

## **Just the Job Information Sheet**

**Job title:** Public Health Nurse

### **Job description**

Public health nurses (PHNs) are registered nurses whose work and focus is on community health and wellbeing.

PHNs do health assessments and disease prevention activities in schools and community settings. Most have very broad responsibilities and are involved in a great variety of work. Some specialise in particular issues such as refugee health, housing issues, child protection and communicable disease control.

PHNs play a key co-ordination role between families/whanau, communities, and health (and other) organisations and agencies. They are also among the first people to gauge any major health and social trends in the community as they see these trends impacting on their clients.

Activities PHNs might do:

- Work with teachers to promote health programmes in schools
- Work with others to develop one-stop-shop for youth health services, for example, a one-stop-shop for youth health
- Play a major part in implementing an immunisation programme
- Advocate for healthy home environments with families, whanau and communities
- Work with a primary healthcare organisation.

### **Qualifications required**

A three year Bachelor of Nursing degree is the basic requirement followed by a current practicing certificate, which needs to be renewed each year. Many public health nurses complete further qualifications such as a postgraduate course in public health.

### **Location of job**

Almost all PHNs are employed by district health boards. Some work in public health units and other departments such as child health or family health. Most PHNs are very mobile, moving around their community every day, touching base with a wide number of organisations and people. They are key players in ensuring the health and wellbeing of communities.

### **Career path**

- Public health nurse
- manager
- senior manager, or
- move into other careers in public health.

### **Salary range**

The salary will depend on where you work and your seniority in the role.

**Other careers this profession could lead to**

Management and additional study may lead into other public health careers.

**Tips on how to increase the chances of successfully entering this industry**

English and science subjects such as biology, chemistry or physics are important to get into a Bachelor of Nursing degree.

**Places to source information about this job**

[www.healthcareers.org.nz](http://www.healthcareers.org.nz)

[www.publichealthworkforce.org.nz](http://www.publichealthworkforce.org.nz)