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## ***Health Care Homes* a positive move for patients but funding commitment critical**

The Australian College of Nursing (ACN) welcomes the Australian Government's announcement of the 10 Primary Health Network regions across Australia involved in stage one of the *Health Care Homes* (HCH) model.

ACN CEO, Adjunct Professor Kylie Ward FACN said, "If *Health Care Homes* prove to be effective in coordinating ongoing comprehensive care for people with chronic and complex conditions, a long-term funding commitment must be made to secure the service model into the future".

ACN is in strong support of this important initiative that will use an alternative to the fee-for-service service model and focus on reforming how health care is provided to people with chronic and complex health care needs. It is essential that the trial of HCHs is given every chance of success and is not undermined by inadequate resourcing.

"The Health Care Home model has great potential but, in addition to adequate funding, its successful implementation will depend on the active engagement of consumers and all relevant health and allied health professionals. Furthermore, the development of sound guidelines and tools that embed systems integration and collaboration, as well as comprehensive training and communication strategies are required to support Health Care Homes," Adjunct Professor Ward said.

ACN is well positioned to work with the Health Care Homes Implementation Advisory Group and the Government to provide strategies on how to best design a HCH model that makes maximum use of the nursing profession in the provision of the highest quality care to the Australian community.

"Nurses make up the largest group of health professionals in Australia and play a vital role in health service delivery at every stage of a patient's journey. Navigating the health system can be challenging but nurses are adept at guiding patients, supporting better patient outcomes and preventing unnecessary hospital admissions. Nurses will be a big part of *Health Care Homes* being a success. Nurses are pivotal in coordinating care through a complex health and aged care system," Adjunct Professor Ward said.

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Adjunct Professor Kylie Ward, CEO of ACN.



Australian  
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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 health care, 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 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 responds to government updates pertaining to Australia's health care system.

### What role does ACN play?

ACN is 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 that will enhance Australia's reputation on the world stage.

### Social media channels:

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

Twitter: [https://twitter.com/acn\\_tweet](https://twitter.com/acn_tweet)

LinkedIn: <http://www.linkedin.com/company/australian-college-of-nursing>

Instagram: [https://www.instagram.com/acn\\_nursing](https://www.instagram.com/acn_nursing)