

C4N: A PROFESSIONAL CREDENTIALING SCHEME FOR SPECIALIST NURSING

Meet Australia's first Credentialed Children & Young People's Nurses!

Credentialed Children and Young People's Nurse, Lisa Hutchinson



Lisa is honoured to be the first credentialed Children and Young People's Nurse in Australia. Lisa is the Program Manager for Queensland's new State-wide Primary School Nurse Health Readiness Program. She has qualifications in child and adolescent health nursing, as well as community and primary health care, and

throughout her career has endeavoured to promote high standards of nursing care for children, young people and their families.

"I've been a life-long learner since commencing my nursing career and have contributed to both practice development initiatives and the evidence base surrounding children and young people's nursing. I'm therefore a strong advocate for credentialing as it is a process by which nurses are recognised for their commitment to upholding the professionalism of their chosen nursing specialty. Credentialing is not only valuable from individual nurses' perspective in that it enhances professional credibility and career prospects, but it's also valuable from a management perspective. As more and more eligible nurses become credentialed, it will be readily apparent as to which nurses have the knowledge and skills to undertake more advanced nursing roles. This will support succession planning activities as well as facilitate the coordination of peer mentoring in the workplace. Credentialing will also serve to instil consumer confidence through the assurance that clients are being cared for by appropriately qualified and skilled professionals who are dedicated to the provision of quality nursing care."

Credentialed Children and Young People's Nurse, Helen Alvers



Helen works as a Nurse Unit Manager in the Child & Adolescent Unit at Mackay Base Hospital. She has 20 years of various paediatric experience – acute inpatient, ambulatory care, with Oncology patients, children with chronic illnesses and post-acute services.

"I decided to undertake credentialing to raise the level of recognition of the breadth of work, competence and experience maintained by child & young people's nurses and to be recognised for my experience and knowledge in this field.

Credentialing nurses who work with children and young people will raise the profile of these nurses to specialist nursing standards. It will also improve their practice in the field of child & young people's nursing, and will continue to maintain standards of nursing above the novice level and into the specialist nurse.

Credentialed nurses will not only improve their own practice but will also actively advocate for children and young people's health in a larger world of adult health care. By being credentialed we are saying we are the experts in this field and can be relied upon to look after the child & young person with experience, knowledge and understanding of their illness."

[So what is Professional Credentialing? >](#)



Find out more at www.c4n.com.au

Credentialing for Nurses is a collaboration between:



The Department of Health, Queensland, through the Office of the Chief Nursing and Midwifery Officer, provided funding to the Australian College of Mental Health Nurses to establish the C4N initiative.



So what is Professional Credentialing?

Credentialing is a way to recognise a nurse as a specialist nurse in their area of practice. It is a professional validation process that recognises the qualifications, skills, expertise and experience of nurses who are practicing within a given nursing specialty.

A specialist nurse Professional Credential demonstrates to employers, colleagues, consumers/patients and their families, that a nurse has achieved the professional standard for practice in their nursing specialty. Credentialing also increases the awareness of the contribution that specialist nurses make to the health of the community.

Credentialing is a core component of clinical and professional governance, or self regulation, where members of a profession set standards for practice and establish a minimum requirement for entry, continuing professional development, endorsement and recognition.

Registered nurses working in specialised fields and other disciplines have developed credentialing as a means to ensure standards of practice and competence within their specialist domain beyond entry to practice.

What are the requirements and standards?

To meet the requirements and standards for a Specialist Nurse Credential, you must meet the following criteria:

1. Hold a current registration as a Registered Nurse (Division 1) with the Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia
2. Hold qualifications that meet the criteria for your specialty

3. Provide evidence of working a minimum of 12 weeks full time equivalent over the preceding 12 months or the equivalent length of experience over the preceding 2 years, or over the preceding 3 years in the area of specialty.
4. Provide evidence of completion of 50 hours of continuing professional development in the previous 12 months, which must incorporate:
 - at least 40 hours relating to the area of specialty
 - no more than 30 hours of education related activities can be claimed
 - no more than 30 hours of practice related activities can be claimed
 - meeting any specific requirements as detailed by specialist colleges/organisations
5. Support from two referees who are familiar with your practice.

Yes, I'm interested! Now what do I do?

Credentialing is now open to nurses working within specialist children and young people settings around Australia. The application process is all online and is easy to use, but it does require some organisation and preparation on your part. The C4N website www.c4n.com.au has all the information and guidance that you will need.

If you would like to contact a Credentialed Emergency Nurse Ambassador to find out more, please see our list of Ambassadors available here: www.c4n.com.au/#!find-ambassadors/c1ci3



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Queensland Government

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the Australian College
of Mental Health Nurses inc.

