

MAKING CAREER CHOICES

FACT SHEETS TO HELP YOU CHOOSE
THE RIGHT CAREER AND STUDY PATH



Personal Care Worker – Aged Care

Nurse's Aide, Nursing Assistant, Personal Care Assistant

Industry Description

Practitioners in this industry will be required to care for clients in a range of settings including nursing homes and personal homes. Duties may include showering and feeding clients, observing and reporting changes and assisting with basic medical and care procedures such as assisting with medications and changing dressings.

Below are some of the particularly demanding requirements. Reasonable Adjustment may apply for individuals with specific support needs in industry training. The learner should have:

- the ability to think about others' safety and needs
- the ability to ask questions and seek clarification from clients, colleagues and patients
- the ability to write, read and interpret work related documents such as reports and charts
- the ability to be aware of others' reactions and understand why they react as they do (social perceptiveness)
- the ability to recall events and report with accuracy
- the ability to be predictable and reliable in stressful situations
- tolerance for shift work including nights, public holidays and weekends
- tolerance for standing, pushing, pulling, heavy lifting, bending, twisting and reaching.

Below are some of the important personal abilities that are required. The learner should have:

- patience and empathy
- good communication skills
- time management skills
- a pleasant manner
- commitment to the rights of elderly and disabled people to live dignified lives
- physical fitness.

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Workplace Health and Safety

All practitioners must understand their workplace health and safety obligations and safety requirements under the:

- *Work Health and Safety Act 2011* which imposes obligations on people at workplaces to ensure workplace health and safety.
- *Work Health and Safety Regulation 2011* that describes what must be done to prevent or control certain hazards which cause injury, illness or death.
- *Codes of Practice*, which are designed to give practical advice about ways to manage exposure to risks common to industry.

All practitioners must be able to participate in Risk Assessments, Incident Reports and Hazard Identification.

To gain employment in Queensland as a Personal Care Worker - Aged Care, an approved Senior First Aid Certificate is required.

A course of Hepatitis A & B vaccinations is advisable.

Legislative or licensing issues

All practitioners must meet the qualification requirements set by industry standards.

A Criminal History Check is required for persons applying for jobs with Queensland Health, aged care and other health care providers.

A Yellow Card is required for persons engaged by funded non-government disability service providers.

Resources and further information

For more information on duties, tasks and career and labour market information relating to Personal Care Worker – Aged Care, please refer to <http://joboutlook.gov.au>.

Industry information/professional associations

Carers Australia: www.carersaustralia.com.au

Community Services and Health Industry Skills Council: www.cshisc.com.au

Care Careers: www.carecareers.com.au

For career resources to help explore and plan careers, visit www.myfuture.edu.au.

This is intended to be used as a tool for career research, in conjunction with other resources. For specific course information, please refer to the TAFE Queensland website www.tafeqld.edu.au or ring 1300 308 233.



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