

General Ward and Emergency Department Beaudesert Hospital Graduate Nursing Program

Unit Overview

General Ward

The General Ward provides comprehensive rural generalist care across the lifespan, delivering services from paediatric to geriatric populations. Staff utilise an extended scope of practice and broad clinical expertise to manage a diverse range of patient needs, including:

- Acute and subacute care
- Palliative and end-of-life care
- Day Therapy Unit services
- Outpatient Department activities
- Pre-operative and post-operative care

With a strong community focus, the ward supports patients and their families throughout their healthcare journey, providing holistic, patient-centred care from childhood through to end-of-life.

Emergency Department

The Emergency Department is a **CSCF Level 3 Emergency Service**, providing assessment, treatment and stabilisation of patients presenting with a broad range of illnesses and injuries. Key features of the service include:

- Patient presentations via walk-in attendance, Queensland Ambulance Service (QAS) and Queensland Police Service (QPS) referrals.
- Management of patients across the **Australasian Triage Scale (ATS) categories 1–5**.
- Increasing patient acuity and service demand, with **45–75 presentations per day**.
- Approximately **25% of presentations are paediatric patients**.
- Forecast activity for **2025–26 is 18,282 presentations**, representing a **3% increase** compared to the previous year.

The department continues to respond to growing activity and complexity while providing timely, safe and high-quality emergency care to the local community.

Benefits of undertaking a graduate program in Beaudesert Hospital -General Ward and Emergency Department

Staff are supported to continually expand their clinical knowledge and scope of practice to meet the increasing complexity and acuity of patients presenting across the General Ward and Emergency Department. Professional development priorities include

- Peripheral Intravenous Cannulation (PIVC) and phlebotomy competencies
- Assessment and management of patients requiring Non-Invasive Ventilation (NIV) and High-Flow Oxygen Therapy
- Advanced communication skills, including managing difficult, challenging and courageous conversations with patients, families and multidisciplinary teams.
- Comprehensive clinical assessment of paediatric and adult patients using primary and secondary assessment frameworks.
- Development of skills to support safe recognition, escalation and management of deteriorating patients.
- Strengthening clinical decision-making and patient flow through transition to Emergency Department pathways and contemporary models of care.

2027 Graduate Program Overview

The General Ward and Emergency Department have a strong commitment to supporting graduate nurses as they transition into rural practice. Previous Graduate Nurse Programs included dedicated study days at both Logan Hospital and Beaudesert Hospital to ensure education and training aligned with the requirements of the Rural Graduate Nurse Program and the Transition to Emergency Department Program as a gate way to work in the Emergency Department in the future.

This is the **third consecutive year** that graduate nurses have been successfully recruited into both the Emergency Department and General Ward. The program provides exposure to a diverse range of clinical presentations and experiences unique to a rural healthcare setting, supporting the development of broad clinical skills, critical thinking, and confidence across multiple areas of practice.

Graduate nurses are supported through a combination of:

- Structured education and study days.
- Clinical supervision and mentorship.
- Exposure to acute, subacute, emergency and inpatient care environments.
- Opportunities to develop rural generalist skills and emergency nursing capabilities.
- Ongoing professional development aligned with individual learning needs and service requirements.

The continued inclusion of graduate nurses within the service demonstrates a commitment to workforce development, succession planning, and fostering the next generation of skilled rural and emergency nurses.

Graduate Nurses employed within both the General Ward and Emergency Department are integrated into the full nursing roster and work across **all shifts**, including day, afternoon and night duty, Monday to Sunday. This approach ensures graduates gain exposure to the breadth of clinical presentations and operational demands of a rural healthcare service while meeting both individual learning objectives and the service requirements of the departments.

The Graduate Nurse Program incorporates a structured rotation between the General Ward and Emergency Department, with graduates transitioning to their second clinical area approximately **halfway through the program**. This rotation provides valuable experience across inpatient and emergency care settings, supporting the development of broad rural generalist nursing skills and enhancing clinical confidence.

This structured approach promotes a smooth transition between departments, supports graduate learning and wellbeing, and ensures graduates are equipped to deliver safe, high-quality care across a diverse range of patient presentations and clinical settings.



This ongoing investment in education and capability development ensures staff are equipped to provide safe, high-quality, evidence-based care across a broad range of clinical presentations

Past Beaudesert Hospital – General Ward and Emergency Department graduates are now working as

2024

Christie – ED Registered Nurse – learning ETEK

Sakura – ED Registered Nurse – learning ETEK

Celeste – General Ward Registered Nurse

Alisha - General Ward Registered Nurse

2025

Sally – ED Registered Nurse @ QE II Hospital

Isabella – General Ward Registered Nurse

Sage – On Demand Pool Registered Nurse @ Logan Hospital

2026 – Current Graduates

William Graduate Nurse ED

Leezette Graduate Nurse ED

Christian Graduate Nurse General Ward

Taylor Graduate Nurse General Ward

Anastassia Graduate Nurse General Ward

Metro South Hospital Initiatives



Testimonials

Leezette (2026) Supportive education and emergency department team where you feel valued for your clinical input and made to "feel part of the team".

Great learning opportunities with the study days both at Logan and Beaudesert to theory into practice including PIVC & Phlebotomy, NIV and difficult airway and palliative care management. The chocolates that are supplied by the NUM of ED when you just need a lift.

Isabella (2025) Great learning opportunity with patients ranging from paediatrics to geriatric – so it covers the life span of a person's life with the specialised nursing skills and knowledge that is attached including post-operative and ED. Free parking on site, with beautiful scenery on the way to and from work with the ballons in the morning. Rotation to ED and the General Ward and it feels like working with family as it is a tight team who help each other out and looks out for one another.

Taylor (2026) Great learning opportunity to learn "the rural way" with a supportive, close-knit team where you experience a variety of patients from paediatrics to geriatrics and everything in-between.

Christie (2024) Excellent learning opportunity – PIVC and Phlebotomy within the first few weeks. Small team who knows each other strengths and weakness which leads to more appropriate focused learning to help each other out so you are more inclined to "ask the questions" when not sure – well supported.

Sakura (2024) Supportive team, awesome study days – learned a lot in a very short time. Opportunity to participate in the Transition to ED program where you grow new skills through pathways and can use critical thinking to assist in the patient assessment and management in ED while being well supported.

Cassie (2017) Close knit team that is friendly and supportive with a variety of patients with different learning opportunities from paediatric to geriatric. The wide variety of patients and their presenting conditions allows you to try several different types of nursing within the same team and unit.