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## **HEALTH INVESTMENT A STEP IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION**

The Australian College of Nursing welcomes the Treasurer’s Budget which outlined investment and support for the four pillars of the health system: guaranteeing Medicare and the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme; supporting hospitals; prioritising preventative and mental health; and investing in medical research.

“The Australian College of Nursing supports the positive announcements such as the innovative ‘5 compacts’, which will lead to budget savings and consumer benefits through cheaper medicines and also strengthening the ‘My Health Record’ initiative to better link patient data across the health system,” Australian College of Nursing CEO, Adjunct Professor Kylie Ward said.

The Australian College of Nursing commends the investments announced tonight as steps towards addressing some of Australia’s biggest health challenges.

The Australian College of Nursing acknowledges the systems level reform and the need to make savings, however, there continues to be a lack of strategy on health workforce development, including the nursing workforce, especially given the predicted nurse shortages.

“There is significant potential to make better use of our nursing workforce to save on health care dollars without compromising on patient and broader community health outcomes,” Adjunct Professor Kylie Ward said.

“For example, nurse practitioners are not yet working to their full potential in the Australian health care system and as a result the community is not getting the most out of a cost-effective, highly skilled health care professional workforce.

“Nursing delivers value for money, but to get the most out of our nursing profession we need to invest in nurse leaders.

“The Australian College of Nursing will continue to work with the Commonwealth Government to pursue excellence in community health outcomes which can only be achieved by making greater use of the most wide-reaching and largest health workforce – nursing.

“Nurses are at the forefront of delivering exceptional patient care, but work best in systems that are well supported to achieve maximum patient benefits,” Adjunct Professor Ward said.

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Kylie Ward is available for interview. 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)

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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.

Advancing nurse leadership



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Nursing

**Social media channels:**

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/acnursing>

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