

# Maternal and Child Health Nurse

The Maternal and Child Health Nurses support the provision of a comprehensive Universal Maternal and Child Health service that focuses on the health and development, prevention, early detection and intervention of physical, emotional and social issues affecting young children. Whilst the primary focus is on the child, there is also a strong focus on the health and wellbeing of the mother, and the family, in the context of the child's health and wellbeing. This includes providing anticipatory guidance, early intervention, support and professional advice in accordance with the Maternal and Child Health Service Programs Standards and Guidelines.

The Nurse will also be required to work independently and contribute to a strong team culture.

## Key Duties may include:

The role of an MCH nurse is to provide a comprehensive and consistently high standard of health service for children, and families in accordance with the relevant Standards; they also:

- provide primary health care, health promotion, early identification of health concerns and early intervention of illness prevention for children and families
- promote and encourage good parenting practices and provide a support and advisory
- service on parenting skills, child behaviour and optimal health and safety of children
- respond to birth notifications for families with new babies
- advocate role for a child or a parent in support of promoting optimal health
- be aware of the cultural, socio-economic, and individual needs of children and their families and to provide a service appropriate to these needs
- and to maintain accurate and confidential records.

## Entry into this role:

To become a Maternal and Child Health Nurse in Victoria, you need to complete several steps involving specific educational qualifications and registration requirements. Here's a comprehensive guide:

### 1. Obtain a Nursing Qualification

#### A. Become a Registered Nurse (RN):

- Complete a Bachelor of Nursing degree:
  - **University of Melbourne:** Bachelor of Nursing
  - **Monash University:** Bachelor of Nursing
  - **Deakin University:** Bachelor of Nursing

## **B. Register with the Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia (NMBA):**

- After completing your degree, you must register with the NMBA to practice as a Registered Nurse.

## **2. Obtain a Qualification in Midwifery**

### **A. Complete a Postgraduate Qualification in Midwifery:**

- Enrol in a Graduate Diploma or Master of Midwifery:
  - **University of Melbourne:** Graduate Diploma in Midwifery
  - **Monash University:** Master of Midwifery Practice
  - **Deakin University:** Graduate Diploma of Midwifery

### **B. Register with the NMBA as a Midwife:**

- After completing your midwifery qualification, you must also register as a midwife with the NMBA.

## **3. Complete a Postgraduate Qualification in Maternal and Child Health**

### **A. Enrol in a Graduate Diploma or Master of Maternal and Child Health:**

- **La Trobe University:** Graduate Diploma in Child, Family, and Community Nursing
- **RMIT University:** Graduate Diploma in Child and Family Health Nursing

## **4. Gain Practical Experience**

- **Clinical Placements:** During your studies, you'll undertake clinical placements in maternal and child health settings to gain practical experience.
- **Work Experience:** Post-qualification, gaining work experience in maternal and child health services will be crucial.

## **5. Ongoing Professional Development**

- **Continuing Professional Development (CPD):** Engage in CPD activities to keep your skills and knowledge up to date. This is often a requirement for maintaining your registration with the NMBA.