Paediatric Intensive Care Unit

Creating a contemporary future together and embracing the heart and science of caring for children with critical illness.

Who are we?

Since opening in 2003, we have been the only dedicated 22 bed paediatric intensive care/high dependency care unit in New Zealand. We support all inpatient medical and surgical services and provide family-centred care to children from around NZ who require respiratory support for more than 24 hours. Patient groups include cardiac, respiratory, neurological, infectious, elective surgical and trauma cases.

In 2010 PICU opened a 6 bedded High Dependency Unit (HDU) which admits patients with acute medical and surgical conditions.
Our Team

Friendly and hardworking, our team at PICU are brave, determined, dynamic and compassionate professionals. The work we do is challenging and so we have to equally be tough and focused and also intuitive and caring. As a team we value respect, integrity and effectiveness in all we do. It’s incredibly rewarding to provide such excellent care to the children and their families. We describe ourselves as:

Our Philosophy

Our dominant philosophy is family centred care. We care for critically ill children in partnership with the child's family/whanau. Parents' presence at the bedside of their critically ill child is
accepted as the norm, and parents are not asked to leave for any procedures ranging from insertion of intravenous lines to resuscitation.

Our motto is “Our Children Deserve the Best”. To accomplish this, we have created a supportive, innovative and fun environment that strives to provide excellence in care to children and their families.

**Orientation & Support**

From the time you start in PICU you will be supported and encouraged to continue your professional development.

Orientation is tailored individually to take into account the new staff member's previous experience. The length of orientation will depend on your experience:

- New graduate – 12 weeks orientation period
- New to PICU – 8 week orientation period
- New to paediatrics but not ICU – 4 weeks

Detailed outlines of our orientation programmes can be found [here](#).

We also utilise a competency book, associated workbooks and have a well-stocked library, plus access to many related electronic nursing (and other discipline) journals.

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*Judie Hanna*

**PICU Nurse**

“I brought my 26 years of non ICU nursing experience into a totally new environment and it’s very tough at times but so rewarding. I’m constantly inspired by the skills and knowledge of my colleagues and know every child and family receives the best possible care with us. I love being in my dream job”
Benefits

Some of the many benefits of working in our PICU team are:

- Working with a widely diverse staff gaining knowledge in all specialties of paediatric care
- Living and working in New Zealand’s largest city which means more work opportunities for family members
- Working in the central city
- Having access to staff discounts / benefits with a large range of businesses
- Professional development opportunities

Professional Development

In our team, we provide a huge variety of nursing opportunities and a very supportive work environment. This makes PICU a satisfying and dynamic place to work.

Working as a nurse in PICU, you will benefit from the opportunity to complete ongoing education opportunities, including:

- A postgraduate certificate with the University of Auckland - 50% of our nursing staff hold a postgraduate course in critical care.
- A variety of clinical supports, including advanced ventilation support therapies, Extra Corporeal Life Support modalities and flight retrieval.

Deborah Adesanya
PICU Nurse

“I love being a PICU nurse and am inspired by my fellow nurses. There’s always something to learn and the nurses are always willing to share their knowledge. I am supported and developed by every member of our PICU team.”
Shifts

We work in 12 hour shifts, to provide a 24-hour, 7-day a week service. The shifts are self-rostered, day or night. Each shift has a dedicated Clinical Charge Nurse, plus a runner or resource nurse. Nurses may look after one ICU patient or 2 High Dependency patients.

Salary

Remuneration is based on your experience and corresponds to the nationally agreed salary banding in the District Health Boards / NZNO Nursing and Midwifery Multi-employer Collective Agreement which you can access [here](#) (reference clause 8.0.1).

Relocation

We’ll stay in touch with you every step of the way as will our dedicated Recruitment Team.