



Getting a job

Want to work in aged care?

Video One introduces two young people, Tamika who has recently finished high school and has some experience as a family carer and Samuel, a young man who has been working in an outdoor job for a few years and is looking at a change in career.

The video explores what draws a person to work in the sector, the qualities a person needs for working as a care worker, what sort of work they might be expected to do and some of the important things to consider if planning to work in the industry.

Explore why a person might think about working in the aged care sector.

Many people like Tamika are drawn to working in the health sector because of their caring nature, they want to make a difference in the lives of others.

Aged care is one aspect of the health industry and is a great career choice. There is an increasing need for staff as the aged care industry grows and there is a current shortage of workers, meaning there are many opportunities to start working in the industry, move into other roles or to work in other locations. The aged care sector is a great place for people entering the workforce to start or for those who are returning to work after some time off as there are many entry-level roles.

Starting a job in the aged care industry is also great for those who want to eventually move into other health careers, perhaps studying to become an Aboriginal health worker, enrolled or registered nurse or allied health professional. The time a person spends working in aged care will provide them with insight into health conditions and caring for others, making it easier to transition into other roles or undertake further study if desired.

For those people who choose to remain in the aged care industry, they can still work towards gaining higher qualifications as an enrolled or registered nurse or allied health professional. In the aged care sector, there is an emphasis on training and upskilling staff members. Many organisations sponsor staff members to complete additional training to gain higher qualifications and there are often grants to support people who want to complete further study as well.

Some things to consider discussing are:

- The need for a clearance to work with vulnerable people (police check)
- A driver's license is handy, but not mandatory depending on the job
- There will be some mandatory training the person will need to complete; this may include completing a certificate course
- The need for basic literacy to be able to read rosters and care plans and write clear client notes
- Being able to get along well with older people and having a caring nature is important