

Whilst most people who apply to be a volunteer at John Hunter Children's Hospital would like to spend time with the patients, there are other areas of great need which all contribute to providing an efficient and caring service for our patients. Please consider all options.

The Volunteer Service falls into two major categories: Direct patient contact or Limited or no patient contact.

1. Direct Patient Contact

Play/Craft assistant in Outpatient Clinics

Volunteers assist and support both parents and children during their hospital clinic visit by providing a child friendly activity service. Volunteers need to have a friendly and approachable personality, skills and interest in working with children of all ages, knowledge of craft activities and games to amuse children and ability to work in a very busy highly visible waiting room area. This role would be ideally suited to a retired school teacher or a student who is interested in the field of child development. Shifts are available Monday – Fridays.

Library Program

Opportunities are available for volunteers with library experience to assist in running of our new purpose-built library for children. Duties include: organising library, cleaning returned books, visiting children on wards using mobile library and reading to children. Times needed: Monday - Saturdays 9.30 am – 1.30pm. Most volunteers work one shift per week or fortnight.

Ward Helpers/Play Volunteers

A number of opportunities are available to assist with the preparation and washing of toys for children staying on the wards. Infection control is of the utmost importance in this role and by assisting in this area, you would be enabling children to have greater access to a larger number of toys each day. The role would also involve assisting with ward re-stocking and generally helping out with activities. A limited amount of play contact with children would be involved however the opportunity to develop ideas and resources for play would be encouraged. Volunteers with a background in or studying Child Development would find this role invaluable. Shifts are available from 9am – 1pm weekdays.

Child Care Assistants

Opportunities are available to work with babies and toddlers for approximately 2 hours per week (school terms only) based at our Wallsend Campus. First Steps Parenting provides support and education to parents whilst volunteers entertain their children. The role would suit someone who is good at working with young children and able to multi-task.

Ward Grandparents

From time to time we have patients at the hospital that come from outside the Newcastle/Lake Macquarie area and find it difficult to be with their child due to the distance, work commitments, or other children in the family. Ward Grandparents can be a great support to the family for the duration of their stay. The role would suit retired women and men who live in close proximity to the Hospital and can give the sort of commitment that is required. In some cases it can be just a few days, other

cases it can be weeks or even months. Ward Grandparents are assigned to patients after consultation with the family, the doctor and the patient's social worker or may assist in our Outpatient Clinics. Ward Grandparents are generally rostered one day per week. For more information about becoming a Ward Grandparent, contact the Association for the Wellbeing of Children in Healthcare on 1800 244 396. There is currently a waiting list.

Hospital School

The Children's Hospital School is a direct service of the NSW Dept of Education and Training and offers educational programs for patients provided they are medically able. Patients who are enrolled in a regular school from Kindergarten to Year 12 and who are hospitalized are eligible to attend. Siblings of patients may also attend if they are from out of area and unable to attend their regular school. Volunteers are required to have a background in teaching. Waiting list applies at present.

Pets as therapy (Delta Therapy Dogs)

The pets as therapy program brightens ward life of ill children. Children miss their home, their room, their friends and especially their pet(s). When a child is in hospital they seek comfort in their surroundings so a trusting dog and its volunteer owner provide the children with a happy distraction taking their mind off their illness or injury. For more information contact: Pam Withers, Volunteer Regional Co-ordinator, Delta Pet Partners, Phone: 4943 1110 or 0411 488 222.

2. Limited or No Patient Contact

Fundraising

Special Projects

A range of opportunities are available throughout the year to volunteer on projects and events. Please list your interest on your application form.

John Hunter Children's Hospital Kids Club. The United Hospital's Auxiliary raise vital funds for children in Hospital. The Club meets monthly at the Children's Hospital and conducts a variety of fundraising activities in the community and at stalls in the hospital. Contact Jan Waugh 49 487868.

Kaleidoscope Kids

A range of opportunities, events and stalls are organized throughout the year to raise money on behalf of the Children's Hospital. Contact Colleen Wakefield on 49 544373.

John Hunter Children's Hospital Research Foundation

The foundation is made up of a small but tireless group of women who for the past 13 years have championed the importance of raising funds for research into terminal and debilitating illnesses affecting children. They conduct a number of fundraising events throughout the year with some amazing major events such as the requiring the services of volunteers. If you are interested in volunteering in this area, please fill in your application form and indicate that you would like to assist with major events. We will keep you details on file and contact you when an event is coming up.

Other Programs available:

Starlight Room

For information about the Starlight opportunities go directly to the website www.starlight.org.au and follow the link to volunteers. There are many opportunities within Starlight including Wish Granting, Starlight Escapes and working in the Starlight Room.

Ronald McDonald House and Family Room

Ronald McDonald House provides care and comfort to families of seriously ill and injured children. Volunteer opportunities are available in both the House and the Family Room (in the JHCH) on weekdays, weekends and overnights. Volunteer duties include housekeeping duties, gardening, cooking, maintenance, administration support, assisting and supporting families and fundraising. We have volunteers from all "ages and stages of life". Our volunteers are "the Heart of our House". If you interested please contact: Alison Wellings, House Manager. Ronald McDonald House in the Hunter, phone 4921 4733.

John Hunter Hospital Arts for Health volunteers

John Hunter Hospital (JHH) Arts for Health, which includes the Royal Newcastle Centre (RNC), incorporates all the arts into the daily life of the hospital. As part of the healing processes we use the arts to create a warmer, friendlier and less institutional place for the staff, patients and visitors.

Volunteers can: play the grand piano in the RNC foyer daily, play other music or sing in the RNC foyer, assist with hanging exhibitions in the public corridors, assist with exhibition and art event openings and launches, assist with arts administration. People interested in volunteering for Arts for Health can contact Juliet Ackery, Coordinator JHH Arts for Health on 4921 4180 or email juliet.ackery@hnehealth.nsw.gov.au

Please consider your commitment carefully

Before you decide to apply for a volunteer position, please take the time to really think it through. The staff and patients depend on volunteers to be committed.

Hunter New England Health is a **smoke-free** zone. All roles that involve working with children require that applicants be non-smokers.

Parking: There is a critical shortage of parking available at the hospital. A free shuttle service is available from Ausgrid stadium.