



PERTH · WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Nurses moving to Western Australia

What you need to organise before booking your flight.

REGISTRATION · VISA · MOVE





Registration comes first

- 1 To work as a nurse in WA, you must hold registration with the Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia through Ahpra.
- 2 Overseas-qualified nurses generally need to begin with Ahpra's online Self-check.
- 3 Do not assume that your overseas registration automatically transfers.

Registration is the first gate — start it before anything else.



New registration pathways

Since April 2025, eligible internationally qualified registered nurses have had access to additional streamlined registration pathways.

Your route will depend on factors including:



Where you qualified



Where you have practised



Your registration history



Whether you meet Ahpra's eligibility requirements

Not every overseas nurse qualifies for the streamlined route.



Check the English standard

You must meet the NMBA's English language skills registration standard.

Changes to the minimum English-test scores took effect on 23 April 2026.

Depending on your education and registration history, you may meet the standard through an education pathway — or need an approved English test.

Always check the current Ahpra requirements before booking a test.

Ahpra requirements change — always confirm before you pay for a test.





Registration is not a visa

Ahpra registration gives you permission to practise as a nurse. It does not automatically give you permission to live or work in Australia.

Depending on your circumstances, your options may include:

PROFESSIONAL REGISTRATION

Ahpra registration confirms you are qualified and safe to practise nursing in Australia. It does not, on its own, grant work rights.

VISA & WORK RIGHTS

Skilled independent or nominated visas
Regional skilled migration
Employer sponsorship
Permanent employer nomination

Migration eligibility and professional registration are separate processes — check both before you book flights.

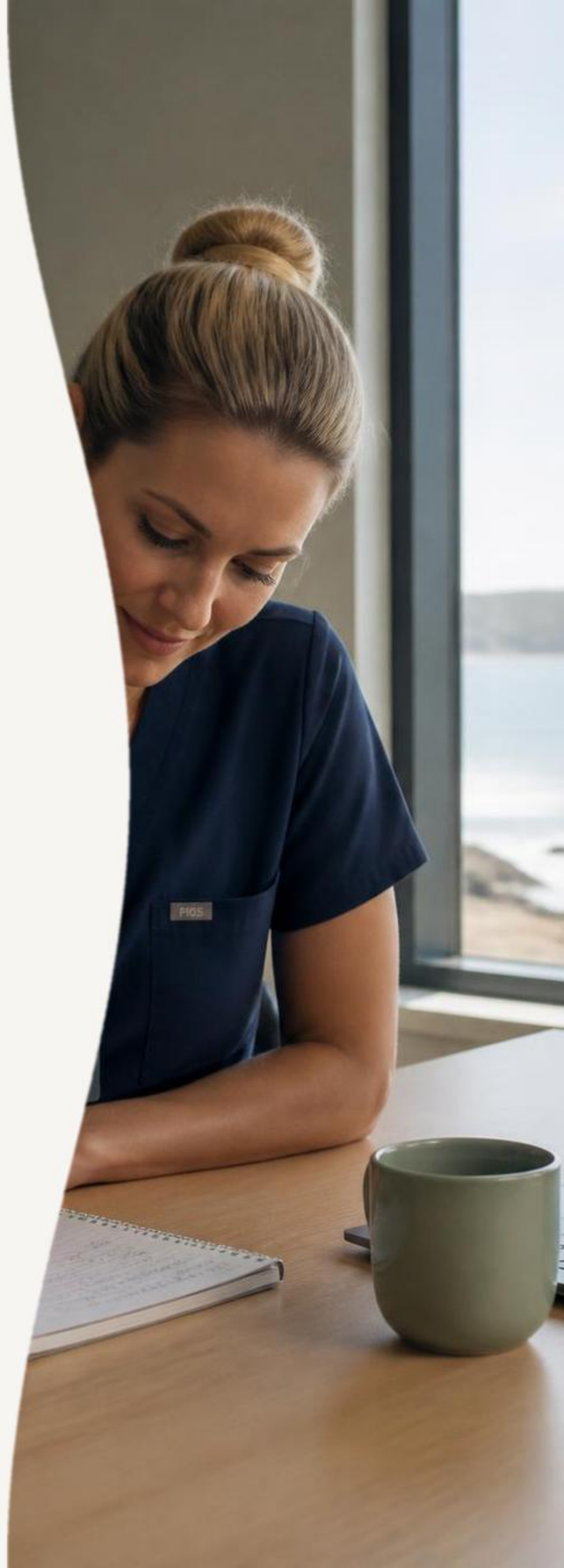


Get job-ready before you arrive

WA nursing employers may require:

- ✓ Ahpra registration
- ✓ Australian work rights
- ✓ Proof of identity and qualifications
- ✓ Criminal-record screening
- ✓ Pre-employment health screening
- ✓ Working With Children Check, if relevant
- ✓ Referees and evidence of recent practice

WA Health advises overseas nurses not to make major relocation decisions without confirmed registration and a firm job offer.





Look beyond central Perth

Nursing opportunities are advertised across:

- Metropolitan hospitals
- Mental health services
- Community health
- Aged care
- Private hospitals
- Regional and remote WA

Eligible country-WA roles can offer additional benefits, with some endorsed locations advertising incentives of between

\$5,000 and \$17,000.



Plan the move — not just the job

Before relocating, consider:

- Temporary accommodation
- Commute times and transport
- Childcare and school availability
- Pet-friendly rentals
- Registration and visa costs
- Certified documents
- The time between arriving and receiving your first wage

LRS Down Under helps nurses and their families prepare for the practical reality of moving to WA.

Save this post

for your relocation planning · @lrsdownunder

