ACN purpose statement

ACN is the national professional organisation for all nurse leaders: Nurses with an interest in leadership, nurses aspiring to leadership roles and nurses in leadership roles across the Australian health system. The leadership capabilities of all nurses play a critical role in the delivery of health services to the Australian community. ACN is an advocate for the nursing profession, advancing the skills and expertise of nurses to provide leadership in their contribution to the policy, practice and delivery of health care. ACN encourages and supports nurses to develop and grow to become nurse leaders who are able to contribute by providing professional, economic and health perspectives.

Purpose statement context

ACN is actively building on the history of its two predecessor organisations Royal College of Nursing, Australia and The College of Nursing. The Board of the ACN took up its role in November 2013 and is now forging the strategic directions that will position ACN for the next three years and beyond.

In positioning ACN for the future, the Board has carefully considered the external environment in which ACN operates and identified both opportunities and threats for the organisation. In brief major areas of impact on ACN include:

- Ongoing increases in the cost of health care, the increasing burden of disease and challenges to the health workforce will make the economic sustainability of health the focus of health policy debate. Health is becoming as much an economic as a social policy area for governments and ACN needs to play an important role in this debate.

- Changing health workforce models and continued rationalisation of the education sector will impact the way health professionals are educated and the roles they undertake. As changes occur ACN will need to adapt to ensure its programs remain relevant and are a quality product.

- Membership organisations across all sectors are facing challenges in a mobile and technologically enabled society. The long term viability of organisations with a business model based on revenue from membership fees is significantly under threat. ACN must be agile in order to respond to the changing needs of all its stakeholders.