

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

22 June 2017

### **NURSES GIVE NATIONAL FRAMEWORK FOR HEALTHIER COMMUNITIES THUMBS UP**

The Australian College of Nursing (ACN) has joined more than 30 leading health and medical organisations in supporting the release today of a national strategy to combat health impacts that can be attributable to our environment.

The *Framework for a National Strategy on Climate, Health and Well-being for Australia* was launched at Parliament House this morning by the Climate and Health Alliance (CAHA), together with organisations including the Royal Flying Doctor Service and the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners.

Following a year-long national consultation process, the framework details seven areas for reform including the phasing out of coal and how to best manage the health consequences of extreme weather events such as thunderstorm asthma.

ACN Chief Executive Officer, Adjunct Professor Kylie Ward FACN, agreed that environmental changes around the globe could pose a significant risk to humans' physical and mental health.

"The Australian College of Nursing is a long-standing member of CAHA and has been involved in the consultation process surrounding the development of the framework," Adjunct Professor Ward said.

"ACN believes that nurses have a shared responsibility to advocate to sustain and protect the environment which in turn safeguards human health," she said.

"Preparedness lies at the core. As further extreme climate events present the greatest acute threats, Australia's nurse workforce should be well supported to quickly adapt to our environment and prepare for such events to promote and protect community health and well-being."



ACN CEO, Adjunct Professor Kylie Ward FACN, The Hon Ken Wyatt AM, MP, Minister for Aged Care and Minister for Indigenous Health, and Dr Elizabeth Hanna FACN, President of the Climate and Health Alliance at the launch of the *Framework for a National Strategy on Climate, Health and Well-being for Australia* at Parliament House in Canberra.

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**For interviews contact Narelle Barrie, Executive Assistant to Kylie Ward, on 02 6283 3459 or 0450 908 920.**

**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.

**Social media channels:**

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