



** Please note – the information contained in this handout is accurate as at January 2011. Information re employment prospects/salary/growth is based on information derived from www.skillsinfo.gov.au, www.joboutlook.gov.au and Careers and Employment's own research.

2011

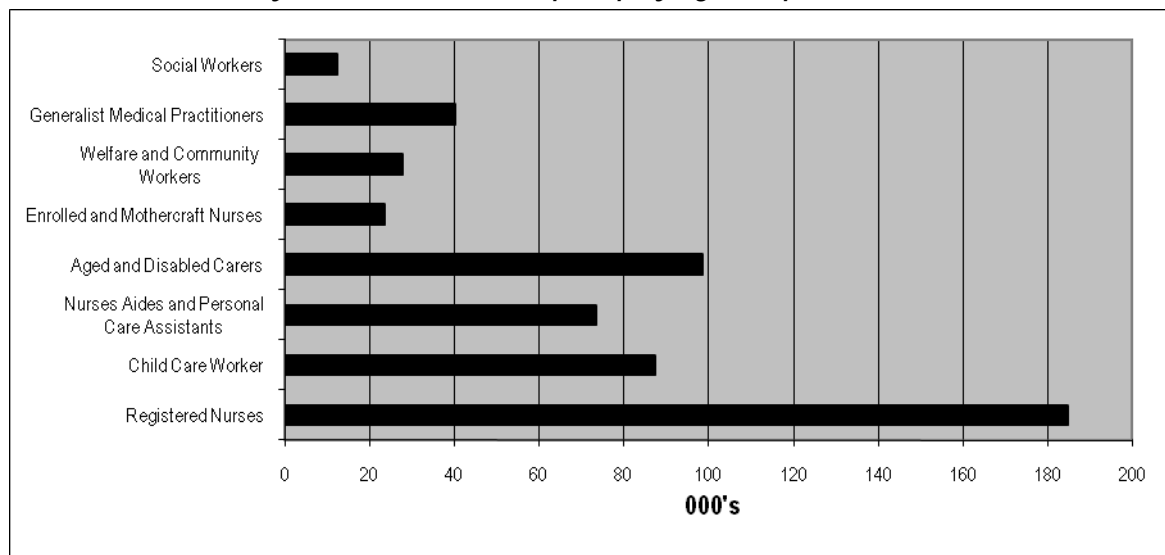
Please note: the information contained in this document was current as of January 2011. Refer to www.swinburne.edu.au/courses/ for the most recent updates. Refer to the School of Health and Community Services website www.tafe.swinburne.edu.au/health/ for further information and a list of the courses offered in this area.

Industry Overview

The Health and Community Services (Social Assistance) sector employs more than 1.26 million people, or 11.2% of the workforce making it Australia's largest employing industry. The industry has experienced strong growth over the past 10 years (by 44.2% or 366 100 people) particularly in hospitals and nursing homes, childcare and community care services.

The employment growth projection for the industry is very strong. An ageing population, the continued demand for child care coupled with the growth of community, home-based services and advances in medical technology are expected to increase the future demand for health services. It is projected that there will be a further increase of 3.3 per cent per annum, which equates to around 211 500 new jobs in the five years to 2014-15. The top employing occupations are shown below:

Health and Community Services Sector – Top Employing Occupations



Source: DEEWR Special Order based on ABS Labour Force, Australia, cat no: 6291.0.55.003 – Calendar Year Average 2009

Job Titles

- Aged Care Worker
- Alcohol and Drug Counsellor
- Carer
- Case Manager
- Case Support Worker
- Child Care Worker
- Child Protection Worker
- Children's Activities Coordinator

- Children's Support Worker
- Community Based First Responder
- Community Development Worker
- Community Education Manager
- Community Support Worker
- Detoxification Worker
- Dietician
- Direct Care Worker
- Disability Development and Support Officer
- Disability Worker
- Domestic Service Attendant
- Drug and Alcohol Worker
- Drug Researcher
- Education Officer
- Mental Health Support Worker
- Residential Care Worker
- Emergency Medical Responder
- Emergency Medical Service First Responder
- Family Support Worker
- Fitness Instructor
- Foster Parent
- Health and Safety Assistant
- Health and Safety Committee Member
- Health and Safety Representative
- Health Education Officer
- Health Promotion Officer
- Immunisation Officer
- Indigenous Health Worker
- Juvenile Justice Worker
- Lifeguard
- Massage Therapist
- Migrant Resource and Support Worker
- Naturopath
- OHS Advisor
- OHS Auditor
- OHS Coordinator
- OHS Manager
- OHS Practitioner
- OHS Risk Officer
- OHS Specialist
- Occupational Therapist
- Outreach Worker
- Personal Care Attendant

Aged Care

As the population ages, the demand for a range of services for older people, including aged care residential services, is likely to continue to grow. The primary activities of the aged care residential services sector are the provision and operation of accommodation for the aged. This may be in the form of aged care hostels, nursing homes or residential complexes, such as retirement villages. On completion of a course at Swinburne, graduates will be able to gain employment as an aged care or personal care worker with older people in both community and residential settings. Job prospects for Aged Carers are good, employment to 2014-15 is expected to grow very strongly.

Alcohol and Other Drugs Work

Alcohol and drug workers provide assessment, support and intervention to clients with alcohol and drug issues and implement health promotion and community intervention programs. Graduates may be employed as a case worker, community support worker, detoxification worker, family support worker, support worker or health education officer. Employers may include community or non-profit organisations such as Turning Point, Odyssey House and Ozcare. Alcohol and drug workers work with groups of people in various settings, including community-based organisations, residential rehabilitation services and outreach services. Alcohol and drug workers may work in urban or remote areas.

Employment prospects depend on the level of government funding for community organisations and the number of programs to be conducted and administered. Job prospects for community welfare workers (including those who specialise in the provision of alcohol and other drug support) are good, with growth to 2014-15 expected to be strong.

Allied Health Assistance

Graduates of the Health Service Assistants courses can obtain work in the Health and Community Services industry as domestic service attendants, orderlies and theatre support staff. Major employers are hospitals and aged care facilities. Upon completion of the Allied Health Service course, graduates can work as assistants to

physiotherapists, occupational therapists and podiatrists who are in private practice or who work in a hospital-based setting. Students who are interested in a career in aged care or allied health assistance can look forward to good employment prospects with strong growth expected in their industry over the next five years.

Children's Services/Outside School Hours Care

Employment in childcare has risen strongly over the past ten years, and is expected to keep increasing. An increasing birth rate and likelihood that both parents will return to the workforce, combined with increased government subsidies, will make childcare more affordable, therefore increasing demand.

Students completing courses in Outside School Hours Care are highly regarded and entitled to work in a range of services including before school care, after school care, vacation care and camp programs as fully-qualified staff. There are also career pathways into service coordination, local government and, with further study, into policy and management roles. Job prospects for Childcare Workers are good, with growth to 2014-15 expected to be very strong.

Community Development/Community Services Management

Community development workers find employment in a range of environments including community houses, women's groups, ethnic groups, youth groups, action groups, conservation groups, trade unions and housing groups. They are involved in advocacy work, community planning, project development and management, resource provision, policy development, community engagement and community capacity building. The current employment market for Health and Welfare Services workers is good, with strong employment growth predicted to 2014-15.

Disability Work

Studies in Disability Work provide students with skills and knowledge to work in a wide variety of disability service programs including residential, employment, day placement, educational, respite, council-based in-home support, attendant care, advocacy and peer support programs. Employers can be organisations such as Scope, Wesley Care, Anglicare, and Vision Australia. Disability carers currently have good employment prospects, with moderate growth expected over the next five years.

Emergency Medical Service First Response

Graduates in this course can seek employment as an emergency medical responder (EMR). EMRs provide the first response care in line with Australian Resuscitation Council guidelines. They assess any dangers and control these in order to prevent additional injury to a patient. This qualification is especially suited for mine rescuers, firefighters, road rescuers, remote resort dive and tour operators and security personnel, or can provide an avenue for further studies. Employment opportunities for Fire and Emergency Workers are average, and are expected to grow moderately to 2014-15. Employment in this medium sized occupation (13 300 in November 2009) rose moderately in the past five years, and fell slightly in the long-term (ten years).

Fitness

A Certificate in Fitness is designed for students seeking employment in the fitness industry, as a personal trainer or group fitness trainer. Graduates may work in a variety of settings, including private gyms, community centres, hospitals and private business, or may develop their own small business working in private homes. Fitness Instructors have good employment prospects, with very strong employment growth expected to 2014-15.

Study in Sport Development provides a professional qualification for people wishing to pursue a career in sport development and coaching in the sporting industry. Sports coaches, instructors and officials have good employment prospects, and growth in this sector expected to be strong over the next five years.

Health Service Assistance

The Health Service Assistance course provides training to those people who are interested in providing therapeutic and program-related support to allied health professionals. As part of the course, students will be required to complete industry-based placements which will give them the opportunity to consolidate the knowledge acquired during the course in a practical context. Graduates of this course can work as assistants to physiotherapists, occupational therapists and speech therapists. Job prospects for Nursing Support and Personal Care Workers are good, with growth to 2014-15 expected to be very strong. Employment in this very large industry (it employed 93 600 people in November 2009) has risen strongly in the past five years, and very strongly in the long-term (ten years).

Lifestyle and Leisure

Students who complete the Community Services (Lifestyle and Leisure) courses work in residential facilities and/or in community agencies and day centres. These workers design, implement and evaluate health and leisure programs for clients. They may be employed as activities officers, support workers, program managers, diversional therapists and development officers. Employment opportunities in this area are good, with strong growth expected in the sector over the next five years.

Occupational Health and Safety

Occupational Health and Safety Officers coordinate health and safety systems in an organisation. They identify hazards and assess risks to health and safety, put appropriate safety controls in place and provide advice on accident prevention and occupational health to management and employees. Employment prospects for Occupational and Environmental Health professionals are good, with growth to 2014-15 expected to be very strong.

Protective Care/Youth Work

Special care workers have good employment prospects, with moderate employment growth expected to 2014-15. Graduates of such courses are eligible to apply for casual, part-time or full-time work in the out of home care sector, working with children and young people - from infants to eighteen year-olds. Some of the community service organisations offering employment opportunities are Anglicare, Wesley Mission, Berry Street, MacKillop Family Services, Menzies Inc. and The Salvation Army. Employment may be gained as a residential care worker, case support worker, children's support worker, direct care worker, family support worker or foster parent.

Employment prospects for youth workers are similar to those for welfare workers, with moderate employment growth predicted to 2014-15. Graduates may work with young people in a wide range of settings, including educational/employment/job training, recreational/adventure, personal development and community projects. Employment may be gained with local government, secondary schools, community organisations and health centres. Roles may include community development worker (youth), youth worker and residential worker.

Remedial Massage

Job prospects for Massage Therapists are good, with growth to 2014-15 expected to be strong. Employment in this small-sized sector (it employed 10 000 people in November 2009) has remained relatively steady in the past five years. On completion of Stage 1 of the course, graduates are able to find work as a massage therapist. On completion of Stage 2, graduates are able to work as a remedial massage therapist.

Sport and Recreation/Sport Development

The Sport and Recreation/Sport Development course is designed for students seeking employment in sport administration, coaching, marketing, management, officiating and events management. On completion of a course at Swinburne, students are able to articulate to further Higher Education study in areas such as

recreation, business, marketing and human movement. Job prospects for welfare, recreation and community arts workers are good, with growth to 2014-15 expected to be strong.

Welfare Work

Job prospects for graduates of a welfare course are good. Employment to 2014-15 is expected to grow moderately. Although a demanding sector, it can also be rewarding and opportunities exist across a variety of organisations. Welfare workers work with individuals, families, groups and communities in order to improve quality of life by empowering, educating and supporting people and by helping them to change their social environment. Opportunities exist for graduates to articulate to other specialist TAFE courses and/or Higher Education options.

Quality Auditing

A qualification in Quality Auditing allows graduates to seek roles such as a quality assurance manager, quality facilitator, quality and improvement consultant or service quality system support analyst.

The qualification is suited for those who wish to become peer auditors or to participate in external independent quality auditing, equipping graduates with the expertise to plan, carry out and evaluate their own work and/or the work of a team. Job prospects for Auditors and Company Secretaries are good, with employment opportunities to 2014-15 expected to grow strongly.

Further Education and Pathways

Credit pathways may be available from TAFE to Higher Education.

For a full list of credit pathways and requirements see the Swinburne website:

www.future.swinburne.edu.au/pathways

For entry and admission requirements: www.swinburne.edu.au/courses

References and Relevant Websites

- www.myfuture.com.au
- www.joboutlook.gov.au
- www.skillsinfo.gov.au
- www.cshisc.com.au/index.php
- www.accv.com.au (Aged & Community Care Victoria)
- www.infoxchange.net.au
- www.jobseeker.org.au

What help does Swinburne Careers and Employment offer?

Career Services

- Career Counselling for Students
- Careers in the Curriculum (CIC) – Higher Education Students
- Plan Skills Development
- Career Seminars/Workshops for Students
- Resume and Cover Letter Checks
- Interview Practice
- Student Recruitment Service (Final Year Students)

Career Resources

- Career Resource Library
- Job Search Handouts
- Interactive Career Planning
- What Can I Do With My Degree/TAFE Qualifications? (see website for resource)

SwinEmploy Employment Service

- All job advertisements for graduate placements, casual, vacation, part-time and full-time employment
- Links to employer websites
- Enables students to book online for events such as workshops, employer information sessions and interviews
- Access to Going Global (over 10,000 job vacancies listed across Europe, Asia-Pacific, UK and US. Global key employer directories, work permits & visa regulations, country-specific cultural & interviewing advice & more)

Download Careers and Employment job search handouts from SwinEmploy, including:

- Addressing Selection Criteria
- Assessment Centres
- Cover Letters or Letters of Application
- Curriculum Vitae or Resume
- Employer Expectations of Graduates
- Interviews - How to Plan, Prepare and Perform
- Informational Interviewing
- Job Hunting
- Networking: What Is It and How Do You Do It?
- Online Applications
- Psychometric Tests
- Skills and Attributes
- Thinking About Changing Your Course?
- Tips for facing the work environment and your first professional job

Careers & Employment

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