

Nurses

SALARY ★ FREE BOARD ★ FREE UNIFORMS



DR22148 - Salary, Free Board, Free Uniforms, The Most Honourable and Humane of all Professions. Painted design of a female nurse in uniform for recruitment. ca1945

Research Guide to nurse records
at Queensland State Archives

Queensland State Archives (QSA) is the official repository for Queensland Government records selected for permanent retention because of their continuing value. The archived public records are from state government departments, state courts, local government authorities and statutory authorities. The records are in our facility at [Runcorn, Brisbane](#), and open records are available for viewing in the Reading Room, free-of-charge.

This guide provides an administrative history of nursing agencies in Queensland and identifies the major series of records held by Queensland State Archives in relation to nurses and the nursing profession.

Initially, the Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital was responsible for nurses' education and training. Under the *Health Act Amendment Act 1911* a Nurses' Registration Board was established, and the first members were appointed on 22 Feb 1912.

With the need to standardise the education, training and registration of nurses, the Nurses and Masseurs Registration Board was established on 1 Jan 1929. This Board was disbanded when the Physiotherapists Board of Queensland and the Nurses Board were set up on 27 Jul 1965.

During the period 1935 to 1963 the Department of Health and Home Affairs oversaw nurses' registration and controlled the Nurses and Masseurs Registration Board. The Department also oversaw many areas where nursing services were required such as baby clinics, maternal and child welfare homes, dental and medical clinics, hospitals, homes for the insane, epileptics, inebriates, and repatriates.

On 23 Dec 1976 the decision was made to separate the function of registration from education and training. This was done by establishing the Board of Nursing Studies, and the Nurses Registration Board of Queensland was re-established as a result. Subsequently, the Queensland Nursing Council was established under the *Nursing Act 1992* replacing the Board of Nursing Studies and the Nurses Registration Board of Queensland.

From 1 July 2010 the Queensland Nursing Council was abolished and a new national agency, the Australian Health Practitioner Registration Agency, responsible for administration of registration of health professionals was introduced under the *Health Practitioner Regulation (Administrative Arrangements) National Law Act 2008*, the *Health Practitioner Regulation National Law Act 2009* and the *Health Legislation (Health Practitioner Regulation National Law) Amendment Act 2010*. The national agency took over the administrative functions of the nursing council while the Nurses and Midwifery Board took over the registration and accreditation of nurses and midwives. The function of registration boards was to administer enabling legislation, determine professional standards, maintain the register of practitioners, and regulate and control practitioners. Responsibilities included maintaining a register of nurses, determining the scope of nursing practice and standards, accrediting nursing courses and monitoring training standards.

The main finding aid for records held at QSA is the [Queensland State Archives' online catalogue](#) (known as ArchivesSearch).

The following citation abbreviations are used throughout our catalogue:

- ITM QSA Item (describes the item)
- PR Physical Representation (generally the original or microfilm copy)
- DR Digital Representation (for a digital image)
- S Series ID (for a series of records)
- A Agency ID (for the creating or responsible agency).

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander readers are advised that our catalogue contains images, names and voices of people who have died.

Auditor General's Department

Brisbane Audit Reports

21/7/1949 - Circa 31/12/1985

[S17942](#)

This series comprises the reports for a range of departments and boards including hospitals. The reports consist of audit books and accounts, annual financial statements, collections of receipts, loans and funds, bank statements, certificates, and balance sheets. Correspondence between the Auditor-General, auditors, audit inspectors and local authorities is also included as well as some meeting and business papers. The reports were written between 1957 and 1983, although some of files contain relevant information dated prior to 1957.

Specifically refer to:

QSA ITM	Description	Start date	End date
ITM158993	Nurses and Masseurs Registration	1/07/1956	30/06/1957
ITM159197	Nurses and Masseurs Registration Board	1/07/1957	30/06/1958
ITM159445	Nurses and Masseurs Registration Board	1/07/1959	30/06/1960
ITM159826	Nurses and Masseurs Registration Board	1/07/1960	30/06/1961
ITM159406	Nurses' and Masseurs' Registration Board	1/07/1958	30/06/1959
ITM1606259	Queensland War Nurses Fund	1/01/1923	31/12/1923
ITM1656294	Review on the Queensland War Nurses Fund.	2/11/1922	2/11/1922
ITM1622200	The Nurses and Masseurs Registration Board	1/01/1935	31/12/1935

Health and Home Affairs Department

General Correspondence

Circa 1/1/1936 - Circa 31/12/1974

[S6679](#)

This is the main series of correspondence (inwards and outwards) of the Health and Home Affairs Department and it covers the whole range of the functions and responsibilities of the Department which included health and, to 1963, various other internal matters which were the responsibility of the Home Affairs Office.

An annual single number system of file registration is used for in-letters. A carbon copy of each out-letter is filed with (and given the same number as) the in-letter to which it is a reply. As a top-numbering system is used, to find a particular letter, it is necessary to trace the sequence of numbers through the registers until the final number is reached.

There are over 230 files in this series which relate specially to nurses and nursing. Using ArchivesSearch with the keyword "Nurse"; select *Items* and filter by [S6679](#) to find the files. Topics mainly cover the 1950s and include mental hygiene nurses, maternal and child welfare nurses, chief office nurses, health nurses, hospital and institution nurses, school health nurses and staff nurses.

Press Cuttings Files

Circa 1/10/1957 - Circa 30/9/1971

[S16659](#)

The press cuttings are mainly from the *Melbourne Herald and Sun*; *Adelaide Advertiser*; *Sydney Herald, Telegraph and Sun*; *Queensland Telegraph*, *Courier Mail*, *Sunday Mail*, *North Queensland Register* and *Sunday Truth*. The cuttings contain various topics relating to hospitals, health and medical schemes. Also included are details on nurses, doctors, pharmacy, mental hygiene, maternal and child welfare.

Special Batches

5/11/1861 - Circa 31/12/1975

[S8400](#)

This series consists of batches of correspondence and papers which were removed from (or not included in) the general correspondence of the Colonial Secretary's/Home Secretary's Office, and the subsequent Health and Home Affairs Department and Health Department. The letters removed either for administrative convenience or because the subject was particularly important were entered in the Registers of Letters Received with a note often specifying 'Away Batch'.

With the creation of the Health and Home Affairs Department in 1935 and the subsequent Health Department in 1963, the majority of batches became health-related. Using [ArchivesSearch](#) with the keyword "Nurse"; select *Items* and filter by [S8400](#) to find the files. Topics include nurses and masseurs, registration boards, migrant nurses and health acts.

Medical Board of Queensland

Policy and Correspondence Files

8/9/1932 - 6/11/1980

[S8805](#)

Inwards and outwards correspondence files of the Queensland Medical Board (1932-1939) and the Medical Board of Queensland (1939-2010). Correspondence is interfiled with outwards and inwards letters filed together. Subjects mainly relate to administrative matters and include matters relating to regulations under the *Medical Act*, conferences, reciprocity of qualifications and registrations of foreign medical practitioners. Specifically refer to [ITM282814](#), Correspondence: Particulars regarding registration - medical, dental, pharmacy, optical, nurses, physiotherapy, 29/05/1967

Registration Board Files

7/4/1936 - 8/6/1983

[S19366](#)

These registration board files were maintained by the Medical Board of Queensland for all registration boards including nurses. The files contain correspondence and papers relating to administrative and legislative matters as well as registration for the relevant professions.

Nurses Registration Board of Queensland

Examination Papers

Circa 1/1/1921 - Circa 31/12/1935

[S16821](#)

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This series contains a single file of examination papers set by the board for the examination of general, mental health and midwifery nurses. The file also contains a list of training schools in New South Wales. The series covers the change in agency name from Nurses Registration Board to Nurses and Masseurs Registration Board.

Minute Books

20/4/1934 - 20/6/1978

[S9216](#)

Minutes of meetings of the Nurses and Masseurs Registration Board (and subsequent agencies). It includes mainly registration and training with transcripts of inquiries held by the Board.

Minute Books

20/6/1978 - 28/10/1993

[S4332](#)

This series includes minutes of meetings and related correspondence of the Nurses Registration Board.

Policy and Correspondence Files

17/4/1913 - 16/11/1981

[S8834](#)

Inward and outward correspondence of the Nurses Registration Board of Queensland and its' subsequent agencies. Inward and outward letters are interfiled. Subjects are mainly connected with registration and include proposals for, and comments on, regulations.

Nurses registration cards

Circa 1/1/1912 – 31/12/1974

[S19365](#)

This series contains records of nurses' training and registration.

Registers of Nurses

Circa 1/1/1912 - Circa 31/12/1925

[S16827](#)

These alphabetical registers record the registration of general, mental health and midwifery nurses. Details listed include the names and addresses of the nurses, the section under which the registration was made, the fee paid, the date of registration, and the certificate and badge number.

Registers of Nurses, with Examination Results

Circa 1/1/1915 - Circa 31/12/1925

[S17342](#)

This series consists of registers recording the results of written examinations and registration of general, mental health and midwifery nurses. Information contained in the register includes date of application, registration number, date of receipt, name of applicant, address, name of hospital, remarks and results of examinations, the board's decision, and the date the applicant was entered into the register and onto the list of registered nurses.

Nurses and Masseurs Registration Board

Examination Papers

Circa 1/1/1921 - Circa 31/12/1935

[S16821](#)

This series contains a single file of examination papers set by the board for the examination of general, mental health and midwifery nurses. The file also contains a list of training schools in New South Wales. The series covers the change in agency name from Nurses Registration Board to Nurses and Masseurs Registration Board.

Papers on Royal Commission into Sister Kenny

Circa 1/1/1933 - Circa 31/12/1937

[S16819](#)

This series consists of various papers held by the board concerning the Royal Commission into the treatment of crippled patients at Sister Kenny's clinic at Townsville. The treatments concerned the physiotherapy of patients when immobility was accepted treatment for patients. The material consists of reports concerning examination of the patients at the clinic, medical opinions as to the ethical implications and overall success of the treatment. Also included are a list of questions for witnesses that were called by the Commission, pharmacy journals, and a hand-written notebook concerning the commission kept by Dr C A Thelander of the Brisbane clinic on Wickham Terrace, Brisbane.

Policy and Correspondence Files

3/2/1930 - 1/6/1965

[S8838](#)

Inward and outward correspondence of the Nurses and Masseurs Registration Board transferred to the Physiotherapists Board when it was established. Other files deal with reciprocity with other states and countries such as Canada, and the recognition of chartered societies.

Queensland Nursing Council

The Queensland Nursing Council could appoint committees to assist in the development of policies, position statements, reports and recommendations to Council and to advise the executive officer on relevant issues and procedures. The minute books of the Council's Committees and Panels held at QSA are listed below.

Community Advisory Panel Minute Book

Circa 1/4/2000 – 30/6/2002

[S19269](#)

These minute books record minutes of meetings of the Queensland Nursing Council Community Advisory Panel. The minutes contain matters related to its role in increasing consumer and professional involvement in the Council's delivery of services and regulation of nursing.

Corporate Services Committee Minute Books

1/4/1994 - 31/10/2009

[S19271](#)

These minute books record minutes of meetings of the Queensland Nursing Council Corporate Services Committee. The minutes contain matters related to the monitoring of the effective management of the Council's administrative, financial and human resource functions, and the submission of recommendations to the Council.

Education Committee Minute Books

Circa 1/1/1994 - Circa 31/12/2009

[S19272](#)

These minute books record minutes of meetings of the Queensland Nursing Council Education Committee. The minutes contain matters related to the committee's responsibility for identifying issues relevant to nurse education, developing and reviewing policies, and submitting recommendations to Council.

Nursing Practice Committee Minute Books

Circa 1/2/1994 - Circa 30/6/2000

[S19270](#)

These minute books record minutes of meetings of the Queensland Nursing Council Nursing Practice Committee. The minutes contain matters related to the committee's role in providing a forum for the identification and discussion of issues relating to the practice of nursing, and the submission of recommendations to Council.

Professional Standards Committee Minute Books

Circa 1/2/1993 - Circa 31/12/2009

[S19266](#)

These minute books record minutes of meetings of the Queensland Nursing Council Professional Standards Committee, previously the Complaints Committee. The minutes contain matters related to the committee's role of monitoring the effective management of the Council's complaints function, and include recommendations submitted to Council.

Registration Committee Minute Books

Circa 1/1/1994 - Circa 31/12/2009

[S19267](#)

These minute books record minutes of meetings of the Queensland Nursing Council Registration Committee. The minutes contain matters related to the committee's role in providing a forum for identifying and discussing issues relevant to nurse registration and include recommendations to be submitted to Council.

Research and Policy Committee Minute Books

Circa 1/1/1995 - 31/12/2009

[S19273](#)

These minute books record minutes of meetings of the Queensland Nursing Council Research and Policy Committee. The minutes contain matters related to its role as a forum for the identification and discussion of issues relating to research and policy, the assessment of research grants and scholarship applications, and the committee's recommendations to Council.

Registration Renewal Committee Minute Books

Circa 1/1/1997 - Circa 31/12/1998

[S19268](#)

These minute books record minutes of meetings of the Queensland Nursing Council Registration Renewal Committee.

Examination Results

28/1/1992 - 4/5/2000

[S5749](#)

This series consists of Board of Nursing Studies and Queensland Nursing Council examination results and some examination mark summaries for enrolled, general, child health, midwifery, psychiatric nurses and overseas applicants. Details for examination results include the date, hospital, candidate's number and name, and result. Overseas applicants' details include the country. Details for examination mark summaries include the date, candidate's number and name, paper, booklet and score. Some other statistical reports are also included with the mark summaries.

Minute Books

Circa 1/1/1993 - Circa 31/12/2009

[S19274](#)

These minute books record minutes of meetings of the Queensland Nursing Council, and matters relating to the Council's responsibilities for the registration of nurses, nursing education and professional standards including investigation of complaints and charges of misconduct. The minutes include reports of investigations and recommendations of committees and panels set up to assist the council, and the Council's decisions.

Other Records

Police Commissioner's Office

General Correspondence

Circa 1/1/1861 - Circa 31/12/1987

[S16865](#)

These general correspondence files form the "M" series of files from the Police Commissioner's Office. They consist mainly of reports by police officers and related correspondence. Specifically refer to the records listed below which relate to nurses.

QSA ITM	Description	Start date	End date
ITM319057	Registration of nurses under the Nurses Registration Board	1/01/1912	31/12/1954
ITM317028	Strikes: Brisbane Mental Hospital, Goodna - nurses strike	12/04/1944	27/12/1944
ITM317029	Strikes: Collinsville coal miners' about nurses and clippers	27/04/1944	15/02/1946
ITM317192	Strikes: Tully Falls Project - carpenters strike (includes nurses strike), Cairns	14/07/1954	12/08/1954

Prisons Department

Special Batch files

Circa 1/1/1880 - Circa 31/12/1976

[S9097](#)

This special subject batch series of correspondence of the Sheriff's Office and of the Prisons Department was created by extracting letters on specialised subjects from the general correspondence series (S15188). Specific subjects were filed under an appropriate batch title. Within each batch title, each file was organised (pinned together) under the top-numbering system, with the most recent letter on top. Specifically refer to [ITM293145](#). Batch file: Special Subject Batch: Male Nurses, responsibilities, 3/3/1964 to 28/7/1964.

Brisbane Hospital

Salaries and Wages Books

31/1/1870 - Circa 31/12/1896

[S10811](#)

These books record monthly salaries and wages paid to the staff of the Brisbane Hospital. Details for each entry in the volumes 1870-1888 include the name, and sometimes the position of the staff member, the amount paid, and the signature acknowledging receipt. The pages of the volume 1889-1896 are headed 'pay sheet for month of' and include the name, grade, date from and to, and the amount.

Supreme Court, Southern District, Brisbane

Religious and Charitable Files

Circa 1/1/1861 - Circa 30/6/2002

[S5176](#)

The *Religious Educational and Charitable Institutions Act, 1861* enabled the Executive Council to issue Letters Patent to religious, educational and charitable groups. Organisations registered under the Act were able to manage estates, properties and effects; receive and purchase property; borrow and lend money; sue and be sued; invest money; purchase and trade shares; inherit money or goods from an estate when the deed of grant was made at least one month prior to the person's death in the presence of three credible witnesses. Organisations had to file proof of succession with the Supreme Court. Files may include correspondence, affidavits as to the identity of those elected to management positions and an organization's constitution.

Specifically refer to the records listed below which relate to nurses.

QSA ITM	Description	Start date	End date
ITM840599	Australian Trained Nurses Association	1/01/1933	31/12/1964
ITM840869	Australasian Trained Nurses Association (Queensland)	1/01/1964	31/12/1993
ITM841146	Centaur Memorial Fund for Nurses	1/01/1980	31/12/1980

Treasury Department

General Correspondence

Circa 1/1/1860 - Circa 31/12/1984

[S6232](#)

This series of inwards correspondence represents discharge of business connected with general financial administration. Specifically refer to the records listed below which relate to nurses.

QSA ITM	Description	Start date	End date
ITM961177	Department of Health - Cabinet Minute about recruitment of overseas nurses for service in Queensland public hospitals	27/11/1974	31/12/1974
ITM957176	Nurse training	17/01/1969	21/01/1969
ITM963045	Schedule of fees - Nurses Registration Board of QLD	14/06/1977	31/12/1977
ITM958421	Tasmania workers compensation about mining employees and nurses suffering from certain diseases	30/10/1970	27/11/1970
ITM964865	The Nurses Registration Board of Queensland - Period within which annual licence fees are payable	3/12/1979	31/12/1979

Need more information?

Check our online catalogue [ArchivesSearch](#).
Phone us on (07) 3037 6777 or you can [email](#) an archivist.