

11 October 2016

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

Today the Australian College of Nursing (ACN) has launched its **Nurses are Essential in Health and Aged Care Reform** White Paper at a Parliamentary Breakfast in the Mural Hall, Parliament House.

ACN was honoured that The Hon Malcolm Turnbull MP, Prime Minister of Australia, and The Hon Sussan Ley MP, Minister for Health and Aged Care, Minister for Sport, could be in attendance today.

ACN also warmly welcomed Dr David Gillespie MP, Assistant Minister for Rural Health, The Hon Catherine King MP, Shadow Minister for Health and Medicare, The Hon Julie Collins MP, Shadow Minister for Ageing and Mental Health, Mr Andrew Laming MP, Senator Richard Di Natale, Leader of the Australian Greens, and Senator Stirling Griff, member of the Nick Xenophon Team.

The event was also attended by key nursing leaders, industry CEO's and academics from the health profession. ACN is honoured that Adjunct Professor Debra Thoms FACN DLF, Commonwealth Chief Nursing and Midwifery Officer was in attendance today.

ACN's CEO, Adjunct Professor Kylie Ward FACN, said, "This is an exciting journey not only for ACN, but for the nursing profession, a point reiterated by Prime Minister Turnbull who spoke of the important role nurses play in the delivery of patient centred care and how the utilisation of the nursing workforce can be strengthened."

The Prime Minister spoke highly of the White Paper and has encouraged everyone at the launch to take the opportunity to read it. ACN is encouraged that the Prime Minister recognises that coordinated national action is needed and that the Government understand the value nurses can bring to the policy discussion.

The White Paper **Nurses are Essential in Health and Aged Care Reform** focuses on the following key points:

- With a workforce of 360,000, 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 Kylie Ward said, “The success of today’s launch has highlighted that the collective voice of the nursing profession cannot be ignored in the health and aged care reform agenda. ACN is ready and willing to work with the Australian Government and health care partners towards positive health and aged care reform.”

To view ACN’s **Nurses are Essential in Health and Aged Care Reform** White Paper please click [here](#).

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**For interviews, or for more information, please contact Carolyn Stapleton on 02 6283 3431 or 0448 017 194 or email [carolyn.stapleton@acn.edu.au](mailto:carolyn.stapleton@acn.edu.au)**



Adjunct Professor Kylie Ward FACN, CEO of Australian College of Nursing, and the Hon Malcolm Turnbull MP, Prime Minister of Australia, engaging with delegates at ACN’s White Paper launch at Parliament House.



Professor Christine Duffied FACN, Vice President ACN Board, Adjunct Professor Kathy Baker AM FACN (DLF), ACN Board President, the Hon Malcolm Turnbull MP, Prime Minister of Australia, and Adjunct Professor Kylie Ward FACN, CEO of Australian College of Nursing.



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)