

26 October 2016

The Power of Nursing at the 2016 National Nursing Forum

Today marks the first day of Australian College of Nursing's (ACN) annual **National Nursing Forum in Melbourne**. Held from the 26-28 October 2016, the forum provides a platform for nurses from all over Australia and across all nursing disciplines to explore where nursing is as a profession today, share insights and discuss how nurses can harness their "now power" to lead the development of solutions to Australia's health and aged care challenges.

Adjunct Professor Kylie Ward, CEO of the Australian College of Nursing, said "It has been inspiring to see so many ACN members and nursing leaders attending the National Nursing Forum."

Today there have been presentations from Australian internationally-renowned keynote speakers who have addressed important issues that affect the nursing profession.

The Forum's theme – "The Power of Now" – focuses on how nurses can harness and share this knowledge to shape health care policy that will deliver a healthier Australia and better health care outcomes.

ACN extended welcome to several keynote speakers, including: Fiona Brew MACN, Interim CEO of Goulburn Valley Health, Adjunct Professor David Plunkett MACN, CEO Eastern Health, Dr Louise Shaper, CEO Health Informatics Society of Australia, and Professor Christine Duffield FACN, Director of the Centre for Health Services Management, University of Technology Sydney.

Fiona Brew MACN, Interim CEO of Goulburn Valley Health spoke about 'The power of governance' and how nurses are advocates and gatekeepers for their patients. She expressed how everyone needs to have a voice. Similarly, Adjunct Professor David Plunkett MACN, CEO Eastern Health, spoke about 'The power of culture' in organisations and mentioned that being comfortable to speak up is the fundamental point to keep patients safe. Dr Louise Shaper, CEO Health Informatics Society of Australia, gave an insightful talk on nursing informatics and the 'The power of digital' which highlighted how information is in the hands of both patients and clinicians. She said "Information is not adjunct to care, it is care". Professor Christine Duffield FACN, Director of the Centre for Health Services Management, University of Technology Sydney, provided an inspirational speech on 'The power of now'.

ACN was honoured that the Hon Jill Hennessey, Victorian Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services, addressed delegates and discussed how nurses are delivering sensational clinical outcomes and are an essential part of the health system in all settings.

"Nurses play a valuable contribution in Australia's health and aged care system. All keynote speakers highlighted the importance of the power of engagement between the patient, the clinician and the organisation", said Adjunct Professor Ward.

The National Nursing Forum is held from 26-28 October at the Melbourne Park Function Centre. To view the program and register to attend, please click [here](#).

Ends _____

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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 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>

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Advancing nurse leadership



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