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Australia’s newly registered nurses: highly educated, critical thinkers

The Australian College of Nursing (ACN) would like to extend best wishes towards this latest cohort of nursing professionals as they begin employment in Australian health services over the coming months.

Adjunct Professor Debra Thoms, CEO ACN, is pleased to see such highly educated clinicians coming through the profession; bringing with them new perspectives and energy to the Australian health workforce.

"I’ve been a nurse for over 30 years and can personally attest to it being a rewarding, diverse and exciting career. This influx of newly registered nurses provides an opportunity for all of us as nurses to reflect on our own practice and how we can teach, support and mentor early career nurses in their formative years of clinical practice.

"Ensuring nurses are supported throughout their career is of the highest importance, as we look to develop a sustainable and effective nursing workforce. As Australia’s largest health care profession, nurses continue to play a significant role in ensuring our health system provides quality, patient-centered care to all Australians," said Adjunct Professor Debra Thoms.

To ensure the ongoing sustainability and improvement of the nursing workforce, ACN recommended in the recent ACN Federal Pre-Budget Submission 2014-2015, that resources be allocated for a National Transition Framework for nurses. This Framework would support newly registered nurses as they move into clinical practice, as well as enabling practicing nurses to move from one area of clinical practice or setting to another; a vital step in enhancing the retention of both the existing workforce and those entering the workforce.

The National Framework is designed to ensure both early career nurses, and nurses looking for additional skills, are provided with all the requisite assistance to support their development and faster initiation into the workforce.

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For interviews with Adjunct Professor Thoms, please contact Diana Spencer or Felicity Zadro on 029212 7867 or diana@zadrocommunications.com.au.