

Newsletter 2024

[July - September] Edition VIII

FEATURED

A Word from the Director

Paul Morrison

Company Announcement

As I reflect on the past three months since our last newsletter, I am proud to share the significant achievements we have accomplished. These include numerous tender submissions, awarded Department of Health contracts, busy implementation stages across multiple states, audits, national sponsorships, awards, and a labour agreement.

Company Growth

We have expanded our internal operations significantly. Please welcome to the team Cassie, Jenny, Rosemary, Aliviya and Isabelle.

NSW Health Contract

We are thrilled to announce that we have been awarded the NSW Health contract from 2024 to 2029. This contract covers Nurses, Midwives, Regional Area Nurses, Mental Health, ED, Theatre, and Assistants in Nursing across all NSW Local Health Districts (LHDs). Kelly Taylor and the team in Melbourne and Sydney will manage this contract. For enquiries, please contact us at 1300 696 396.

WA Health Contract

In addition, Connect Staffing Group has been awarded the WA Health contract from 2024 to 2033, making us a preferred supplier for Nurses across Metro and Regional WA. This contract commences on 1st October. For more information, please contact the team on 08 9206 0490.

Stay tuned for more announcements and opportunities for Nurses across Australia.

Labour Agreement

We are proud to announce that Connect Staffing Group has been awarded its Labour Agreement. This significant achievement allows us to sponsor Nurses full-time to work across hospitals. More details will follow soon.

Certifications

Following our recent external audit from 25th – 28th August, Connect Staffing Group has maintained its ISO certifications for 45001, 14001, and 9001, as well as maintaining the Great Place to Work Certification [Connect Staffing Group - Great Place To Work Australia](#). This is a testament to our commitment to excellence in both internal and external operations, supporting our members.

Affiliations

We have extended our partnership with MAXXIA, initially WA-based, and will roll it out across Australia in the coming months. For more information, visit MAXXIA via <https://www.maxxia.com.au/salary-packaging>

Awards

Kelly Taylor has been featured on the front cover of The Lifesciences Magazine as 'The Most Inspiring Healthcare Leaders to Watch in 2024'. You can read the digital version via <https://thelifesciencesmagazine.com/healthcare-leaders-to-watch-in-2024/>

Anniversary

Connect Staffing Group celebrates 20 years of operations on 6th December 2024! Keep an eye out for an upcoming event announcement. We look forward to celebrating this milestone with all our dedicated members.

Community Involvement

Since becoming a national sponsor for Turning Point Performance Dance Academy, we have supported over 50 kids representing Western Australia in the national dance championships in Queensland. Additionally, we sponsored Harry McAlpine to run three marathons in three days. We understand how important it is for children to develop these skills and to enjoy physical activity that boosts self-esteem. Congratulations, Harry, on this incredible achievement! Please check them out in the link [C](#) None of these achievements would have been possible without the dedication of each person who represents Connect Staffing Group daily across Australia. Together, we are shaping the future of healthcare. I would also like to extend my gratitude to Kelly and her team for their outstanding work across Tasmania, NSW, Victoria, and the whole WA team during this crazy period of growth.

Thank you for your continued support!

FEATURED

A Word from the East Coast Director

Kelly Taylor

East Coast Team Update

The past three months have been an incredible journey for our east coast team! We have expanded our reach to more clients across Victoria, including residential aged care, private hospitals, and primary care centres.

New South Wales Recruitment

We are excited to welcome Isabelle Henderson to our New South Wales operations, supporting Daniele Kuliesa. This dynamic duo has been busy recruiting nurses for our NSW Public Health contract opportunities. There's never been a better time to embark on a regional adventure. If you haven't tried travel nursing yet, now is the perfect time to chat with our team. No matter your specialty, we have a contract for you!

Growing Member Base

Our member base continues to grow daily, with over 200 active members now part of our team. We have increasing needs for RNs and ENs in aged care, particularly in the southeast and eastern suburbs of Melbourne. Connect Staffing has an excellent referral bonus campaign running at the moment, so refer your nurse friends to Connect Staffing and let us reward you!

Thank you for being part of our journey. We hope to have some very exciting updates for you in our next newsletter!

If you have any questions or need more information, feel free to reach out!



Exciting NSW Health Update

Exciting Job Opportunities with Connect Staffing and NSW Health!

Connect Staffing is thrilled to announce that we are now a preferred provider to NSW Health! This new partnership opens up a wealth of job opportunities across New South Wales, with over 200 health service locations in both metropolitan and regional areas.

What this means for you.

- **Diverse Opportunities:** We have positions available for all qualifications and specialties. Whether you prefer the coast or the countryside, we have the perfect opportunity for you.

- **Flexible Contracts:** Choose from contracts ranging from 4 weeks to 3+ months, depending on the location. Enjoy the benefits of travel and accommodation included, plus wage top-ups!
- **Day-to-Day Shifts:** If you prefer the flexibility of agency shifts, we offer those too across NSW Health metro hospitals.

Don't Miss Out! There has never been a better time to secure a rewarding contract with Connect Staffing and NSW Health.

If you would like more information on the opportunities specifically available for you, please contact the East Coast team via recruitmenteast@connectstaffing.com.au



NSW Health

Connect's New Hires

Connect Staffing is continuing to grow its internal teams to assist with the growth of the day to day operations. With so many big contracts under way, or soon to be, I'm sure there will be even more new hires in the coming weeks.

The first of our new hires have been onboarded to assist the allocations team.

Please welcome;

- Cassie McClelland
- Jenny O'Hara
- Alliviya Arends

Before we introduce our new Recruitment Resourcer for the regional team, we need to take a moment to thank **Maya Dwyer** for her outstanding commitment to Connect Staffing's growth in the regional space. We would like to wish you all the best in your next exciting venture, Maya!

As one chapter ends, another begins. We're hopeful that our new Recruitment Resourcer will bring a fresh perspective and some fresh ideas.

Please welcome to the team;

- Rosemary Courtney

We have made one final internal change. The lovely Leanne, who has been the backbone in Allocations for the last six years has moved into the Payroll and Invoicing office.

Leanne is returning to her roots. She brings years of bookkeeping experience from running her own business.

All the best in your new role, Leanne. We're sure you'll be just fine under the guidance of Jay!

Our last two, new editions belong to the East Coast team.

- Isabelle Henderson (NSW)
- Jodi Preston (VIC)

MEET OUR NEW MEMBERS

RECRUITMENT RESOURCERS

Rosemary Courtney

"I am from Ireland and moved to Australia six months ago. Previously, I worked as a Physical Education teacher, but I wanted a change in career and push myself out of my comfort zone. Joining Connect Staffing Group has helped me create new connections and taught me new skills I can apply into every aspect of my life."

Isabelle Henderson

"I've been in Recruitment for the last year and a half after leaving the retail/customer service industry in search of a more rewarding career. At my previous agency I worked alongside Kelly, Paul, Janet, Jodi and Daniele so I am very excited to be back working with them as part of the Connect Staffing's East Coast Team. Daniele and I are enthusiastic about building up our NSW nursing base and passionate about matching the best quality nurses to our clients positions. It is important to me that I create meaningful connections with our nurses and clients. In my spare time I enjoy going to the beach, camping and four-wheel driving."

Jodi Preston

"I am excited to join Connect Staffing Group and share a bit about my journey. With over 30 years of experience as a Registered Nurse, I have worked in various settings, including metropolitan, regional, and offshore healthcare facilities. My extensive background as an agency nurse has provided me with valuable insights that I look forward to sharing with our team."

Most recently, I served as a Senior Clinical Team Leader, progressing to Health Services Manager on an offshore contract, where I had the opportunity to work alongside emergency personnel from around the world. This FIFO experience was a highlight of my career and deepened my commitment to health, safety, and the success of my colleagues.

In my previous role as a Clinical Upgrades Consultant for a nursing agency, I enjoyed supporting agency staff in their qualification upgrades and navigating the complexities of agency work.

I am passionate about mentoring and empowering healthcare professionals, and I am eager to contribute my knowledge and experience to ensure a successful future for Connect Staffing Group. I look forward to working together and supporting our staff!"

ALLOCATION CO-ORDINATORS

Cassie McClelland

My name is Cassie and I am from Ireland. I originally immigrated to Sydney in 2022 and have recently relocated to Perth. I am a Mental Health Nurse and have worked in the caring profession for 10 years. I enjoy Cross Fit, walking, reading and of course shopping. I joined the Connect team in recent months and have been really enjoying my role as an Allocations coordinator. The team have been very supportive and welcoming which makes the job enjoyable.

Jenny O'Hara

I am from Dublin, Ireland and have been living in Perth for 3 months now. Before moving to Perth I lived in England for 2 years and Greece for a few months. I love to travel, meet new people and experience new cultures. I've been playing Gaelic football, a traditional Irish sport, all my life. Back home I played for the minor Dublin ladies before moving to England where I represented Yorkshire county in the All Britain championships. Now in Perth, I have been granted the opportunity to represent Perth in the State championships for Australia.

Aliviya Arends

"I am a second-year nursing student with a passion for healthcare and all things people! Previously, I have worked in various industries including support work, home care package administration, and critical risk assessment and management. I moved back into the healthcare industry so I could have a more active engagement with the public health care system and feel more fulfilled with the work I am doing and people I am helping. Outside of work I am heavily involved in my fitness, having played squash for nearly a decade now, regularly going to the gym with my partner, and often seeing my friends for fun activities like hiking, the driving range, or bouldering, I am always on the go. As I was born in Fremantle, it has a special place in my heart as home, and one of my favourite past times is walking around the Fremantle markets and surrounding shops, looking for vintage items, little trinkets, gifts and good food, or visiting my family who still live down there. As a self proclaimed 'nerd', I also very much enjoy gaming and reading, especially historical fictions, like the Pursuit of Happiness, or the Masters of Rome series."

WELCOME TO THE TEAM

Visa Sponsorship Opportunities

We are thrilled to announce that after 15 months of negotiations, Connect Staffing Group has been awarded a 5-year Labor Agreement to sponsor nurses in WA's Department of Health.

As one of the few organizations awarded this opportunity, we aim to sponsor 100 full-time nurses over the next five years to help bridge the staffing gap in healthcare across WA.

Starting in early 2025, we look forward to rolling out this initiative to support the state's nursing needs.

Special thanks to Senator Dean Smith, Nursewest, and our industry partners for their invaluable support in this journey.



Paul Morrison (Director) with Senator Dean Smith



Government of **Western Australia**
Department of **Health**

Health, Safety & Environment

MANUAL HANDLING

MANUAL TASK DEFINITION

Any activity or sequence of activities that requires a person to use their physical body (musculoskeletal system) to perform work.

HAZARDOUS MANUAL TASKS

Some manual tasks can stress the body and lead to Musculoskeletal Disorder (MSD). Hazardous manual tasks are tasks that require a person to lift, lower, push, pull, carry or otherwise move, hold or restrain any person, animal or thing that involves one or more of the following:

- repetitive movement
- repetitive or sustained force
- high or sudden force
- sustained or awkward postures
- exposure to vibration

This could include tasks like restraining live animals or sorting objects on a conveyor belt. The workplace vibration guidance material has more information on managing vibration and its risks.

Hazards can come from:

- work tasks and how they're performed
- work design and management
- the tools, equipment and objects handled
- physical work environment.

To prevent MSD, you should:

- identify hazardous manual tasks
- eliminate or minimise the risks associated with them.

The first step in the risk management process is to identify hazardous tasks.

RISK ASSESSMENT FOR HAZARDOUS MANUAL TASKS

You should do a risk assessment for all manual tasks you think may be hazardous. The only time you might not need to do this is when you already know about the risk and how to control it.

Your workers can help identify potential hazards in their work.

Consider workers who may be more at risk of developing an MSD. For example, an inexperienced worker or worker with a previous injury.

Your risk assessment of manual tasks will identify:

- postures, movements and forces that pose a risk
- when they may become dangerous
- why they're happening
- ways to eliminate or minimise the risk.

CONTROL MEASURES WITH HAZARDOUS MANUAL TASKS

If you can't eliminate the risks, these are some control measures to minimise them:

- change the design or layout of work areas to minimise manual handling
- ensure workspace heights are appropriate to reduce the need for awkward postures
- redesign tasks to minimise manual handling, for example by using mechanical aids
- rotate manual handling tasks between workers to reduce the strain from repetitive movements
- provide training on correct manual handling procedures.

Information gathered from Safe Work Australia.

For more info please click the link below.



SAFE WORK AUSTRALIA

Positive Feedback

“ Maria O'Donnell

Unfortunately I need to take myself off the books with Connect Staffing as a Registered Mental Health Nurse. I am moving back to Ireland.

I have really enjoyed the time working with Connect Staffing.

All staff in the office were so welcoming and helpful. I would rate it highest among the agencies in Perth and will definitely recommend to colleagues moving over in the future.

The allocations team were particularly helpful in trying to accommodate placements to suit location and needs. Thanks again for everything over the past few months.

“ Karanpreet Singh

Just wanted to let you know cook today Karanpreet was a great worker. Our head chef was very pleased and has advised he is welcome back for any of Shoalwater's cook requests anytime ~ Aegis Shoalwater



“ Anna Jakubowski

I just wanted to let you know how wonderful and hard working Anna was on Saturday night, 13.7.24. We had a Xmas in July function with 150pax. She was experienced in table service and bar routines, friendly, well presented and punctual.

She had a vibrant positive attitude that really helped us get through the night with the inexperienced staff that we had working that night.

When we have another function we would love for her to come back. ~ RAAFA Meadow Springs

Partnerships

Providing the best for our staff.



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