

## CHART A COURSE

# Springboard to spot on the ward

**Course** Diploma of nursing.

In Australian health, there's one job that always seems to need more workers: nursing. But while most aim for a bachelor's degree, which leads to work as a registered nurse, a diploma can be a stepping stone.

"Most of our students go on to do a bachelor degree, and successful completion of this course [usually] gives them a year of recognition of prior learning," says the health services manager at Swinburne University of Technology, Wendy Graham.

Completion of the diploma also allows students to register with the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency as an enrolled nurse. Thanks to the practical nature of the course, graduates readily find work in acute nursing, sub-acute nursing or aged care. "The diploma involves more complex areas of knowledge than it used to," Graham says. "Graduates now have ability to work independently or directly with a registered nurse."

This year's students will also use Swinburne's new laboratories. "The lab has been created specifically for our nursing course," Graham says.

**Duration** 18 months.

**Time** 23 contact hours a week.

**Where** Swinburne University of Technology, Wantirna Campus.

**When** Intakes February and August.

**Link** [swinburne.edu.au](http://swinburne.edu.au).

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