high care Dementia Specific public and teaching Residential Aged Care Facility (RACF). We specialise in the care of people who have advanced dementia, displaying high risk behaviours and who require care in a secure environment.

Garrawarra Centre is a Commonwealth accredited dementia specific facility and is affiliated with the University of Wollongong. We are located adjacent to the Garrawarra State Conservation area, centrally located between Sydney and Wollongong, just south of Waterfall.

Garrawarra Centre is a 104-bed facility. There are 4 individual cottages, accommodating 26 residents in each. Each cottage has 10 single rooms and 8 double rooms, which have ensuite bathrooms. Garrawarra Centre have cottages allocated to males and females only, and do not have mixed residential accommodation.

The single level secure cottages are designed to resemble 'Californian Bungalows', and are in keeping with an era appropriate to many of our residents' early histories, aiming for a



home like environment. The 'V' shape of the cottages incorporates several comfortable living areas, indoor activity spaces, sensory rooms, lounges and dining rooms, secure side courtyards and a secure main central garden that lies between the 'arms' of the cottage.

There are secure garden areas between the cottages with activities such as putt-putt, a men's shed, a 'chook' shed, and a Thai-chi exercise equipment area. We have many garden areas outside of the cottages, which are used in our holistic program of care, including a sensory garden with an aviary.

Garrawarra Centre's unique location, access to outdoor areas, resources and dementia trained staff enable a high standard of dementia specific care provision for the complex residents referred to us,

We are proud to provide holistic person-centred care to all residents. You will be working within a dedicated and supportive multidisciplinary team, committed to safety in the management and care of people in the end stages of Dementia. Working closely with the residents' families and friends to ensure the highest possible quality of life, we provide a unique working environment that combines

contemporary clinical practice with a family-friendly approach to care. The team of our skilled and dedicated Enrolled and Registered nurses, and Assistants in Nursing, work

together in a spirit of support and cohesiveness. This positive work culture contributes to the environment of the Centre.

Commencement dates

Garrawarra Centre offers one intakes per year, typically February.

What we offer you in your GradStart year

As a new Registered Nurse, Garrawarra Centre offers a well-supported and comprehensive GradStart program.

You will be supported by the Garrawarra Centre nursing team including Clinical Nurse Consultants, Clinical Nurse Educators and Clinical Nurse Specialists and the broader nursing staff.

At Garrawarra Centre you will receive ongoing education and support in pursuing an Aged Care career pathway. This is enabled by our affiliation with the University of Wollongong.

You will receive a comprehensive General Orientation and supernumerary days at the

commencement of each rotation. Throughout your transitioning year you will receive regular in-service education and clinical supervision sessions.

You can expect:

- Development of specialised skills in Aged Care and dementia specific nursing
- Development of skills for working within a multidisciplinary team
- Management of patients with complex behaviours
- Utilisation of holistic assessment skills
- Participation in ongoing skill competencies and knowledge development.

Other details

You will receive specialised orientation to the organisation, facility, and ward. This includes supernumerary status at the commencement of each of your clinical rotations. You are provided with flexible rostering on a 7-day rotating roster.

There is no on-site staff accommodation at Garrawarra Centre.

There is free parking on site.

There is no direct public transport routes to the centre.

For more information, [see this link](#).

Questions?

If you have any questions about this GradStart program, please contact:

**Cathy Wynn – Nurse Manager, Staff Education
and Clinical Practice**

PH: (61) (2) 8545 4794

All enquiries welcomed!