



27 October 2016

Knowledge is Power at Day Two of the National Nursing Forum

Today marks the second 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.

Last night ACN was honoured to have the Hon Sussan Ley MP, Minister for Health and Aged Care, Minister for Sport who addressed delegates and answered questions pertaining to the nursing profession.

Adjunct Professor Kylie Ward, CEO of the Australian College of Nursing, said "Although three days is too short to celebrate the achievements of the nursing profession, it is a fantastic opportunity to highlight the incredible work being done by nurses. It is reassuring to see that Minister Ley is passionate about nurses and that she is responsive to collaboration and consultation with the nursing profession towards health reform."

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

ACN warmly welcomed Adjunct Professor Ann Maree Keenan, Chief Nursing and Midwifery Officer, Department of Health and Human Services, Victoria, who spoke about "Learning from the Past to deliver the Future" and illustrated how nurses must be present from the bedside to the boardroom. Adjunct Associate Professor Lydia Dennett MACN, Chief Nurse and Midwifery Officer, SA Health and Chair, Australia and New Zealand Council of Chief Nursing and Midwifery Officers addressed delegates with "A Walk in the Park", which explored her journey through the Oxfam Trail Walk and the power of team work. Following these speeches, Heather Keighley MACN presented "The Power of Opportunity: Nursing in the Northern Territory", and expressed how strengthening relationships can foster continuity of care and build cultural safety.

Tonight the Forum will host a special gala dinner for delegates to unwind and celebrate the nursing profession.

Nurses from across Australia will celebrate the oration of Kate Birrell, OAM, MACN. Kate has over thirty years' experience in senior nurse leadership roles. She is currently a member of various nursing, health and industry boards, committees and organisations, as well as advisor to the St John of God Health Care Nursing Development Program in East Timor.

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](#).



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For interviews, please contact Narelle Barrie, Executive Assistant to CEO on 02 6283 3459, 0450 908 920 or email narelle.barrie@acn.edu.au

For more information, please contact Carolyn Stapleton, Manager – Policy and Advocacy on 0448 017 194 or email carolyn.stapleton@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 specialties, 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