

6 March 2017

## AUSTRALIAN HEALTHCARE WEEK: NURSES' ROLE IN REFORM

The central role nurses have in ensuring the health care system and workforce can keep pace with growing demands and technological change is being recognised at Australian Healthcare Week.

From 8-10 March, Australian Healthcare Week brings together over 2,000 health professionals to discuss shifts in the healthcare landscape. In particular, attendees will focus on addressing challenges to ensure operational efficiency, quality of care, patient safety and improved health outcomes.

Australian College of Nursing (ACN) Chief Executive Officer, Adjunct Professor Kylie Ward will open the Nurses and Clinicians stream of the event with a presentation on utilising and supporting nurse leaders in today's health sector.

"When we have implemented significant change in healthcare in the past, nurses have tended to be overlooked in terms of devising solutions. This has sometimes been to the detriment of patient health and workplace efficiency," Adjunct Professor Ward explained.

"Take clinical care in a hospital for instance, nurses are the only professionals providing 24-hour care, seven days a week. No member of the care team has a better understanding of how our healthcare facilities operate, how they could work more effectively, and what patients need.

"Making sure nurse voices are heard is a not only a role for policy and decision-makers, but for the nursing profession as a whole. We must continue to develop our nurse leaders so they are informed, capable and aspiring to take a guiding role.

"The College is committed to developing and engaging nurse leaders and I will explore this topic in my address to Australian Healthcare Week."

Adjunct Professor Ward will also take part in the CEO Healthcare Roundtable Forum on 9 March 2017. A large group of highly-respected healthcare leaders will cover a range of topics from change management in major redevelopment projects, maximising the benefits of a digital strategy, future proofing healthcare facilities in anticipation of new models of care, and meeting patient expectations.

"I am looking forward to Australian Healthcare Week and believe those who take part will find it educative, interesting and inspiring," Adjunct Professor Ward said. "It will be an opportunity to network with other health professionals and develop connections and knowledge to facilitate career development."

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Advancing nurse leadership



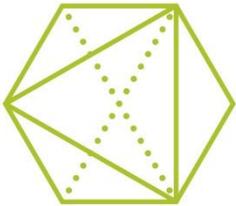
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For interviews, please contact Narelle Barrie, Executive Assistant to CEO on 02 6283 3459, 0450 908 920 or email [narelle.barrie@acn.edu.au](mailto:narelle.barrie@acn.edu.au)

For more information, please contact Carolyn Stapleton, Manager – Policy and Advocacy on 0448 017 194 or email [carolyn.stapleton@acn.edu.au](mailto:carolyn.stapleton@acn.edu.au)



Adjunct Professor Kylie Ward, CEO of ACN.



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**Canberra**  
PO Box 219, Deakin West ACT 2600  
freecall 1800 061 660 (charges apply to mobile phones)  
t 02 6283 3400 | f 02 6282 3565

[www.acn.edu.au](http://www.acn.edu.au)  
Australian College of Nursing Ltd  
ABN 48 154 924 642

### Notes to 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 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)

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