



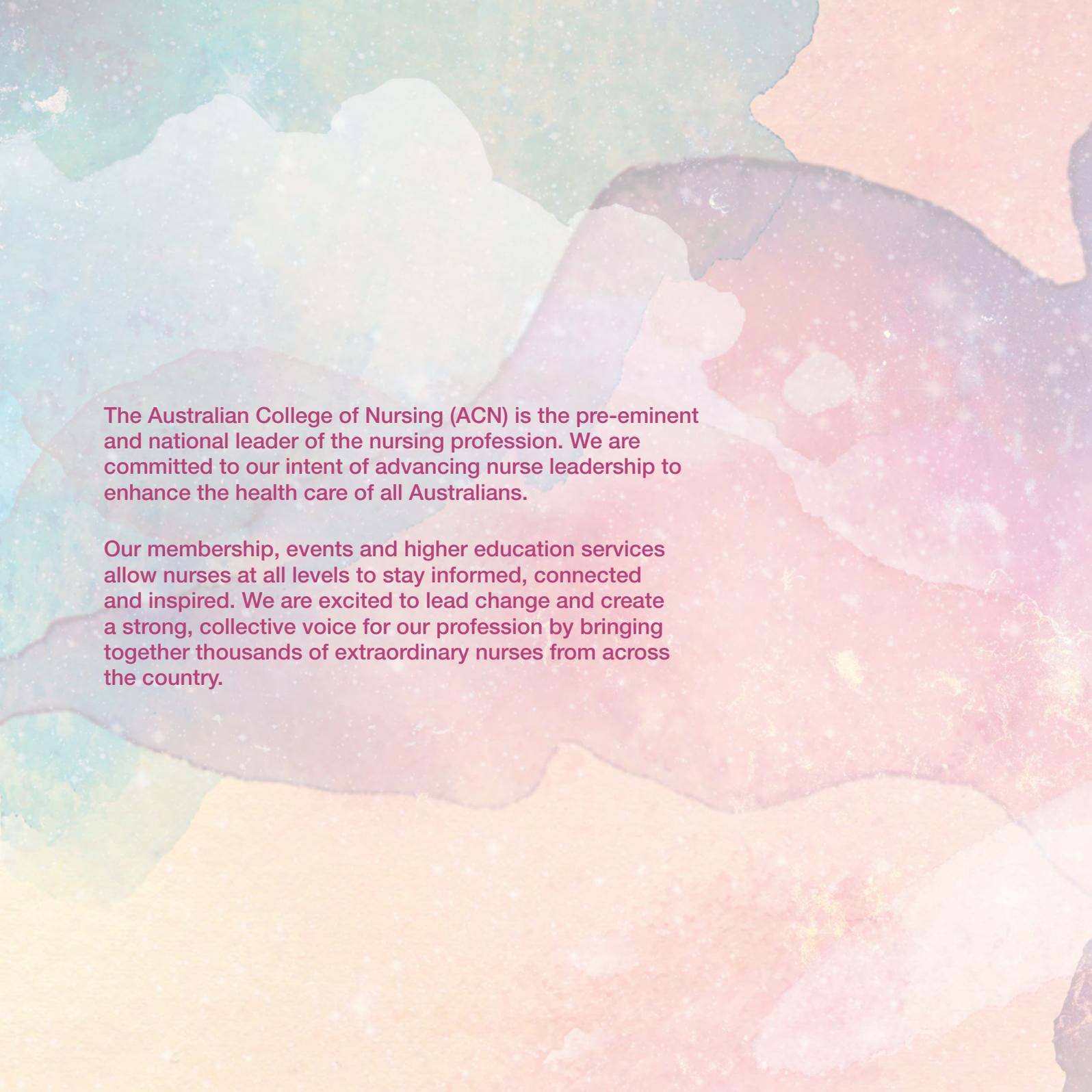
**THE POWER OF**

***Now***

**YEAR IN REVIEW**



Australian College of Nursing



The Australian College of Nursing (ACN) is the pre-eminent and national leader of the nursing profession. We are committed to our intent of advancing nurse leadership to enhance the health care of all Australians.

Our membership, events and higher education services allow nurses at all levels to stay informed, connected and inspired. We are excited to lead change and create a strong, collective voice for our profession by bringing together thousands of extraordinary nurses from across the country.



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## President's welcome



**Throughout the 2016–2017 financial year, the Board of Directors has taken decisive steps to ensure the successful long-term strategic and organisational performance of the Australian College of Nursing (ACN).**

With a view towards the future, the Board embedded a new strategic direction that centres on three core areas of focus: *Representation and Engagement*, *Capacity and Capability Development*, and *Policy and Advocacy*. This new direction will provide ACN with a framework on which to continue to grow and develop as a high-performing professional body.

Last financial year, ACN introduced a number of new initiatives to increase our engagement with the profession. We relaunched our Affiliation Program resulting in 46 Affiliate organisations, introduced two new undergraduate membership options, relaunched our Emerging Nurse Leader Program and successfully secured FEE-HELP for our graduate certificates. We have seen a 9% increase in our membership and we expect this growth to continue as we further expand our focus on *Representation and Engagement*. We will continue to form strong relationships with key stakeholders and facilitate opportunities for the nursing

profession to be represented at local, national and global levels.

As a leading voice for the nursing profession, ACN has a role to play in shaping and advocating for reform across the health and aged care systems in Australia. At our inaugural *Policy Summit* and the launch of our *Nurses are Essential in Health and Aged Care Reform* White Paper, ACN provided a platform for nurses to be heard in strategic policy debates and reform developments. Through our focus on *Policy and Advocacy*, ACN will continue to seek the views of our membership to strengthen our presence across all levels of government and industry to secure a position of influence now, and into the future.

There are many challenges facing our health care system and nurses in particular, of which an ageing population and the rising incidence of chronic diseases are but two. It is critical that ACN fosters the *Capacity and Capability* of both our organisation and the workforce to ensure we can continue to provide the quality and level of care required in the future. Keeping this in mind, we will continue to design and deliver bespoke educational and professional development programs to match current and developing needs to ensure continued excellence in health care delivery.

Moving forwards, the Board of ACN is committed to advancing nurse leadership and the critical role we play in shaping policy to enhance services for all those under our care.

# CEO year in reflection



**2016–2017 has been an eventful year for ACN with the launch of many new and exciting initiatives to further drive our strategic intent of advancing nurse leadership across the Australian health and aged care system.**

This **Year in Review** is a celebration of our progress, growth and accomplishments throughout the past 12 months. It is a snapshot of the many milestones ACN has achieved for both our organisation and profession.

With a view to extend our professional network and reach, ACN hosted a number of important events for our Fellows, Members and the broader health care community this year. We made a strong contribution to policy across all levels of government and fostered the development of a highly skilled nursing workforce through our educational and professional development programs. While meeting these objectives, ACN kept nurses informed and inspired through our publications, social platforms and website.

It is the diversity of experience, expertise and knowledge within our membership base that empowered ACN to shape the future of health and aged care this year. Thank you all for so warmly

connecting with us throughout 2016–2017, supporting our initiatives and participating in a year of sell-out events. Through active engagement with our Fellows, Distinguished Life Fellows, Members, Key Contacts, Emerging Nurse Leaders and Affiliates, we successfully secured our presence and influence in every state and territory across the country.

This success would not have been possible without the talented and dynamic people who work for ACN. Throughout the course of the year, our team, supported by our incredible and dedicated member base, worked tirelessly behind the scenes to drive our engagement and leadership within the Australian nursing and health care community.

Our Board of Directors provided strong leadership and corporate governance during 2016–2017 to ensure that ACN remained a visible and vocal presence within the Australian health care system. Through the introduction of our new *Strategic Directions 2021*, the Board took important steps to ensure successful long-term sustainability for ACN.

In the years ahead, we will continue to build upon our great foundation to secure a viable future for the Australian College of Nursing. I look forward to yet another prosperous year advancing nurse leadership to secure our place as the pre-eminent and national leader of the nursing profession.

## Our 2016-2017 highlights

Travelled to **9** major cities across Australia for our inaugural National Networking Roadshow



Saw a **9%** increase in membership over the past 12 months

Launched **2** new undergraduate membership options

The **Prime Minister** along with five members of parliament launched our White Paper

**18** registered events,  
**13** registered supporters

and over **30** stories submitted in support of Community and Primary Health Care Nursing Week

Introduced **3** new Communities of Interest to our suite of special interest groups

The relaunch of the Emerging Nurse Leader program saw **36** new ENLs join our 2017 cohort



Since the launch of our new Affiliate program, we now have **46** Affiliate organisations

The 2016 National Nursing Forum in Melbourne sold out with more than

**300** attendees

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Secured

**FEE-HELP**

for ACN's 14 graduate certificate courses

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More than **6,000** visitors attended the Melbourne Nursing & Health Expo

Around **90** members represented ACN on professional and government bodies



Introduced a new strategic direction with

**3** core areas of focus

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Over **9,500** individuals celebrated International Nurses Day by taking part in our National Nurses Breakfast

Hosted VIP Christmas Functions in

**7** cities across the country

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Held an inaugural Policy Summit that focused on

**4** key policy issues

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Over **1,700** visitors attended the Perth Nursing & Health Expo

Our power is in our

*people*







## Behind the Board



ACN is governed by a dedicated Board of Directors. The Board is made up of Directors elected from, and by, the membership of ACN and two independent Directors appointed by the Board.

The Board is responsible for ensuring that ACN has an appropriate corporate governance structure. Directors provide the strategic oversight and direction to ensure that ACN continues to grow and develop, remains contemporary and innovative, enhances its reputation and provides value to its members and to the broader nursing profession. This is achieved in accordance with the objectives set out in our Constitution.

Over the past financial year, the Board has worked collaboratively to ensure a sustainable future for ACN as the pre-eminent and national leader of the nursing profession.

This has signified the introduction of a new strategic direction that centres on three core areas of focus: *Representation and Engagement*, *Capacity and Capability Development*, and *Policy and Advocacy*.



## Board of Directors

**President Professor Christine Duffield FACN**

**Vice President Carmen Morgan FACN**

**Director Adjunct Professor Kathy Baker AM FACN (DLF)**

**Director Professor Elaine Duffy FACN**

**Director Christine Smith FACN (DLF)**

**Director Leanne Smith MACN**

**Independent Director Chris Drummer GAICD**

**Independent Director Brian Gatfield**

## The ACN team

At the Australian College of Nursing, our power is in our people. The experience, expertise and passion our staff bring to ACN is what makes us such an innovative and high-performing organisation. We are strong individually, and unstoppable together.

Our dynamic and talented workforce spans across two offices and four operational divisions: *Corporate Support, Education, Professional* and *Commercial*. Within each division, we have teams of dedicated staff who specialise in accounts, customer services, IT, events, partnerships, marketing and communications, scholarships, library, higher education, training and assessment, policy and advocacy, leadership, and engagement and representation.





Meet some of the people working tirelessly behind the scenes to ensure that we remain the pre-eminent and national leader of the nursing profession...







## We love what we do

At ACN, we share the vision and values of our community. Our staff are driven by a shared passion for our profession and desire to make a difference. We love what we do and we love why we do it!

Meet some of the dedicated and devoted staff who make ACN the organisation that it is...



**Patricia Lowe MACN**  
Nurse Educator – Higher Education

A real go-getter who is brimming with ideas, enthusiasm and talent, Trish is the friendly face behind our Graduate Certificates in Neonatal Care and Aged Care Nursing. Always the first to put her hand up, Trish is not only an educator but a talented writer, passionate innovator and true leader in this profession.



**Karen Dansey**  
Manager – Corporate Support

The guardian of our building, history and heritage, our dedicated Corporate Support Manager, Karen, is the heart and soul of this organisation. From writing our professional policies and procedures to managing our archives and historical collections, Karen has provided 22 years of love and commitment to ACN, its staff and our members.



**Emma Woodhouse MACN**  
Manager – Higher Education

As the Manager of our higher education team, Emma leads with passion, purpose and positivity. She is a natural and visionary nurse leader who not only shows a high level of care towards her dedicated team of educators but to our students, our curriculum and our profession as a whole.



**Pieter Van Keppel**  
Instructional Designer

Our Instructional Designer and a true team player, Peter rises to any challenge with a smile and a solution. A leader through times of

change and one of the masterminds behind our student portal, Peter has been instrumental in shaping the future of ACN as a leading provider of higher education to nurses across the country.



**Kate Lehmensich MACN**  
Engagement Coordinator

Affectionately known around the office as the Wikipedia of our member database, Kate is a repository of knowledge when

it comes to all things ACN. Kate is not only a talented and hardworking nurse leader, she is a trusted friend and point-of-call for so many of our members, working tirelessly to ensure exceptional experiences for all those who come in contact with our organisation.



**Helen Stamatiou**  
Affiliation Specialist

While not a nurse by trade, our dedicated Affiliation Specialist, Helen, is a nurse at heart. Compassionate, caring and hard-working, Helen embodies the true

traits and qualities of a nurse; showing the same level of care and devotion towards our affiliates, as so many nurses show towards their patients.



**Carolyn Stapleton FACN**  
Manager – Policy and Advocacy

Heading a talented team of experts in nursing and health policy, Carolyn works collaboratively with other dedicated

members of staff to drive change across the Australian health care system. Bringing her caring and considerate bedside manner from the ward to the office, Carolyn is a devoted nurse leader with a heart of gold who plays an important role in informing ACN's policy agenda.



### **Musette Healey** **MACN**

Nurse Educator –  
Higher Education

A passionate nurse educator and leader, Musette is extremely committed to our students, members and organisation.

As well as revolutionising our educational offerings in cancer nursing and breast cancer nursing, Musette has been a champion for online learning and played an integral role in bringing our curriculum into the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.



### **Samuel Eaton** Acting Partnerships Manager

A man of many talents, our Acting Partnerships Manager Sam brings so much to his role and our organisation. While a dedicated sales

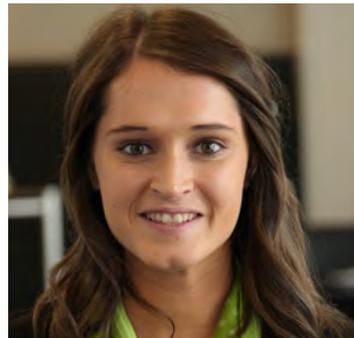
professional, he is also a gifted young screenwriter with a keen eye for photography and film – you may have seen him behind the camera at one of our functions! A vibrant and creative mind, Sam sees the world through a lens of innovation.



### **Stefan Wythes** Policy Officer

One of the talented members of our policy team, Stefan plays an integral role in ensuring that the nursing voice is represented in key policy debates

across the Australian health care system. Whether it is contributing to the development of ACN policy submissions or leading the war on waste in our office, Stefan's intelligence, thoughtfulness and quiet determination ensures that he consistently produces exceptional results in every task he undertakes.



### **Sally Coen** Publications Lead

Sally is the go-to wordsmith at ACN and is responsible for the coordination of our many publications. Her conscientiousness, kind manner and

willingness to jump right in, no matter the challenge, has allowed smooth and effective communication of ACN's messages. Sally does it all with a smile, even in the face of the toughest deadlines.

# Our clinical facilitators and tutors

ACN employs around 150 tutors and clinical facilitators to support our nursing educators in providing a high-quality, personalised education to nurses and students across Australia. They are the vital link between ACN, the industry and our students.

Our clinical facilitators provide innovative education for internationally-qualified nurses and those who are returning to the register. We would like to acknowledge the important contribution of our wonderful tutors and facilitators who demonstrate professionalism and leadership in all aspects of their roles.

Many of our tutors are Fellows or Members who contribute to our publications and participate in our expert advisory groups. Our students benefit from knowing they are being supported – and their course work is being developed and graded – by clinical experts who are nurse leaders within their chosen specialty.

## Here are the reasons why we love our tutors and clinical facilitators...

- They make time to listen and talk to students who need assistance and are dedicated to our student-centered philosophy
- They provide a valuable service to nurse educators as the 'eyes and ears' of their specialty areas
- They support and encourage each other
- They keep nurse educators up to date on class progress
- They assess facilities to ensure they meet the needs of our students
- They contribute to course advisory committee meetings
- They display passion, compassion and perseverance





Together  
our voice is

*Stronger*



## Meet our members!



ACN has a wonderfully diverse membership base filled with passionate nurse leaders from across the country and around the world!

Our Fellows and Members are the heart of our organisation and we are dedicated to supporting them to be the best they can be by keeping them informed, connected and inspired. We enable nurses to expand their influence, make a difference and give back to our profession.

Over the past financial year, we have introduced two new undergraduate membership options and three new Communities of Interest to our suite of special interest groups. This has seen ACN experience a 9% increase in our membership and we expect this growth to accelerate as we further secure our presence in every state and territory.





*ACN is important  
to me because...*

We asked delegates at the 2016 National Nursing Forum to put into words why ACN is important to them.

Here's what they said!



**My  
enthusiasm  
and motivation  
for nursing  
is back!**

**The college has  
helped me grow  
as a professional  
and enhanced my  
nursing identity**

**They helped  
me bring out the  
best NURSE in  
me**

**Nurses have  
the power. ACN  
harnesses it!**

**It's my hub  
of professional  
information**

**ACN helped  
me to achieve  
my professional  
education and  
career goals**

**...we can  
sing a chorus  
for nursing  
(not just solo)**

They celebrate  
the nursing  
profession and  
are our voice!

Professional  
nursing  
knowledge matters  
as a voice in  
Australian  
health care!

It helps me to  
be connected to  
the profession and  
colleagues

They provide  
a feeling of  
'belonging'

**Gives.  
Students.  
A. Voice**

It keeps me  
connected with  
tremendous  
support

It connects me  
to my national and  
international nursing  
colleagues

It proudly  
represents the  
profession  
of nursing

## Why we love our Fellows



At ACN, our Fellows are a dynamic group of nurse leaders who make an invaluable contribution to our organisation, profession and the broader health and aged care system. They bring to ACN a wide range of experience and expertise that informs our movements as a professional body.

Fellowship of ACN is how we recognise the committed and distinguished nurses amongst us. It is a prestigious member status awarded in recognition of significant professional achievements and an ongoing commitment to the college. Fellows may be awarded a Distinguished Life Fellowship (DLF) in acknowledgment of their accomplishments. Our DLFs and Fellows are given priority to key ACN events and opportunities, such as the Parliamentary Breakfast

and inaugural Policy Summit, as well as high level representation opportunities.

**ACN would also like to acknowledge the following nurse leaders who were invested as Fellows over the past year.**

Dr Elizabeth Emmanuel FACN  
Ms Karina So FACN  
Adjunct Professor David Plunkett FACN  
Dr Elise Sullivan FACN  
Dr Drew Dwyer FACN PhD  
Professor Jane Phillips FACN  
Dr Rosemary Bryant AO FACN (DLF)  
Mr John Buxton FACN (Hon)



## Celebrating our Key Contacts



Throughout 2016–2017, our Regions and Communities of Interest (COI) provided members with targeted networking and engagement opportunities. They were a platform for high-level, active discussions about specific health and aged care topics.

During the year, each Region and COI was led by a Key Contact. Our Key Contacts are highly skilled nurses who are passionate about raising the profile of local and national health concerns.

The success of our annual Community and Primary Health Care Nursing Week public awareness campaign is a prime example of the wonderful work that can be achieved when our special interest groups work towards a collective goal. The series of networking events with inspiring speakers hosted by our active Tasmanian South Region is another case in point of how our Regions create a sense of community for our members.

We value the vital leadership and intellectual contributions of our Key Contacts in facilitating our Regions and COIs, and would like to extend our gratitude to all of the following nurse leaders for their commitment over the year.

## 2016–2017 Region Key Contacts

Sitthachi Rees MACN	Perth	Kate Spurway MACN	Sydney Metro
Robbie Haines MACN	WA South West	Meg Bransgrove MACN	Canberra & Regional ACT
Heather Keighley MACN	NT North	Margot Medew FACN	Central & South Gippsland
Moira Noonan MACN	Adelaide Metro/SA South	Jenny Newton FACN	Melbourne
Karen Yates MACN	QLD Far North	John Rolley MACN	Geelong
Sonya Wallace MACN	QLD Central	Meagan Harding MACN	Geelong
Belynda Abbott FACN	Brisbane	David Shipston MACN	Murray/Goulburn
Anne-Marie Goes MACN	QLD West	Nancy Arnold MACN	TAS South
Ilze Jaunberzins MACN	QLD South		

## 2016–2017 Community of Interest Key Contacts

Heather Keighley MACN	Rural and Remote Nursing & Midwifery	Marilyn Gendek FACN Madonna Grehan MACN	History History
Kate Partington MACN	Community & Primary Health Care	Thea Ogle MACN Barbara Hasenoehrl MACN	Chronic & Complex Chronic & Complex
Michael Krejany FACN	Healthy Ageing	Jeffrey Woods MACN	Acute Care Services
Sue Williams MACN	Movement Disorders & Parkinson's	Liz Hanna FACN	Climate & Health
Jamie Ranse FACN	Disaster Health	Naomi Dobroff MACN Aaron Jones MACN	Nurse Informatics Nurse Informatics
Elizabeth Emmanuel FACN	Education & Research	Meg Bransgrove MACN Serena Ricciardone MACN	Next Generation Next Generation
Catriona Booker FACN	Leadership & Management	Elissa O'Keefe MACN	Cosmetic Nurses
Scott Trueman MACN	Legal & Ethical Issues		



## *The faces of our Emerging Nurse Leader program*

The ACN Emerging Nurse Leader (ENL) program empowers current and future nurse leaders to achieve their goals and aspirations through personal and professional development. This nine-month program allows participants to develop their skills and confidence through a blend of formal education, self-reflection, mentoring and action based learning. ENLs receive invaluable opportunities to make connections within the profession and profile themselves as nurse leaders to keep an eye on.

The ENL program is divided into five stages reflecting the challenges and opportunities nurses face as they progress through their leadership journey. The program is open to current and up-and-coming nurse leaders, from undergraduate nursing students to nurses in their sixth year of nursing practice.

ACN launched a new framework for our ENL program this financial year. At the beginning of 2017, 36 up-and-coming nurse leaders were welcomed into the new and improved program. Since then, our ENLs have had the opportunity to receive mentoring, attend events and publish articles in our member publications.





## *In affiliation with us*



ACN developed a new framework for our Affiliation Program in 2016. Following its relaunch, 46 leading organisations across the country now have ACN Affiliate status.

The ACN Affiliate program is tiered into Platinum, Gold, Silver and Bronze, allowing all organisations,

from large corporates to small not-for-profits and individual nurse entrepreneurs, to invest in, and give back to, their nursing staff or members.

ACN Affiliates receive access to a large number of practical tools to enhance productivity and morale.

Benefits include a customised Executive Leadership Development Day for Platinum status Affiliates, complimentary National Nursing Forum registrations and discounts on ACN membership, education and events.

## ACN Platinum Affiliates

- Eastern Health
- Resthaven
- Ballarat Health Service
- Bendigo Health
- Central Coast Local Health District
- Central West Hospital and Health Service
- Darling Downs Hospital and Health Service
- Metro South Hospital and Health Service
- Murrumbidgee Local Health District
- NT Nursing and Midwifery Office
- Opal Aged Care
- Otway health
- RDNS
- Sydney Children's Hospital Network
- Tennant Creek Hospital
- The District Nurses
- Western Health
- Centre for Nursing & Midwifery Education & Research
- Far West Local Health District

- Metro North and Hospital Health Service
- Monash Health
- South West Healthcare
- South Western Sydney Local Health District
- Western Sydney Local Health District
- Northern Sydney Local Health District
- Primary Health Care Branch Top End Health Services
- Office of the Chief Nursing and Midwifery Officer
- Alice Springs Hospital
- Lower Hunter Sector
- Calvary Public Hospital Bruce

## ACN Gold Affiliates

- Department of Health Human Services Tasmania
- Flinders University
- Nurse and Midwife Support
- Royal Flying Doctor Service Central
- Australian Defence Force Directorate for Nurses
- YNA Your Nursing Agency

## ACN Silver Affiliates

- James Cook University
- Regal Home Health
- RMIT University

## ACN Bronze Affiliates

- Association of QLD Nurse Leaders
- North East Health Wangaratta
- Otorhinolaryngology Head and Neck Nurse Group
- The Thoracic Society of Australia and New Zealand
- Uniting War Memorial Hospital
- Australasian Association for Quality in Healthcare
- The Royal Women's Hospital

Bringing the nursing  
community

*Together*





## *Catching up with our community*



ACN runs a comprehensive events calendar throughout the year specifically dedicated to advancing nurse leadership and the health profession. Our events aim to bring together nurses working in every state and territory across the country.

Throughout 2016–2017, we facilitated numerous educational, professional development and networking opportunities for both our members and the broader health care community. At many of our events, Fellows and Members had the chance to form valuable connections and relationships with leaders in nursing, health and government.



## National Nursing Roadshow

ACN hosted networking cocktail functions for Fellows, Members and VIP guests across the country as a part of our inaugural National Networking Roadshow. We were honoured to have members of parliament and nurse leaders in attendance at our functions in Perth, Canberra, Sydney, Melbourne, Hobart, Adelaide, Darwin, Brisbane and Cairns. These events were an excellent opportunity for ACN to engage in meaningful discussions with parliamentarians and nurses from the public, private, aged care and primary health care sectors.



## Community and Primary Health Care Nursing Week

Last year's Community and Primary Health Care Nursing Week national campaign was a great success and fantastic opportunity to promote the vital role nurses play in our communities. ACN was delighted that more than 18 registered events were held all over the country as a part of this fantastic initiative. We also had 13 organisations register their support for this event and more than 30 stories submitted for our eBook.



### Parliamentary Breakfast

ACN held a Parliamentary Breakfast for the launch of our White Paper, *Nurses Are Essential in Health and Aged Care Reform*. It was a privilege to have The Hon Malcolm Turnbull MP, Prime Minister of Australia, The Hon Sussan Ley MP, Former Minister for Health and Aged Care, Minister for Sport, Dr David Gillespie MP, Assistant Minister for Rural Health, The Hon Catherine King MP, Shadow Minister for Health and Medicare, The Hon Julie Collins MP, Shadow Minister for Ageing and Mental Health, and Senator Richard Di Natale, Leader of the Australian Greens, speak at this event. There were also other politicians in attendance.



### VIP Christmas Functions

ACN held a series of Christmas Functions in cities across the country for Fellows, Members and VIP guests at the end of 2016. Our Christmas Functions were a great opportunity to celebrate the festive season and reflect on a wonderful year. They were also our way of saying thank you to our talented and dynamic pool of Fellows and Members for their support, commitment and passion for ACN. It was also important to meet nurses at these events who are interested in joining this powerful organisation.



### Policy Summit

ACN held its inaugural Policy Summit in Canberra on Friday 21 April 2017. Bringing together Fellows, Members, consumers and government, the Summit provided a platform for informative discussion and debate on key nursing policy issues.

The Summit was opened by The Hon Dr David Gillespie MP, Assistant Minister for Health, and Meegan Fitzharris MLA, ACT Assistant Minister for Health, participated in the final panel discussion. Dr Frances Hughes, the Chief Executive Officer of the International Council of Nurses, was the keynote speaker for the Summit.



## Melbourne Nursing and Health Expo

On Saturday 19 April 2017, over 6,000 eager visitors converged on the Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre for the ACN Nursing & Health Expo. The crowd was buzzing with energy as current and aspiring nurses connected with exhibitors who were on hand to offer valuable advice and provide information about upcoming education and employment opportunities. This Expo saw a 57% increase in attendance from the previous year.



## National Nurses Breakfast

On International Nurses Day, Friday 12 May 2017, ACN hosted its annual National Nurses Breakfast. Approximately, 242 breakfasts were held across the country with over 9,500 individuals taking part in this nation-wide event. ACN held breakfast celebrations in both our Canberra and Sydney offices with Fellows, Members and guests as a part of the National Nurses Breakfast.



## Perth Nursing and Health Expo

More than 1,700 current and future nurse leaders came along to the ACN Nursing & Health Expo at the Perth Convention & Exhibition Centre on Sunday 18 June 2017. The Expo was a wonderful opportunity for visitors to engage with a wide range of exhibitors from across the health care industry, as well as gain practical, take-home advice through our complimentary seminars.

Prior to the Expo, ACN co-hosted a highly successful Nursing and Midwifery Leaders Breakfast Forum with the WA Nursing and Midwifery Office.



## National Nursing Forum

From 26–28 October 2016, ACN welcomed more than 350 attendees to Melbourne for our annual National Nursing Forum. The Forum theme, ***The Power of Now***, explored how nurses can shape health care policy at a local, national and international level.

The Forum provided a platform for nurses from all over Australia and across all nursing disciplines to explore where nursing is as a profession today, share insights and discuss how nurses can harness their ‘now power’ to lead the development of solutions to Australia’s health and aged care challenges.

### Forum program and speakers

The Forum program sought to inform, inspire and engage nurses through exceptional keynote speeches delivered by leaders in nursing, health and government.



In addition to our thought-provoking keynote presentations, delegates had the opportunity to hear from numerous concurrent presenters, participate in specialised masterclasses that focused on the most vital issues facing our profession, and seek advice from senior nurse executives, clinicians and academics during our inaugural Speed Leading Session.

### Gala Dinner

A special event at the 2016 National Nursing Forum, the Gala Dinner, offered delegates the chance to network with their colleagues while enjoying a delicious three-course dinner and letting their hair down on the dance floor. The Gala Dinner included an Oration delivered by St. John of God Health Care Emeritus Group Director of Nursing, Kate Birrell OAM MACN and a presentation for our Emerging Nurse Leader Program graduates.

## What aspects of the Forum did you most enjoy?

*“Very positive atmosphere and well organised – the ACN staff are excellent, warm and welcoming – well done!”*

*“I love the engagement. I can talk to inspirational people who are happy to share their expertise without agenda just because we are colleagues with a common goal.”*

*“Being able to network with clinicians and meeting the student leaders. I also caught up with colleagues I had not seen for years. The safe environment and positive nature of the attendees.”*

*“I found that it reinvigorated my interest in nursing; provided such a broad perspective. The keynote speakers were inspirational. I was most impressed with the large numbers of engaged students and recently-qualified nurses, and that there seemed to be good connections with us more experienced nurses.”*

*“Networking and understanding the next steps and strategies to build nursing leadership.”*





Ignite a  
*passion*  
for learning





## Fostering our workforce

ACN is committed to fostering the development of a highly skilled nursing workforce. In line with this commitment, we design and deliver bespoke educational and professional development programs. Our vocational and professional, flexible-learning courses have both a strong clinical and leadership focus.

Our education department has developed a vast array of ideas, initiatives and innovations over the past year. Through these implementations, ACN is further expanding, enhancing and evolving as an organisation.

Some significant achievements for the education division this year include...

- Students could apply for FEE-HELP for Graduate Certificates starting in the January term. This has resulted in a huge growth in FEE-HELP paying students.
- Increased the Entry Program for Internationally Qualified Nurses (EPIQ) course frequency from six to eight per year and students per course intake from 24 to 30.
- Introduced the Advanced Diploma of Nursing as a part of ACN's educational offerings.
- Implemented a 'Register your Interest' form on the ACN website which allowed visitors to express their interest in education. This has resulted in over 3,330 course enquiries to date.
- In the last six months, our online portal, CNnect has undergone a significant upgrade in both design and function. The system looks more professional, is more in line with ACN branding, creates synergies with ACN's website and most importantly functions better for students.
- Presently we are rewriting eight subjects with both internal and external writing influences.





## ACN at the table

ACN is committed to ensuring that the expertise and experiences of nurses are represented in policy development throughout the Australian health and aged care system.

Throughout the 2016–2017 financial year, ACN was regularly invited to provide input and advice to government and non-government consultations on a number of nursing and health-related matters. In order to provide the most comprehensive responses, we sought input from our Fellows and Members in their relevant areas of expertise.

Additionally, ACN set its own policy agenda by actively identifying, examining and advocating on priority issues for the nursing profession. We provided a voice for the Australian nursing community and a platform for informative debate on key policy matters.

- Prime Minister launched ACN's *Nurses Are Essential in Health and Aged Care Reform* White Paper at our Parliamentary Breakfast.
- Facilitated the inaugural face-to-face meeting of the National Nursing Executive Group, bringing together high-level nurse executives at the 2016 National Nursing Forum.
- Finalised a Nursing Informatics Position Statement in collaboration with the Health Informatics Society of Australia and Nursing Informatics Australia.
- CEO participated as a member of National Nursing and Midwifery Education Advisory Network.
- Contributed to discussions at National Aged Care Alliance meetings.
- Made submissions to consultations, including to the Department of Health's Digital Health Strategy consultation.
- Wrote more than 70 media releases on public matters.
- Hosted our inaugural Policy Summit, which provided a platform for Fellows, Members, consumers and government to engage in informative debate relating to key policy issues.
- CEO and President attended International Council of Nurses events in Hong Kong, Geneva and Barcelona.
- Attended many nursing and health-related events, including the launch of the National Strategy for Climate, Health and Well-being at Parliament House in Canberra.
- Participated in a Senate Inquiry into the Future of Australia's Aged Care Sector Workforce.



## Promoting our profession



During 2016–2017, ACN actively strengthened our presence with government and the media.

We were honoured to have members of parliament attend, speak and participate in a number of our functions this year. They represented the Australian Capital Territory, Northern Territory, Victoria, South Australia, Western Australia, Queensland and Tasmania. ACN also had various opportunities to meet and discuss key issues with parliamentarians at both a state and federal level.

ACN received media attention across multiple platforms for a number of initiatives and events during the course of the year. Most notably, we represented the collective nursing voice in various television and radio interviews in relation to our inaugural Policy Summit, National Nurses Breakfast and the launch of our *Nurses are Essential in Health and Aged Care Reform* White Paper.

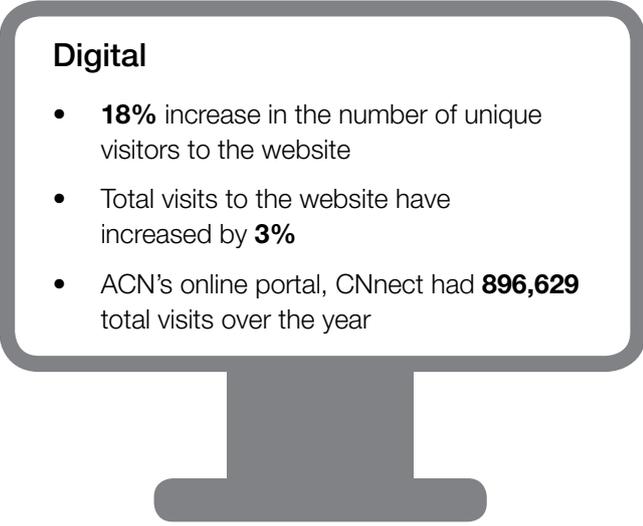




## Our network

ACN prides itself on having an exciting and interactive digital and social presence. We love engaging with our Fellows, Members and the broader health care community via our website, publications and social media channels.

Here's what we have been up to in the publishing and communications space over the past year...



### Digital

- **18%** increase in the number of unique visitors to the website
- Total visits to the website have increased by **3%**
- ACN's online portal, CNnect had **896,629** total visits over the year

### Facebook

- Growth from 11,000 to more than **22,000** Page Likes
- Engagement increased from 15,000 to **56,000** comments, reactions and shares

### Twitter

- ACN now has **2,100** Followers
- Engagement has increased to **3,600**
- ACN tweeted **470** times

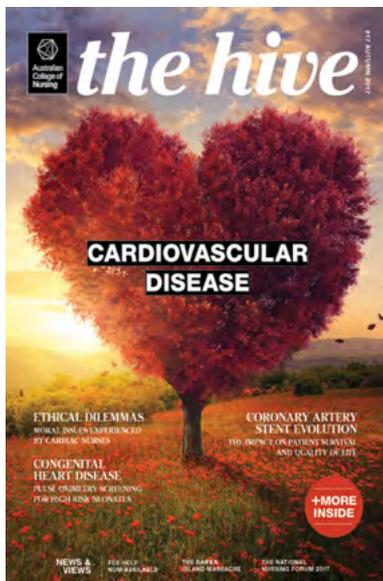
### Instagram

- ACN now has **576** Followers
- Spike in engagement following Instagram undergraduate competition
- ACN posted **155** times



## Publications

- New look and design launched for **The Hive**, with selected articles now online
- **Collegian** has climbed from an impact factor of 1.122 to **1.398**
- New look and feature segments for **NurseClick**



My tribe —

*informed,  
connected  
and inspired*







In the years ahead,  
ACN will embrace the

*Power of Now*  
to  
*Make Change Happen*

across the Australian health and aged care system.

