

# West Coast DHB New Graduate Nursing Programmes



## Location

Stretched out along a thin strip of flat land between the Southern Alps and the Tasman Sea, the West Coast is New Zealand's most sparsely populated and most rural district, creating special challenges for the provision of health services. Spanning an area the length of the distance between Auckland and Wellington means that we service the largest geographical area in New Zealand.

## About Us

The West Coast District Health Board provides high quality primary care services from 13 different locations (including two rural hospitals in Westport and Reefton and ownership of a number of general practices). A wide range of secondary services including general medicine, general surgery, orthopaedics, obstetrics and gynaecology, anaesthetics, psychiatry, rehabilitation and dementia are provided at our 100 bed base hospital in Greymouth. A comprehensive range of sub-specialty services is offered by visiting consultants.

## Nursing services provided by the WCDHB

Nursing opportunities exist in the inpatient setting in medical, surgical, operating theatre, critical care, emergency department, AT&R, dementia care, inpatient mental health and paediatrics.

Community and primary based services are offered by district nurses, rural nurse specialists, midwives, community mental health nurses, practice nurses and public health nurses.

Midwives and clinical nurse specialists work between inpatient and community based services.

## Culture

We are innovative because we have to be, and just like you we are all about getting the job done. A collaborative, relaxed but professional approach is our focus.

Being rural doesn't make us any less professional or resourced than any of the larger health providers. At the WCDHB we nurture an environment where you have the technology and resources to learn, the professional support to grow, and the ability to really make a difference within your community.

As a forward thinking and innovative nursing team, we are proactive and reactive to the dynamic health environment. We pride ourselves in the delivery of high quality nursing care within a unique geographic region.

## Benefits

We can offer you:

- Challenging and interesting work in a supportive environment
- Competitive remuneration and flexible working hours
- Opportunity and encouragement for internal and external training
- A child friendly workplace close to schools and amenities
- Hassle free parking

And when you're not working we can offer you paradise as your playground! Our spectacular native forests, mountain rivers, lakes and sea coast offer outstanding recreational opportunities such as fishing, skiing, tramping, kayaking and mountain biking.

## Thinking about a career in Rural Nursing?

If you're innovative, resourceful and adaptable – come build your career with us.

Our new graduate programmes allow you to experience more autonomy and variety than you may experience in larger centres.

The three programmes include:

- Nurse Entry to Practice (Secondary Health focused)
- Nurse Entry to Practice Expansion (Primary Health focused)
- New Graduate Mental Health



## NETP and NETP Expansion Programmes:

### The environment

- Become part of a team working towards excellence in the delivery of rural health services
- A supportive learning environment to transition effectively from nursing student to competent registered nurse and beyond
- More opportunities to develop a broad base of clinical skills
- Working with highly experienced teams of nurses

- Working within a multidisciplinary team, who will value your opinion and observations
- Living within a diverse rural community, with easy access to a wide range of recreational activities – surfing, fishing, climbing, tramping, skiing

### Training opportunities

- Orientation including community profiling with a rural focus
- Nurse Entry to Practice Programme (NETP) and Expansion Pathway including supportive preceptorship and monthly study days
- Designed to assist the graduate nurse to become an active contributing member of the interdisciplinary team and to develop the clinical skills required for independent nursing practice within a rural environment

## New Graduate Mental Health Programme

### The environment

- Working with small highly experienced teams of nurses (IPU / CMH)
- Developing the RN role in a low stress, supportive environment – with safe staff/client ratios
- More opportunities to establish the therapeutic role
- Rural setting brings opportunity for developing more advanced generic skills
- Living within a diverse rural community – with easy access to a wide range of recreational activity – surfing, fishing, climbing, tramping, skiing etc
- Less stress yet same pay and conditions as busier DHBs (PSA MECA)
- Working within a multidisciplinary team, who will value your opinion and observations.

### Training Opportunities

- New Graduate MH Programme – PG Cert Mental Health Nursing (block delivery off site 12-18 paid study days). This course is fully funded.
- Supportive preceptorship programme, clinical supervision plus regular CNE support (1/2 day per month)
- Two clinical rotations during the NG year – CMH and IPU
- Support for those wishing to go on and undertake Masters level study – study leave, funding (full and % depending on course)
- Enhanced training opportunities (talking therapies) – access to skills workshops, or PG certificates

## Consider joining our team at the West Coast DHB

- Support from Clinical Nurse Educators, Clinical Nurse Managers, Clinical Nurse Specialists and other nursing colleagues
- The option of one or two clinical placements during the year
- A greater exposure to the wide variety of specialties and the generalist specialist
- Following the new graduate year, support for those wishing to go on and undertake relevant study, including Masters level if desired – study leave, funding (full and % depending on course)



- The opportunity to develop an educational and clinical career within a DHB who strongly support professional development in the nursing workforce
- Professional development and recognition programme
- Fast track opportunities for rural and primary nursing

### Hear from our previous graduate nurses:

“The region attracted us due to the close opportunities for tramping, skiing, mountain biking and rock climbing”

“Rotation between different areas was a benefit”

“It's beautiful! The rain is amazing, it makes the west coast as unique as it is. We do get hot/sunny weather too and when the sun shines, you feel like you are on vacation!”

“You get a variety of nursing experience due to generalist nursing. This means gaining experience that is valuable in any setting”

“A great opportunity to work in areas that would be otherwise very competitive in larger centres, e.g. A&E, CCU and Theatre, with lots of support for inexperienced staff”

“Working in a small community you get to know just about all of those that you work with in the entire hospital. You also get to know patients and their families/whanau well which seems to promote therapeutic relationships and continuity of care”

For more information go to our website [www.westcoastdhb.org.nz](http://www.westcoastdhb.org.nz)



–West Coast–  
DISTRICT HEALTH BOARD  
TE POARI HAUORA A ROHE O TAI POUTINI