Caring for people with disabilities is about social justice and people who choose to be care workers have a strong sense of this issue. Care workers derive fulfillment from providing a climate of advocacy and support, fostering the well being of their clients, secure in the knowledge that this will provide the best possible outcome for a healthy and confident life.

A care workers role provides support and encouragement to people with disabilities to exercise their rights and independence. It is a holistic programme that teaches care workers to provide individualised care based on client’s needs.

The care worker also learns about their legal responsibilities and duty of care requirements. They respond to situations of risk and report to the appropriate people whenever this may have an adverse effect on the health of people with disabilities for whom they have responsibility.

Care workers work with a diverse range of age groups who may have physical, psychological or mental disabilities.

It is a challenging career that brings immense satisfaction to those who are equal to the task.

Care workers also have the opportunity to progress to higher levels to become social trainers and managers of facilities within the industry.
The scope of disability work

Carers who graduate with a Certificate III qualification are able to perform a wide variety of tasks. These include:

- Responding to the physical, nutritional, health and safety requirements of people with disabilities
- Helping to maintain the home or workplace for their clients
- Understanding and use of appropriate support technology such as mobility aids
- Encouraging appropriate physical contact which demonstrates courtesy and sensitivity to the individual
- Managing maladaptive behaviour
- Providing individual care based on cultural needs

Care workers who attain a Certificate IV qualification are able to demonstrate provision of care based on complex needs. They will be expected to supervise other care workers and negotiate with other service providers.

Managers of facilities for people with disabilities are the custodians of the service and under their stewardship are the financial, human and physical resources of the facility they manage. The Diploma of Community Services (Management) is a prerequisite for those who wish to pursue management roles within the industry.

Establishing a relationship of trust with their clients and their family members is essential to supporting their clients to make choices, decisions and establish social networks.

In helping to build their clients’ self esteem, through good interpersonal skills care workers and managers empower their clients and advance service provision for all people with disabilities.

Personal attributes that will enhance your chances of success in this career include:

- resourcefulness
- integrity
- strong sense of social justice
- tact
- caring and supportive attitude
- respect for the rights of others
- well developed communication skills
- patience

What disability work qualifications offer you

The Certificate III in Disability Work will provide you with the practical skills and knowledge to enhance life style, promote independence and empowerment and encourage people with disabilities to participate in community activities. You will develop an understanding of the nature and provision of disability services and the safety procedures and ethical behaviour required in working with people with disabilities. You will develop skills in effective communication, working with culturally diverse clients, administration, information management, networking and advocacy essential for disability work.

The Certificate IV in Disability Work will further develop your practical skills and knowledge to develop services and programs to meet the emotional, physical and social needs of people with disabilities. You will learn skills in advanced communication, empowerment techniques and how to design processes to support daily living activities. You will also learn how to design and deliver programs that are accessible and enhance community integration. You will develop an understanding of the legal and ethical requirements for working in disability services.

As part of these qualifications you will undertake a supervised work placement where you will be able to apply the skills and knowledge you have learned.

Employment opportunities

Successful completion of the Certificate III qualification provides you with the opportunity to gain entry level positions as a community/disability support worker in community or residential settings, disability employment support worker, accommodation worker or become a care/home care assistant. Successful completion Certificate IV provides you with the opportunity to become a disability advocacy/support officer, social trainer, team leader, house/unit supervisor, recreation officer, or employment support officer.

Entry requirements

Certificate III in Disability Work

- Communication skills

A federal police clearance is required prior to work placement and employment in most community service agencies.

Certificate IV in Disability Work

Successful completion of a qualification listed below:

- Certificate III in Disability Work
- Or

A federal police clearance and a working with children check are required prior to work placement and employment in most community service agencies.

For more information of TAFEWA entrance requirements please visit www.tafe.wa.edu.au

Further study options

Diploma of Community Services (Management)

Further information

Contact our Information and Career Advisory Officers on 1800 621 445 or (08) 9780 7070

Email: courseinfo@bunbury.training.wa.gov.au

Website: www.swrc.wa.edu.au