



WA Health

Unlimited job opportunities

ADVERTISING FEATURE
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The Weekend West



Government of **Western Australia**
Department of Health

Allied health professionals

From audiologists to sonographers, there are 23 health professions making up the allied health and health science professions in Western Australia. It all adds up to a wide choice in careers.

And with National Health Reform squarely on the agenda and one of the largest health infrastructure programs ever undertaken in Western Australia underway, there's never been a better time to become part of WA Health.

If you're looking for a challenging career that does something worthwhile for the community, you are spoiled for choice in the allied health professions.

From physiotherapy, podiatry, occupational therapy, clinical psychology, pharmacy, medical imaging technology, radiation therapy and nuclear medicine technology to audiology, dietetics, medical librarian, orthoptics, orthotics and prosthetics, social work, speech pathology, biomedical engineering, clinical perfusion, exercise physiology, medical physics, medical science, respiratory science, sonographer and sleep technology, there's a speciality to suit everyone.



Vincent Rajkumar
CHIEF CLINICAL
PERFUSIONIST

What does a perfusionist do?

Clinical perfusionists are allied health care professionals who play a vital role in the open-heart surgery team. The team includes surgeons, anaesthetists and other operating theatre staff.

Perfusionists operate the highly sophisticated heart-lung machine during cardiac surgery. The machine performs the functions of the patient's heart and lungs, making sure blood is pumped around the body while the surgeon performs the operation on a temporarily stopped heart.

Clinical perfusionists administer medicines and transfuse blood products. They can also be involved in a range of surgeries, such as heart, lung or liver transplants and procedures such as dialysis, in both elective and emergency adult and paediatric patients. They can also be involved in clinical trials and research projects.

Benefits of your role

Benefits of being a clinical perfusionist include having flexible hours or days with potential for overtime work, promotion opportunities with salary increases, transfers within and across WA Health services and support for further education.

Qualifications

The minimum qualification needed for entry into training for clinical perfusion is a bachelor degree in science. Check with individual institutions for more information about entry requirements for individual training programs.

Further training

Clinical perfusionists can participate in further learning and research and help to extend the scope of practice within their workplace. They may advance to senior roles, manage a team of perfusionists, work in a teaching or training environment or become involved in research or new equipment design.

More information

Visit the WA Health website at www.ochpo.health.wa.gov.au or the Australian and New Zealand College of Perfusionists' website at www.anzcp.org.

"It's a privilege to be responsible for protecting a patient's heart and supporting their life during surgery."



Ben Noteboom
SENIOR PHYSIOTHERAPIST

What does your role involve?

I work with patients who are recovering from a critical illness, accident or injury. I treat physical problems particularly those that affect the muscles, bones, heart, circulation and lungs.

Using an exercise program that may include weights, stretches and specialised equipment, I help patients recover and improve their strength and coordination so they can walk, sit and stand with minimal pain and stiffness.

Physiotherapists need to understand the body's cardiovascular, respiratory and neurological systems to provide patient treatment and care advice to other medical teams.

Physiotherapists can work with adults, children, and people suffering age related physical problems.

Salary

Physiotherapists can earn around \$57,000 per year and up to \$80,000 with clinical experience. Senior and specialised jobs can earn from about \$87,000 a year up to \$95,000.

WA Health has an amazing range of benefits such as nine per cent superannuation, salary sacrificing, study leave and flexible working hours. Of course, there are many more benefits, depending on what area you work in.

Qualifications

To become a physiotherapist you will need to achieve tertiary qualifications with either a Bachelor of Science specialising in the field or a Bachelor of Physiotherapy.

Some universities offer a Graduate Entry Masters of Physiotherapy or a Graduate Entry Doctorate of Physiotherapy for people who have a bachelor degree or higher in a health science.

Further training

Physiotherapists can study postgraduate courses to specialise in areas such as sports and women's health. You can also study for a masters degree to enhance skills and knowledge through project work and research. There are also opportunities to attend workshops and seminars for professional development.

More information

Visit the WA Health website at www.ochpo.health.wa.gov.au or the Australian Physiotherapy Association website at www.physiotherapy.asn.au

"It's great being the physio who helps someone take their first steps after a combined heart and lung transplant."



Nicola Morgan
SPEECH PATHOLOGIST

What do speech pathologists do?

Speech pathologists diagnose and treat people of all ages with communication disorders. I work with children who have difficulties such as using certain words and sentences or making certain sounds in their speech or who find it difficult understanding what other people say.

Other communication difficulties include fluency and literacy difficulties or physical problems with eating or swallowing.

Speech pathologists can provide individual therapy, work in small groups, within a classroom, or become involved in home-based programs. I work closely with clients, their carers and other professionals as part of a multi-disciplinary team to provide advice and direction.

Qualified speech pathologists are in high demand and currently there is a shortage in Western Australia.

Salary

New graduate speech pathologists can earn around \$57,000 per year and up to \$80,000 with clinical experience. Senior and specialised jobs can earn from around \$87,000.

Qualifications

To become a speech pathologist you will need to achieve tertiary qualifications with either a Bachelor of Science specialising in the field or a Bachelor of Speech Pathology. You will need to have a high level of English language skills.

Further training

Speech pathologists can study for a masters degree. Further study can offer the opportunity to enhance skills and knowledge through project work and research. There are also opportunities to attend workshops and seminars for professional development.

More information

Visit the WA Health website at www.ochpo.health.wa.gov.au or the Speech Pathology Australia website at www.speechpathologyaustralia.org.au

“Each day is different. No two children are ever the same. The job is both challenging and rewarding.”



Marilyn Zelesco
SONOGRAPHER

What do sonographers do?

I am a healthcare professional who uses ultrasound equipment to produce medical images of tissues in the human body.

The images produced are then used to assist in the medical management of patients.

Ultrasound has widespread applications such as abdominal, obstetrics, gynaecology, musculo-skeletal, cardiac and paediatrics to name a few.

Sonographers who are employed in a hospital may work in the radiology, cardiology, vascular or obstetrics departments. They often perform scans at the patient's bedside or work in operating theatres.

I work as part of a team with other health professionals, medical staff and nursing staff. Hours of work may involve weekend or shift work. Participation in an on-call roster for after-hours emergencies may also be required.

Salary

Sonographers can earn around \$78,000 per year and up to \$87,000 with further study and experience.

Qualifications

To be a sonographer you require a qualification in ultrasonography/medical ultrasound. This is a post graduate

qualification so you first need a bachelor degree in a medical imaging science or a related area.

A list of accredited sonography programs is listed on the Australasian Sonographer Accreditation Registry site at www.asar.com.au

A clinical training position is a requirement for course completion.

Further training

Sonographers can study for a masters degree that could involve project work as part of the job and/or research.

More information

Visit the WA Health website at www.ochpo.health.wa.gov.au or the websites of the Australasian Sonographer Accreditation Registry Limited, Australian Institute of Radiography, Australian Sonographers Association, Australasian Society for Ultrasound in Medicine, The Cardiac Society of Australia and NZ or Australian Orthoptic Board.

"Sonography is an excellent way to develop clinical skills in the rapidly changing world of medical imaging."