

10 March 2017

## KEEPING THE FAITH: NURSES AND VACCINATION ADVICE

The Australian College of Nursing (ACN) is reminding the nursing profession of how highly Australians respect their advice and of their obligation to provide unbiased clinical evidence to enable patients to make their own informed decision.

“Nurses are viewed as the most ethical and honest profession in Australia, and we are very proud of the trust the community has in us,” Australian College of Nursing Chief Executive Officer, Adjunct Professor Kylie Ward said.

“We must ensure we do not damage this reputation by providing anything but the most clinically up-to-date information to our patients.”

Adjunct Professor Ward’s comments follow recent public debate around vaccination.

“ACN has adopted the Australian Nursing and Midwifery Federation (ANMF) Policy: Vaccination and Immunisation for Nurses and Midwives,” Adjunct Professor Ward explained.

“Immunisation is a key factor in protecting Australians from disease and preventing the spread of disease. Nurses have a significant role in making sure all people making immunisation decisions, including parents, have access to authoritative, evidence based information.

“In the wake of recent questions about the validity of vaccination, patients will be turning to their nurse even more than usual for help with decision-making.”

ACN offers a number of training courses to keep nurse abreast of best practice. The next course is scheduled for 29 March 2017 (see [www.acn.edu.au/immunisation-best-practice-review-part-1-whats-new-and-overcoming-challenges](http://www.acn.edu.au/immunisation-best-practice-review-part-1-whats-new-and-overcoming-challenges)).

To view the ANMF’s policy on vaccination and immunisation, click [here](#).

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Adjunct Professor Kylie Ward, CEO of ACN.



# Australian College of Nursing

Advancing nurse leadership

## 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

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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 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)