

14 September 2016

The Australian College of Nursing launches Community and Primary Health Care Nursing Week 2016

The Australian College of Nursing (ACN) is pleased to announce the launch of Community and Primary Health Care Nursing (CPHCN) Week from the 19th to 25th of September 2016. This is an opportunity to raise awareness of the current and potential contribution of community and primary health care (CPHC) nurses to the health care system and highlight their impact on the wellbeing of local communities.

ACN's CEO, Adjunct Professor Kylie Ward FAcN said, "Community and primary health care nurses make an important contribution to health care in Australia. They work across a number of service delivery models and play an integral role in addressing the care needs of individuals and communities. They are able to respond to diverse population health needs as the sector encompasses nurses with varied scopes of practice."

ACN encourages the public to get involved in CPHCN week by wearing an orange scarf or t-shirt to show support for CPHC nurses or by holding an event to share readings from the CPHCN 2016 eBook to promote and discuss the important roles in CPHCN.

Adjunct Professor Ward said, "Despite the health reform agenda highlighting the importance of a high performing, integrated primary health care system in Australia, community and primary health care nurses remain an underutilised section of the health care workforce. State and territory funding mechanisms and policy development must support the integration of community and primary health care nurses in all levels of the health system to ensure that the challenges of an ageing population and increased burden of chronic disease are met."

"Nurses working within primary and community care are well placed to meet the health inequalities experienced in the Australian population, especially in rural, remote and vulnerable populations. Community and primary health care nursing can help bridge the often fragmented health care system and support continuity of care. It is imperative that primary health care reform recognises and fully utilise community and primary health care nursing to better improve care and access and maximise resources across the health care system," she said.

ACN will release the Community and Primary Health Care Nursing 2016 eBook, a collection of stories from and about community and primary health care nurses, which will be available on ACN's website.

ACN would like to thank the generous official sponsors of CPHCN week: Australian Mushrooms and Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Healthcare. To view sponsor profiles or for more information regarding CPHCN week about please click [here](#).



Ends _____

For interviews, or for more information, please contact Wendy Hooke on 0297457541 or 0448 004 039 or email wendy.hooke@acn.edu.au



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 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

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

Instagram: https://www.instagram.com/acn_nursing