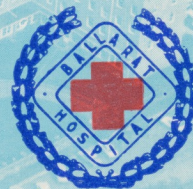


Nursing



Ballarat and District Base Hospital

Ballarat and District Base Hospital

Our hospital is situated in the Central Highlands Region of Victoria and is a General Training School for Nurses and a Training School for Midwives.

The hospital had small beginnings in the early days of Victoria, the present hospital being established in 1856. In 1887 the nurse training school was established.

Like all establishments with a long history, the buildings are a mixture of the old and the new. Within the hospital grounds many changes have occurred and now all buildings are well equipped and serviced and the newer ward areas provide first class accommodation.

The hospital is fortunate to have the services of medical and surgical specialists in almost every field and has a full range of ancillary services.

THE PROSPECTIVE STUDENT NURSE

Applications to undertake training are welcomed from young ladies between 17 and 40 years, and from young men over the age of 20 years.

Early application is advised as vacancies are limited, a letter to the Matron indicating that you are interested and giving your present age and educational standard

will be followed by the forwarding of an application form. When this has been completed and returned to Matron your application will be assessed and an appointment given for personal interview.

Educational requirements are laid down by the Victorian Nursing Council, the body that controls nurse training in this State. The minimum requirements are as follows:—

Four Leaving Certificate Subjects:—

1. English.
2. A mathematics or science (if no mathematics or arithmetic a pass is required in Form 4 arithmetic or mathematics).
3. A humanities subject.
4. One other subject.

The hospital gives preference to students who have completed Form VI.

Proof that you hold these qualifications together with a copy of your Birth Certificate must be forwarded to the Victorian Nursing Council for approval before the hospital can accept you for training.

When this has been obtained your next move is to have a medical examination and Chest X-ray at the hospital. An appointment for these will be given 8 weeks before the school commences. It is the responsibility of the applicant to give the Medical Superintendent any information re previous illnesses at this time. There are three intakes of students each year — January, May and October. Changes in these dates are made only to comply with Victorian Nursing Council regulations.

When you become a student nurse you will be medically cared for by the Medical Superintendent. He will refer you to a specialist if this should be necessary. You may attend your own doctor in Ballarat if prior arrangements are made. Regular chest X-rays are taken annually and protection is given against tetanus, poliomyelitis and tuberculosis. All students are advised to join a hospital benefits organisation, as fees are charged for in-patient treatment (in a special nurses bay) should any be required.

THE STUDENT NURSE

Your training will commence with a period of 8 weeks in the Preliminary Training School. At the completion of this time a series of school examinations are held which you must pass. Students are then allotted to ward duties. Your 3 year training programme is care-

fully planned, both academically and practically. The theoretical programme is in accordance with the 1972 regulations and gives 1600 hours of classroom teaching.

Clinical experience is obtained in nursing patients of all ages, including medical and surgical specialities, maternity and paediatric nursing. Students attend the operating theatre, casualty, radiology and the intensive care unit for supervised experience and psychiatric nursing experience is obtained at Lakeside Hospital. A personal interest is taken in every student nurse — every effort is made to assist them so that they derive the greatest benefit from the training opportunities presented. Qualified nurse educators assist in the classroom and in the wards. Teaching and competent guidance in the clinical areas is under the supervision of nurse educators and ward sisters. Lectures are continuous throughout training and study days and study blocks are held. The lecture and examination programme is in accordance with the Victorian Nursing Council curriculum.

Students may be advised to discontinue training if repeated examination failure occurs or if their patient care is below standard. State examinations are undertaken as laid down in the regulations. Under Victorian Nursing Council regulations a student can only attempt the Phase I Examination on two occasions.

The three year programme is exclusive of sick leave and special leave. Under Victorian Nursing Council regulations all special leave must be made up before the training is completed and registration achieved. Sick leave is allowed at the rate of five days per annum. The amount of time to be completed by a student before State Examination is stated in the regulations.

Each nurse works a rostered 40 hour week. Special requests for duty are granted if they do not interfere with the clinical experience or the lecture programme. Holidays are granted at a rate of six weeks per annum but are taken in three intervals according to the clinical programme.

The salary of the student nurse is as follows:—

1st year
2nd year
3rd year
Adult

Unless there are special circumstances students are accommodated in the nurses home, a deduction of per week being made for lodging, and students pay for their own meals. Uniforms are provided by and remain the property of the hospital. All students must wear regulation uniform when on duty.

THE GRADUATE NURSE

On satisfactory completion of the three year course, graduates may be invited to remain on the staff for further experience. If a fourth year is completed a certificate is issued.

Graduates may wish to undertake midwifery training at the Base Hospital, preference is given to applicants with some post graduate experience. Students are free to discuss their future plans with Matron or with the nurse educators at any time.