



# Student Information For AGED CARE

## Is this course for me?

Before selecting the Certificate III in Individual Support the following are important attributes for a career in Aged Care. Consider if you are:

- Interested in people?
- Caring and compassionate?
- Good communicator?
- Actively engaged in learning more?
- Able to support others to achieve goals?
- Fit and healthy with no back problems for physically demanding work?

Also, do you:

- Take instruction?
- Listen well?
- Like variety in your day?
- Have patience?
- Respect difference?

## What does Aged Care work involve?

Aged Care work involves providing care to residents in residential aged care services. The two types of residential aged care facilities are hostels (low care) and nursing homes (high care). Many facilities offer 'ageing-in-place' which enables older people to continue to live in the facility as their needs change.

An aged care worker does have direct contact with clients however always under supervision. Depending on the organisation and the work role, aged care workers may also be employed with other titles, such as, assistant in nursing, care assistant or residential care worker.

There are a wide variety of work opportunities in government and non-government organisations that provide aged care services. Aged Care work is also found in smaller and rural/remote settings.

A qualification in Individual Support will enable you to be part of the dynamic aged care industry. The aged care sector is expanding and over the coming years employment opportunities will be plentiful at entry level. The skills and knowledge in an Individual Support qualification are a sound foundation to career progression and transferable to other roles in direct client and community services work.

## What will I be doing?

To achieve Certificate III in Aged Care as a part of the HSC, students will generally complete the Human Services (360 indicative hours) HSC VET course from the Human Services Curriculum Framework. If you choose this pathway you will be eligible for 6 HSC credit units towards the 22 HSC credit units required for the HSC.

If you have completed the Human Services (360 indicative hours) course and you choose to sit the HSC Human Services examination, the result will contribute to an ATAR. The HSC examination in Human Services is optional. It is a written exam independent of the competency-based assessment undertaken during the course and has no impact on your eligibility for the Certificate III in Aged Care.

### **For Vet In School pathway:**

The minimum work placement requirement for Certificate III in Aged Care is 105 hours. You should be at least 16 years old to undertake the work placement as you will be in a work environment with vulnerable people and duty of care requires a substantial level of maturity. Any variation of this requirement must be with the explicit approval of the school or college, Registered Training Organisation and host employer.

Work placement is to be undertaken in an appropriate residential aged care environment. It is permissible for up to 35 hours of work placement to be undertaken in a simulated work environment.

### **For School Based Traineeship:**

A School Based Traineeship for the Certificate III in Aged Care provides you with the opportunity to gain the qualification and your HSC while undertaking paid employment as a trainee. As a school based trainee, you work part-time and complete the off the job training as part of the HSC. The training is provided in NSW by TAFE NSW or a private Registered Training Organisation.

As a school-based trainee you will enter into a Training Contract for a term of sufficient duration to allow for the completion of the formal training requirements as well as the requirement of a minimum of 100 days of paid employment. (could be during school holidays and some early starts or shift work may be required).

## What will I learn?

You'll be learning how to care for residents in an aged care facility. This is an understanding of aging and dementia, providing personal care needs and participating in workplace health and safety processes. You will also learn good communication skills to work effectively with others in the health team and to assist residents.

You will be learning to provide personal care needs at all levels- eating, dressing, showering, mobility, wound care, assisting with medication, social activities and monitoring health.

You will be working within defined job role boundaries at all times.

You will also learn to:

- work as part of a team as well as independently
- be a good communicator and listener
- solve problems
- be organised with good time management skills
- have an interest in people with non-judgemental and positive attitude
- use initiative and be flexible
- Work effectively with culturally diverse clients and co-workers.

## **Are there other subjects that may help me while studying for the Aged Care qualification?**

When selecting your HSC subjects you may wish to consider how they may complement to your vocational studies and contribute to achieving best results. For an Aged Care career pathway the following subjects may be beneficial:

- Society and Culture
- Community and Family Studies
- Personal Development, Health and Physical Education
- Sport, Lifestyle and Recreation Studies

## **Are there fees and costs?**

If you are at a government high school the course cost is covered via the schools staffing allocation, this means that there is no direct cost to students. If you are at a non-government high school your school VET coordinator will explain about the different costs involved. You will also be responsible for the cost of immunisations and police checks.

## **What immunisations do I need?**

To work in Aged Care you will need current immunisations to protect you from catching or spreading a number of illnesses, such as TB or Hepatitis B. You will need the following vaccinations to be completed - note you may have had some already so check with your Doctor: Measles, Mumps, Rubella, Chickenpox, Hepatitis B, Diphtheria/Tetanus/Pertussis, TB, Influenza (recommended). You will be responsible for the cost of immunisations needed.

## **Are there other requirements for Aged Care work?**

You may need to wear uniforms during your employment, as set out by the employer. This is usually comfortable clothing such as black pants, white shirt and flat covered shoes. When at work you will need to maintain your personal hygiene, for example, to keep your clothing clean, hair tidy (long hair tied back), no visible tattoos or piercings (except single stud earring), no false nails and minimal jewellery (wedding band).

Your employer will provide you with details of the expected code of behaviour for their workplace but in general it will include confidentiality, ethical practice and compliance with workplace health and safety procedures. Personal mobile phones are not to be used at work.

## **Criminal Record Check**

You will also need to undertake a Criminal Record Check (see [www.police.nsw.gov.au](http://www.police.nsw.gov.au)) to work in an aged care facility.