

FLINDERS & UPPER NORTH LOCAL HEALTH NETWORK

2021 Transition to Professional Practice Program (TPPP) for Registered Nurses

About the Flinders & Upper North Health Services

The Flinders & Upper North Local Health Network (FUNLHN) consists of six hospitals throughout the Flinders Ranges, Far North of the State and the Eyre Peninsula. Country Health Connect outreach services are available across the region. It has a resident population of approximately 44,000. Health services are located within the communities of Port Augusta, Whyalla, Quorn, Hawker, Leigh Creek, Roxby Downs, Woomera, Marree and surrounds.

The health services of Flinders & Upper North vary in size and function and offer a broad and challenging range of surgical, medical, maternity, aged care, theatre, accident and emergency and outpatient services.

What does the TPPP for Registered Nurses look like in the Flinders & Upper North Local Health Network?

The FUNLHN Transition to Professional Practice Program (TPPP) provides new graduates with:

- Support and guidance in their first year of practice as a Registered Nurse (RN)
- Experience working in a country setting that assists participants to become resourceful, flexible and adaptable - a great start and solid foundation for your nursing career

The FUNLHN TPPP program aims to support the newly qualified Registered Nurses to consolidate and develop skills and knowledge reflected in high quality nursing practice. The transition program is evidence-based, developed by rural nurses and midwives and informed by the practical experience of our rural and regional workforce.

Differences in location, size/type of health unit will make each Registered Nurse experience in their first year unique. These opportunities enable development of the skills required for a 'rural generalist' RN. This may include surgical, medical, maternity, aged care, theatre, accident and emergency and outpatient services. A FUNLHN TPPP incorporates practice support, clinical time allocated to enhance learning supported by an online learning platform and a minimum of four professional development/study days.

Opportunities exist for clinical rotation to specialty areas within the larger health services. Some sites may offer opportunity to work across health units. Opportunity for full or part time positions within this program is available, and should be discussed with the relevant site prior to application.

There is a local health network approach to management of the program and education days are scheduled with TPPP participants from FUNLHN.

The health unit contact person will be able to answer questions about the TPPP at their site including information about:

- Start dates – most programs commence between January and March although there may be some programs which commence later
- Whether the position is full or part time

- What experiences that particular site can offer and whether clinical rotations are available
- Whether the program includes rotations to more than one health unit
- The TPPP with a speciality focus e.g. perioperative, aged care
- The local community, transport, accommodation and the local area

Combined Registered Nurse and Registered Midwife TPPP

If you are also a new Registered Midwife and interested in a combined Registered Nurse and Registered Midwife TPPP FUNLHN is pleased to offer this program. The combined program gives graduates new to both the nursing and midwifery professions support as they start their careers. A separate application for the combined RN/RM TPPP can be submitted via the Registered Midwife TPPP application portal which will be available mid July 2020.

For more information about the Combined RN/RM Program contact:

Carol Salmon

Nurse & Midwife Education Facilitator

Carol.salmon@sa.gov.au

The Flinders & Upper North Local Health Network will be offering TPPP RN positions in the following health services:

1. Whyalla Hospital & Health Services

The Whyalla health service has been designated to be one of the four regional hospitals within Country Health SA. The health service has accommodation for 72 acute inpatients, the first Regional Cancer Centre in SA including a medium level Chemotherapy Unit, an inpatient mental health unit with Community Mental Health services, a dedicated Rehabilitation unit and purpose built facilities and Theatre complex It also includes the Country Health Connect and Community Health Services that provide specialist nursing and allied health services and currently employs over 400 staff. Maternity services are provided in the Women's and Children's Unit, a combined 19 bed Obstetric, Gynaecological, Surgical and Paediatric unit. There are 3 birthing suites, and has an average of 170 deliveries per year. A Community Midwifery service, pre admission clinic and ante-natal clinic support an early post-natal discharge program. Participants may be offered ongoing employment following successful completion of the TPPP.

Contact: Cherie Hubner, Clinical Facilitator

Tel: 08 86488510 or Email: cherie.hubner@sa.gov.au

2. Port Augusta Hospital and Regional Health Service

The Port Augusta Hospital and Regional Health Service provides Acute Hospital Services provides care to patients across the spectrum from Neonates to Elderly. Medical Care is provided by Local GP's, Contracted Medical Officers and Specialist Consultants. Our Nurses work in close partnership with our Allied Health and Community Health Services.

Clinical areas include: Medical, General Surgical, Operating Theatre, Obstetrics and Gynaecology, Paediatrics, Emergency Department, Specialist Consulting Suite, Chemotherapy Unit, and a Renal Dialysis Unit.

Other services provided at the Port Augusta Hospital include Palliative Care, Community Mental Health, Diabetes Education, Community Midwifery Services (Pre and Post Natal), Allied Health Services (Hospital and Community), Domiciliary Care, Women's Health Service, and a Community based Nursing Service.

Port Augusta is the Regional Base for the Royal Flying Doctor Service, which provides medical care for patients in isolated and remote communities. The hospital serves a large remote area of the state.

Contact: Ann-Marie Sigut, Nurse Manager

Tel: 08 8648 5895 or Email: ann-marie.sigut@sa.gov.au

Lisa Curtis, Associate Nurse Educator

Tel: 08 8648 5500 or Email: lisa.curtis@sa.gov.au

3. Quorn Health Service

Quorn is a 41 bed health unit servicing Quorn and the surrounding rural community. The unit provides medical, surgical and aged care and has a busy Accident and Emergency department. Education days are scheduled with TPPP participants from Port Augusta Hospital and held in Port Augusta.

Contact: Alison Hoare, Director of Nursing & Midwifery

Tel: 8648 7888 or Email: Alison.hoare@sa.gov.au

4. Roxby Downs Health Service

Roxby Downs Health Services is a 10 bed unit servicing Roxby Downs, Woomera, Andamooka and surrounding areas, including the BHP Olympic Dam Copper Mine.

Roxby Downs has a population of approx. 4,000 people with an average age of 30yrs. The unit provides general medical services, a very busy Accident and Emergency service as well as regular visits by a range of Allied Health and specialist providers. Education days are scheduled with TPPP participants from Port Augusta Hospital and held in Port Augusta.

Contact: Janine Connell, Executive Officer/Director of Nursing & Midwifery

Tel: 8671 9020 or Email: Janine@connell@sa.gov.au

Renee Johnson, NUM Email: renee.johnson@sa.gov.au

Comments from 2019 TPPP Registered Nurses:

"Above all, this has been an amazing learning curve"

"I think the TPPP program is really well thought out, and I have not experienced any problems with my TPPP. It is a good experience and a good start to help enter workforce as a nurse."

"I have really felt so privileged to be part of the TPPP Program, it has been so very nice to feel like I was valued enough to be given this foundation for my career."

"The TPPP has been an invaluable opportunity, I've learnt so much and grown into the role."

Where to get more information?

Applicants are encouraged to attend one of the following information sessions:

Face to Face

Room 2, Glenside Campus, 226 Fullarton Road

Thursday 2nd July, 2020: 11:00am – 13:00pm

Due to Covid-19 restrictions – places are limited at the face to face sessions. Up to 4 sessions will run on this date. Please ensure you RSVP to the email below to book your session.

For applicants located in rural areas or on rural placement, the information session will be repeated via Microsoft Teams. Please register your interest in participating with the Rural Support Service Clinical Development Team via email Health.RSSClinicalDevelopment@sa.gov.au to receive a link to participate

Further information contact:

Rural Support Service Clinical Development Team

Health.RSSClinicalDevelopment@sa.gov.au

We are continually working to increase opportunities for TPPP positions in the health services.

Please check the SA Health TPPP updates section for news of any change as to where TPPP positions are offered.

