

CHART A COURSE

Specialise in cognitive care

Course Graduate certificate in neurodegenerative disorders

While the upside of living longer is, well, living longer, there's often a downside.

Neurodegenerative diseases increase in prevalence as we age, and we now need nurses skilled in dealing with them.

"It's an emerging area of speciality practice; we need nurses to be able to manage those patients," the dean of The University of Notre Dame Australia's school of nursing, Dr Tracey Thornley, says.

The graduate certificate in neurodegenerative disorders, developed with Parkinson's Australia, covers a number of disorders. It's open to registered nurses and deals with several specialist topics.

"The course is not focused just on Parkinson's, but it is a major focus," Thornley says. "People come to us because they want something specific on the care of neurological patients.

"[Students] also learn research skills and advanced assessment skills that they can use to develop advanced practice," she says.

Cost About \$5200.

Duration A year (March to November).

Time Five hours a week independent study, excluding on-campus intensives.

Where The University of Notre Dame, Sydney.

When Four sets of two-day blocks on campus, plus online components.

SUE WHITE