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# First TAFE trained nurses start at Northern Beaches Hospital

In the midst of a nursing shortage Northern Beaches Hospital is hoping to encourage more peninsula residents to consider a career swap.



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Meet four of Northern Beaches Hospital's newest nurses.

Louise Woods, of Newport, Hannah Toogood, of Beacon Hill, Talisa Fuller, of Davidson and Jess Peters of Manly, are part of a group of 20 student nurses from St Leonards TAFE, doing work placement at the Frenchs Forest facility.

They are the first TAFE class to start their careers at Northern Beaches Hospital.

With a nationwide nursing shortage, the hospital is keen to encourage other peninsula residents to come and work with them via this route.

The nurses study at TAFE and undertake regular blocks of three-week placements.



Nurses Louise Woods, Hannah Toogood, Jess Peters and Talisa Fuller in the simulation lab at Northern Beaches Hospital in Frenchs Forest. Picture: Christian Gilles

At the end of the course they will qualify as an enrolled nurse and will hopefully choose to take a job at Northern Beaches Hospital.

Pete Goodare, who is supervising their education at Northern Beaches Hospital, said TAFE was an excellent way to get into nursing, allowing students to build up valuable experience on the job, at the same time as studying.



TAFE student nurses Louise Woods, Jess Peters, Hannah Toogood and Talisa Fuller are part of the first class of TAFE student nurses to do work placement at Northern Beaches Hospital in Frenchs Forest. Picture: Christian Gilles

As part of their placement at Northern Beaches Hospital, the nurses get to spend time in a special simulation lab, where they can practice what they have learnt in TAFE on an interactive 'fake' patient.

Mr Goodare, who also got into nursing via TAFE, said the TAFE pathway helped create the "perfect recipe for the kind of nurses they want".

“When they are with us we can help shape them into Northern Beaches Hospital nurses,” he said.

“We have expert staff and amazing mentors to help them become the best nurses possible.

“We can also offer a great career trajectory for them.”

For some of the student nurses this is their first job, but for others it is a career change.



Jess Peters worked in advertising before deciding to do a career swap. Picture: Christian Gilles

Ms Woods, who previously worked in aged care, said she found the work too limiting and so decided to train as a nurse so she could work with all ages.

While Ms Peters spent 10 years in advertising, before going back to college.

“In advertising people act like the work is life or death when it really isn’t,” she said.

“My time in that job has helped me build up some resilience, which will come in handy in nursing.

“I wanted to change because I wanted to do something that was a bit more worthwhile, in an environment where it really does matter.”

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