

7 October 2016

## **The Australian College of Nursing announces launch of *Nurses are Essential in Health and Aged Care Reform White Paper***

The Australian College of Nursing (ACN) is pleased to announce the launch of the **Nurses are Essential in Health and Aged Care Reform** White Paper in Canberra on **11 October 2016**. ACN will be holding a Parliamentary Breakfast which will bring together key nursing leaders, industry CEOs, academics and dignitaries.

**Nurses are Essential in Health and Aged Care Reform** outlines the valuable contribution nurses play in health and aged care, and the importance of a strong nursing voice in achieving sustainable and person-centred reform.

Adjunct Professor Kylie Ward FACN, CEO of ACN said, “ACN’s White Paper **Nurses are Essential in Health and Aged Care Reform** highlights the need for the Australian Government to engage with the nursing profession to drive health care reform.”

As the pre-eminent national professional organisation for nurses, ACN is committed to enhancing health care for the Australian community by advancing nurse leadership. ACN believes that strong nurse leadership will be essential in defining the strategic reform of Australia’s health system.

“Nurses have a proven track record of achieving positive health outcomes for the Australian population and are essential to achieving health gains in the community. As the largest single profession of the health workforce, it is imperative nurses are represented at all levels to positively implement system wide change,” said Adjunct Professor Ward.

The White Paper will focus on the following key points:

- With a workforce of 360k, the nursing profession is ideally placed to drive health reform in Australia.
- Ensuring the nursing voice is heard in strategic policy debates and reform developments.
- The pursuit of improved access, quality and sustainable health and aged care will only be possible if nurses are supported to allow them to work to their full scope, and expanded scope where necessary.
- Investing in nursing leadership to support systems of mentoring, professional development, resilience and capacity building.

Adjunct Professor Ward said “Nursing is a dynamic profession that continues to drive and advance innovative models of care. With an ever increasing ageing population and the rise of chronic disease

in the Australian population, it is imperative that nurses are supported to work to their full-scope of practice to ensure greater access and continuity of care in the health system.”

The **Nurses are Essential in Health and Aged Care Reform** White Paper will be available on ACN’s website after 9:00am on 11 October 2016.

Please note that the executive summary is embargoed until 9am on 10 October 2016. Copies of the executive summary are available on request. Please contact us to obtain a copy of the executive summary.

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**For interviews, or for more information, please contact Wendy Hooke on 0297457541 or 0448 004 039 or email [wendy.hooke@acn.edu.au](mailto: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](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)