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## Aged care budget needs to do better

The Australian College of Nursing (ACN) has welcomed some new initiatives in the aged care sector but is disappointed in other budget measures announced last Tuesday.

ACN welcomes the increase of \$102 million over four years in the viability supplement to address the higher cost pressures incurred by rural and remote aged care services, and is very pleased to see the additional \$136 million over four years to strengthen the operation of MyAgedCare.

“It is important to have easy and timely access to reliable aged care information and effective assessment and referral arrangements are critical to the effectiveness of aged care services”, said Adjunct Professor Kylie Ward, CEO of the Australian College of Nursing.

ACN is disappointed that nursing and personal care funding in residential care will be reduced by a further \$1.2 billion over the next four years, mainly by halving the indexation rate for the Complex Health Care Domain of the Aged Care Funding Instrument (ACFI).

“While the Government may have had difficult choices to make in regard to cutting the ACFI due to projections of unsustainable expenditure in aged care, this budget decision suggests the funding tool is flawed and needs an overhaul to ensure it leads to quality outcomes for residents. The current model does not reward the very things that promote quality of life especially for resident using Complex Health Care component of ACFI”, said Adjunct Professor Ward.

ACN is also disappointed there was no substantial commitment to the implementation of any aspect of the Aged Care Roadmap, prepared by the Government’s Aged Care Sector Committee, which had identified the steps required to enable a phased transition to a consumer-driven, market-based and sustainable aged care system so that people, can access aged care where and when they need it.

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Adjunct Professor Kylie Ward, CEO of ACN.



Australian  
College of  
Nursing

Advancing nurse leadership

**Notes to the Editors:**

The Australian College of Nursing (ACN) is the national professional organisation for all nurse leaders and its aim is to ensure that the Australian community receives quality nursing care now and in the future. ACN is a membership organisation with members in all states and territories, health care settings and nursing specialties. ACN is also the Australian member of the International Council of Nurses headquartered in Geneva.

ACN, an organisation not afraid to intelligently challenge industry issues affecting the nursing profession or Australia's healthcare, is a well-connected and educated national body that drives change with people of influence to enhance the delivery of health services to the Australian community. ACN advances the skills and expertise of nurses to provide leadership in their



contribution to the policy, practice and delivery of health care.

A membership organisation with members in all states and territories, health care settings and nursing specialities, ACN's membership includes many nurses in roles of influence, including senior nurses, organisational leaders, academics and researchers.

#### **What is the role of the ACN to media?**

- ACN provides trusted, well supported information about Australia's health care system, the delivery of health care, nursing leadership and the nursing profession.
- ACN has a number of media-savvy spokespeople within the organisation who can comment on Australia's health care system, the delivery of health care, nursing leadership and the nursing profession.
- ACN offers media with an alternative voice to that of an industrial relations perspective.
- ACN is in-the-know and can comment on health care matters of interest.
- ACN can respond to media requests in a timely manner and with subject/clinical expert's available on-hand for further discussion.
- ACN regularly respond to government updates pertaining to Australia's health care system.

#### **What role does the ACN play?**

The ACN are here to act and deliver results as agents of change. They are working towards a brighter future through advancing nurse leadership to enhance the delivery of health care to all. The organisation provides nurse leaders with access to relevant information, support and education will enhance Australia's reputation on the world stage.

#### **Social media channels:**

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/acnursing>

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