

Registered Nurse GradStart 2026

Sydney Hospital and Sydney Eye Hospital – Metro/Rural Exchange Stream



Why choose us?

As a 1st Year Transitioning to Professional Practice Registered Nurse, we are committed to ensuring you are supported to further develop your skills and knowledge throughout your transition program to enable a smooth and enjoyable start to your career in Nursing.

Join us and you will be part of a dynamic, dedicated, caring, compassionate, professional and person-centred workforce where nursing first began over 200 years ago!

Our hospital and program

Sydney Hospital and Sydney Eye Hospital (SSEH) is located on the site of Australia's first Hospital – right in the heart of the vibrant city of Sydney!

Services include 24-hour emergency care, inpatient general medicine (including a close observation unit and care of patients for misuse of drugs and alcohol), inpatient and outpatient ophthalmology and hand specialist services, in addition to peri-operative services, including day surgery.

SSEH is a teaching hospital and centre of excellence for ophthalmology and hands, providing health services for both inpatients and outpatients. It is a quaternary referral centre for eye health conditions, performing a vast amount of public eye surgery and providing emergency eye care. The dedicated Hand Unit is a tertiary referral centre for hand trauma, conditions and diseases of the hand.

The Metro/Rural Exchange Stream is a unique program in partnership with Far West Local Health District, which will enable you to experience the difference between working in the 'big city' in a metropolitan hospital and in a rural/remote area. Typical six-month rotations between SSEH and Far West, can be in any of the following areas:

Metro – Sydney Hospital and Sydney Eye Hospital
Emergency Department

Rural – Far West Local Health District
Broken Hill Base Hospital

We also offer General, Perioperative, and Population and Community Health Transitioning to Professional Practice Streams.

Commencement date

One Intake during 2026 – February

Transition Framework

Our Transition to Professional Practice Framework incorporates the four core transition principles of induction, person-centred work culture, learning and development, and support.

The Registered Nurse Program – Metro/Rural Exchange Stream, is designed to develop and enhance your skills and knowledge as a first year Registered Nurse to implement safe, quality, compassionate, and person-centred care within a supported, clinical learning environment. We take great pride in enabling transitioning nurses to develop as competent, confident, responsible and accountable Registered Nurses.

We are committed to a person-centred and facilitated learning approach, whereby you as the transitioning nurse continue to be self-determining and responsible for your learning and professional development.

By selecting the Metro/Rural Exchange Stream, our program offers you the following:

- Nursing experience in a specialist teaching hospital in the heart of Sydney
- Five day corporate and tailored nursing orientation program, followed by local unit orientation
- One rotation at SSEH in the Emergency Department for a 6-month period (you will then transfer to Far West Local Health District for your second 6-month rotation)
- Ongoing support, guidance and facilitation of learning from preceptors and other clinical resource staff, including clinical nurse educators, a nurse educator, clinical nurse consultants and a nurse manager who is responsible for the implementation and management of the Transition to Professional Practice Program
- A regular schedule of education sessions specifically designed for Transition to Professional Practice Nurses, access to the hospital wide in-service program, Study Leave and closed group Reflective Practice Supervision to support your wellbeing.
- NSW Health State-wide uniforms
- Annual Leave
- Individualised career pathway planning and development
- Certificate of Achievement on completion of the Transition to Professional Practice - Metro/Rural Exchange - Program
- Nursing employment following completion of the program in a department/unit/ward based on position availability

At Sydney Hospital and Sydney Eye Hospital, we receive excellent feedback from our first year Transitioning to Professional Practice Registered Nurses and pride ourselves on the high retention rate following completion of their 12-month program.

Transport

Located in the heart of Australia's most exciting and multicultural city, situated in picturesque grounds, the historical Sydney Hospital and Sydney Eye Hospital is just a 10-minute stroll from key tourist attractions such as the magnificent Sydney Harbour, including the Opera House, Circular Quay and Botanical Gardens, and adjacent to the best shopping, food and entertainment facilities imaginable!

All of this and more is easily accessible with a 24-hour public transport network. The hospitals are close to the Town Hall, Wynyard, St James and Martin Place Train and Metro stations. Buses operate continuously from Sydney's Central Business District. Ferries arrive at Circular Quay, which is just a ten-minute walk away.

Subsidised on-site parking facilities are also available for your convenience.

Information and contact

For further information about what we offer or if you would like to arrange a visit to the hospital, contact:

Program Manager: lynette.higgs@health.nsw.gov.au or Telephone: (61) (02) 9382 7412

NM Workforce and Staffing: mary.sousou@health.nsw.gov.au or Telephone: (61) (02) 9382 7296

More information about [Sydney Hospital and Sydney Eye Hospital](#)