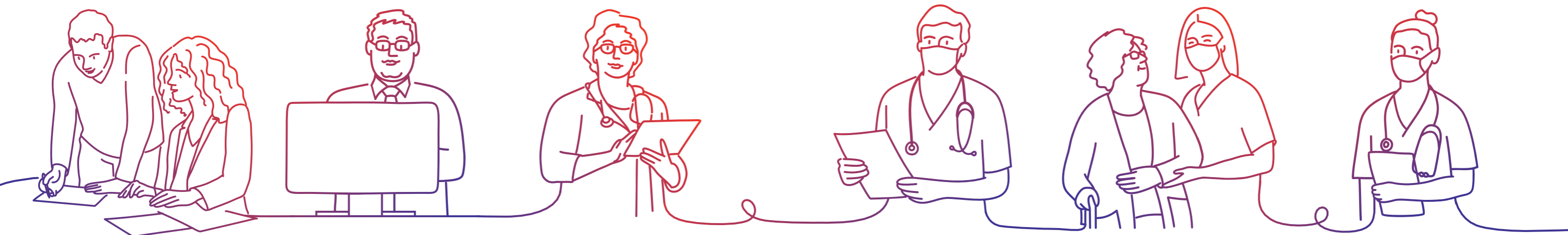


# Next-generation nursing: the future of care

In 2021, the International Year of the Nurse and Midwife was extended to recognise the extraordinary contribution of nurses throughout COVID-19. Nurses have been on the frontline of the pandemic response since day one, but at the Alfred Research Alliance their impact spreads far beyond the ward. From shaping clinical care guidelines and education to conducting clinical trials and advising on public health policy, our 4000+ nurses and nurse researchers are playing an active role not just in the pandemic, but in shaping the future of innovative, patient-centred care.

**4,000+** nurses and nurse researchers  
on the Alfred precinct



## Training and education

Our university partners educate undergraduate, graduate and postgraduate nurses, and Alfred Health has more than 1500 Bachelor of Nursing and Master of Nursing students across their three sites. As a teaching hospital with a rich history of nurturing the next generation of general and specialist nurses, along with our future clinical nursing leaders, patients at The Alfred know they're in great hands.

Some nurses decide to become researchers and undertake PhDs and continue with postdoctoral roles. Nursing researchers are also trained at our site and the Alliance is a prestigious location for international postdoctoral study.

## Leading best practice

The Alliance's focus on translational research extends to our nurses, who integrate research evidence into clinical practice to improve quality care for patients. This research aims to address unmet needs across all areas of healthcare, using a variety of technological solutions such as electronic medical records (EMR) data to create innovative outcomes.

Nursing research also aims to advance best practice for the profession itself, providing expertise on nursing practices, education and policy as well as fostering a culture of mentorship for emerging researchers.

This focus on leadership has seen nurses transition into operational and management positions, working in executive roles across the health service and in important programs such as clinical registries.

## Public health studies

Public and preventive health studies can take many years to complete and involve the ongoing collection of clinical information and monitoring of participant health. In these studies, nurses are part of a multidisciplinary team working with patients to generate the data that helps to inform effective public health measures to support the health and wellness of our communities.

## Clinical trials

Nurses are key to conducting clinical trials. In trials for new medicines and therapies, nurses are a critical part of the research team in supporting a participants' journey. Their role includes screening, monitoring and supporting in-patients, as well as further monitoring of out-patients where required.

Nursing staff are responsible for the clinical monitoring of participants in studies testing behavioural or preventive interventions too.

With their expert clinical knowledge and communication skills, nurses also make some of our great clinical trial coordinators. As investigators, they lead trials that impact clinical care.

## Specialist training

Patients come first at The Alfred, and part of making this happen in such a busy health service is access to many general and specialist nurses. Nurses complete additional training to become specialists in specific fields, which enables them to work in the intensive care unit, emergency department and operating theatres. Our workforce also includes many other specialists like cardiac, stroke, cancer, pain and burns nurses.

Nurse educators are important specialists too. They help teach patients how to better manage chronic conditions such as cardiovascular disease and diabetes, as well as supporting staff and students' education and training.

## Community engagement

Nurses play an important role in community engagement at both a local and international level.

On the precinct, there is a strong consumer focus with patients and their families actively involved in the co-design of health services and research projects.

Beyond the setting of the health service, nurses provide advice to policymakers to assist in the creation of effective health policy and guidelines for improved clinical care. Their expertise is regularly shared with overseas counterparts who travel to the Alfred precinct to undertake specialist training in, for example, ECMO and trauma nursing.