Royal Perth Hospital (RPH) is a tertiary healthcare service with 450 beds. The hospital offers an extensive variety of specialty adult health care services and is home to the State Adult Major Trauma Unit.

The hospital strives to ensure a supportive environment for its graduate nurses enabling the professional development of registered nurses and enrolled nurses; and allowing them to provide safe, high quality nursing care.

The RPH graduate transition program commences annually in February. The comprehensive 12 month program provides two, six month clinical placements in a diverse range of clinical specialties. The hospital also offers a limited number of placements in a 12 month Intensive Care Unit program and a 12 month operating theatre program.

Support and socialisation

The program commences with a comprehensive one week orientation which focuses on core skills and practical workshops. Supernumerary days are provided in each rotation to allow graduates to adjust to their new ward environment along with a period of intense support by experienced ward based staff development nurses and support staff. Graduates are placed in social groups to attend their graduate specific education. These approaches help graduates’ socialisation with their peers, and foster a sense of belonging and connection to the organisation.

Education

Facilitated learning sessions (one hour) are held each fortnight (20 in total). The sessions cover a range of clinical and professional topics and are conducted in the afternoons (graduates are rostered to attend). In addition, the program includes two structured professional learning development days.

What can nurses expect from the RPH Graduate Transition Program?

The key commitments of the RPH graduate transition program are graduate support (initial and continuing), socialisation and facilitation of ongoing education and training needs.