

29 May 2017

ACN RECOGNISES NATIONAL RECONCILIATION WEEK

National Reconciliation Week, taking place between 27 May – 3 June, commemorates two significant dates that start to address matters of healing, including the anniversaries of the successful 1967 referendum and the High Court Mabo decision on Native Title.

The *Bringing them Home* report, released in May 1997, recognised the forced removal of Indigenous Australians and addressed the need to come together and move towards healing for the Stolen Generations, their families and communities.

“ACN recognises National Reconciliation Week and we encourage all nurses and midwives to have appropriate cultural awareness skills training to ensure they can provide the best care for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander patients,” said Adjunct Professor Kylie Ward, CEO of ACN.

Unfortunately, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians have poorer health outcomes and lower life expectancy than non-Indigenous Australians. For example, two-thirds of the gap in death rates between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and non-Indigenous people is contributed by chronic disease.¹

ACN encourages collaboration between governments, professional bodies, organisations and corporations in partnership with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities to develop and implement health policies and programs to address health inequities and improve health outcomes.

There is a need for nurse leadership to work to strategically build the cultural capability and cultural safety education and competence of the nursing profession, to the benefit of us all.

ACN supports Fellows, Members, and nurses in general, working in diverse areas around Australia to continue to show leadership and strive for innovative ways to improve the health outcomes of our nation’s first people.

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¹ AHMAC (Australian Health Ministers’ Advisory Council) 2012. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Performance Framework 2012 report. Canberra: AHMAC.



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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

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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