

Clarification of final year masters pathway for Nurse Practitioners and the nationwide Nurse Practitioner Training Programme (NPTP)

Nurse Practitioners (NPs) are required to have completed a masters degree in nursing through a Nursing Council of New Zealand (NCNZ) approved pathway at an approved tertiary education provider.

There are two funding streams for nurse practitioner training.

1. The Nurse Practitioner Training Programme (NPTP)

The Ministry of Health announced funding for a nationwide NPTP to commence in 2021 for 50 NP training placements per year. This new programme is being delivered in partnership by the University of Auckland, the University of Otago, and Victoria University of Wellington.

The new programme replaces an existing pilot Nurse Practitioner Training Programme (NPTP) delivered by the University of Auckland's School of Nursing and Massey University which is due to end in December 2020.

The NPTP is funded directly by the Ministry of Health to the Universities in partnership to deliver the nationwide NPTP. Additional funding is provided through this programme to ensure students receive:

- 500 hours supervised practice (with NP or senior doctor)
- Release time for a minimum of 12 study days
- A minimum of 10 days in a secondary placement
- Clinical supervision by a NP either in their main or secondary placement
- Regular support and site visits from a NP academic mentor
- Mentoring to complete NP portfolio, mock panel assessment, and registration with Nursing Council
- Additional discretionary support for Māori and Pacific students.

Students interested in applying for the NPTP should contact the University provider of their choice to discuss their eligibility for the programme.

2. Postgraduate Nursing Funding

Nurses may complete masters courses to register as NPs delivered through other tertiary education providers. Students attending these programmes are eligible to access Postgraduate Nursing Funding (Health Workforce Directorate funding) through their local district health board (DHB) under the direction of the Director of Nursing and their postgraduate education coordinator.

All master's programmes that meet the requirements for registration as a NP have to meet the standards required by the NCNZ.

The introduction of a nationwide NPTP does not change the opportunity for nurses to complete their final year practicum courses through their existing tertiary education provider.