

22 May 2017

NATIONAL PALLIATIVE CARE WEEK – RAISING AWARENESS TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE

National Palliative Care Week is taking place this week between 21-28 May. The theme for this year is ‘You matter, your care matters. Palliative care can make a difference.’ The focus of this year’s theme is aged care, both residential and in the community.

“Every Australian deserves access to high quality palliative care, regardless of their age or where they reside as palliation can be required at every stage of life including children through to the elderly. The Australian College of Nursing supports palliative care in all settings including in the aged care sector to improve the quality of life for individuals,” Australian College of Nursing (ACN) Chief Executive Officer, Adjunct Professor Kylie Ward explained.

“I would like to thank all palliative care nurses for their incredible work and dedication to improving patient wellbeing as we celebrate National Palliative Care Week.

“Palliative care nurses are an integral part of the palliative care team that provides invaluable support to individuals and their families at often very difficult times. As more Australians are ageing we need to make sure the palliative care sector is well-resourced and equipped to provide the most appropriate options for people in need.

“A key message resulting from ACN’s inaugural Policy Summit which took place on 21 April 2017 in Canberra is the need to increase the affordability and accessibility of home-based palliative care to support greater choice for individuals,” Adjunct Professor Ward said.

The Australian College of Nursing offers courses in subjects starting in July 2017 relevant to palliative care nursing, including:

- *Symptom Management in Advanced Disease States*
- *Assessing and Managing Adult Pain*
- *Paediatric Pain – Assessment and Management*

For further information about any of ACN’s courses please visit our education webpage:

<https://www.acn.edu.au/education>

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Adjunct Professor Kylie Ward, CEO of ACN.



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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

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

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