

Information sheet

Primary and Community Care Nursing Workforce Initiatives

In March 2025, the Minister of Health announced initiatives to support an increase in timely access to primary care for all New Zealanders, including supporting more doctors and nurses into the primary care workforce.

We want to spread the word and ensure you have valuable information about these initiatives that will support you to develop and grow your expert nursing workforce.

Increasing graduate registered nurses (RNs) in primary and community healthcare

We are funding employers to support the recruitment of 400 primary care placements for new graduate RNs.

- \$15,000 per urban placement
- \$20,000 per rural placement

The application process is now open! Graduate RNs can bring fresh energy and the latest ideas on clinical practice. If you're looking to employ, or have recently employed, a graduate RN (RNs must not have been employed for more than 90 days), we encourage you to take up this opportunity and apply.

Your employment could be a nurse's first step into a rewarding, long-term career. You can also use the additional enhanced capitation funding announced in Budget 2025 to support the development of your primary care team, including recruiting graduate RNs.

Keep in mind that hiring RNs starting their career in primary care can lead to interest in further initiatives designed and tailored for primary and community healthcare. These include increased RN prescriber training and more advanced education opportunities – all initiatives intend to support and benefit both employers and RNs.

To find out more information and to apply [CLICK HERE](#).

Employer funding to support advanced education for primary care RNs

We want our RNs to have amazing opportunities to advance their career, education and skills! We know that to do this, we must enable employers to support their RNs. The advanced education funding support will not only allow RNs to access education but can also help employers cover costs such as backfill and RN supervision costs.

We are investing \$21.6 million over four years to accelerate participation in post-graduate education, including RN prescriber post-graduate papers, for up to 120 primary care RNs a year. Applications for this funding will open later 2025 for study commencing in 2026. More details will be released later this year.

Nurse practitioner (NP) training

We are boosting and enhancing the NP training support from 2026 onwards and want to further support employers and RNs to increase the number of RNs training to be NPs. An investment of \$34.2 million over five years will see funded places for NP training in primary care grow to 120 a year from 2026.

NPs can be the lead healthcare provider for patients and their whānau, providing complex care to patients, prescribing and helping reduce workforce pressures in primary and community health care. We currently have an RFP that seeks interest from providers to deliver a new NP training support scheme from 2026. The funding will support the RN to make a smooth transition into the new scope of practice.

For more information:

Please email graduateRN@TeWhatuOra.govt.nz with questions or for assistance.

Primary care

- [Latest primary care updates – Health New Zealand | Te Whatu Ora](#)
- [Primary and Community Funding for Graduate RN Employment – Health New Zealand | Te Whatu Ora](#)
- [Nurse practitioner pathway – Health New Zealand | Te Whatu Ora](#)

Ministry of Health: [Primary care announcements | Ministry of Health NZ](#) – includes Fact sheets.

Beehive media releases:

- 3 March 2025 [Healthcare boost means seeing a GP, faster | Beehive.govt.nz](#)
- 4 March 2025 [More locally trained doctors in primary care | Beehive.govt.nz](#)
- 5 March 2025 [Greater role for nurses in primary care | Beehive.govt.nz](#)