

MEDIA RELEASE

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Nurses urge Australians to have organ donation conversation

The Australian College of Nursing (ACN) is highlighting the important role nurses play in organ and tissue donation during DonateLife Week.

Led by the Organ and Tissue Authority, DonateLife Week (30 July-6 August) encourages Australians to register their donation decision and discuss their decision with loved ones.

Only one in three Australians have joined the Australian Organ Donor Register, despite 81 per cent believing registration of donation decisions is important (Woolcott Research 2015).

“Nearly two-thirds of our hospital workforce are nurses. Whether they are the first contact on the topic of organ donation with the family of a loved one on life support, to being involved in a transplant surgery, nurses play a pivotal role in care,” ACN Chief Executive Officer, Adjunct Professor Kylie Ward FACN, said.

“Such crucial roles require adequate education and training. We must invest in and support our nursing workforce. The Australian College of Nursing lends its voice to calls for ongoing development and training for clinical and professional staff involved in organ and tissue donation.

“The topic of organ donation can be a difficult discussion to have with loved ones, but it is an important one. ACN encourages Australians to engage in this conversation this week and register their donation decision. It could save a life, or several.”

-ENDS-

For interviews contact ACN Executive Assistant Narelle Barrie on 02 6283 3459 or Kristen Connell on 0400 054 227.

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. An organisation not afraid to challenge



industry issues affecting the nursing profession or Australia's health care, ACN 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's membership includes nurses in roles of influence, including senior nurses, organisational leaders, academics and researchers.

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