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VICTORIA'S HEALTH INVESTMENT ASPIRATIONAL

The Victorian Government's prioritisation of health care in this week's Budget has been warmly welcomed by the Australian College of Nursing.

"Around \$2.9 billion has been allocated to the health system, which is about 38 per cent of the overall Victorian Budget," Australian College of Nursing CEO, Adjunct Professor Kylie Ward said.

"Early signs are that funds are going where they are needed most – safer care, mental health, preventative health, innovation and hospital services. Funding has been earmarked for the programs and infrastructure to address key challenges in health care delivery.

"However, we would have liked to see more money going towards health care in rural and regional parts of the state."

The Australian College of Nursing hopes other budgets, including the upcoming Federal Budget, follow Victoria's lead and invest in closing gaps in the health system.

"We will be watching how funds are rolled out in Victoria. In particular, the Government must focus on building a workforce that can deliver the outcomes it seeks," Adjunct Professor Ward said.

"Meeting goals like increased admissions and reduced waiting times will require investment in technology, new ways of practice and people.

"We don't yet have a lot of detail on how the workforce will be supported to achieve these outcomes and will be watching this closely over the coming year."

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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 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>

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LinkedIn: <http://www.linkedin.com/company/australian-college-of-nursing>

Instagram: https://www.instagram.com/acn_nursing