

 Australian College of Nursing

2020 YEAR OF THE NURSE & MIDWIFE

Champions of change

Did you know?

Are you ready to celebrate 2020 Year of the Nurse and the Midwife with the Australian College of Nursing? It's a once-in-a-generation opportunity for everyone to know how much nurses around the world do and how much more they can do with support from each one of us.

Read on to learn some incredible facts about how nurses, our Champions of Change, have changed – and are working every day to change – the landscape of global health care.

Champions of change

- In 2001, nurses and midwives made up between 50% to 90% of health practitioners in many countries
- A 2017 poll by global analytics firm Gallup ranked, for the 16th consecutive year, found that nurses are the most trusted professionals in America. More than 8 out of 10 Americans described nurse ethics as 'high' or 'very high'. In Australia, too, nurses have been regarded as the most ethical and honest profession each year for 23 years in a row from 1994 to 2017
- According to the WHO, nurses and midwives comprise nearly 50% of the world's health workforce. Today, it is estimated that of the existing 43.5 million health workers globally, 20.7 million are nurses or midwives
- According to WHO, the largest needs-based shortages of nurses and midwives are in South East Asia and Africa.

Empowering inner champions

- On average, nurses walk 6-8 kms for every 12-hour shift they work, that's double the distance an ordinary person walks daily
- A recent study conducted among 20 nurses in the First Hospital of Chagsha, China, has shown that mindfulness-based intervention for nurses in AIDS care helped nurses manage stress and emotions and improve their acceptance of others
- In 2019, three nurses – Denise Moyle, Yvonne Ginifer and Cristina de Leon received The Florence Nightingale Medal, which recognises exceptional courage and devotion to victims of armed conflict or natural disaster. A fourth Australian nurse, Kirsty Boden received a Posthumous Florence Nightingale Medal. Also known as the 'Angel of London Bridge', Kirsty was killed trying to rescue injured patients during a terror attack on London Bridge in June 2017.

Being change champions

- According to the Australian Government Department of Health, women account for 89.1% of the nursing and midwifery workforce in the country
- Japan is known to have one of the most difficult exams for nurses
- Studies show that midwifery, including family planning and interventions for maternal and newborn health, could avert a total of 83% of all maternal deaths, stillbirths and neonatal deaths
- A 2009 study at a Colorado university hospital found that Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) prevalence among ICU nurses was around 20% - comparable to those of war veterans who have returned from Afghanistan and Iraq.

Acknowledging past champions

- The first aboriginal nurse in Australia was Marilyn Lowe who worked at the Royal Newcastle Hospital
- St. Camillus de Lellis who was canonized as a saint in 1746, was known for founding the Camillian Order of Healthcare Workers and was declared patron saint of nurses and nursing groups by Pope Pius XI
- In 1927, Australian nurse Elizabeth Kenny patented the 'Slyvia' ambulance stretcher designed to reduce shock in the transport of injured patients.

Identifying future champions

- By the year 2030, Australia's health workforce is predicted be short by 123,000 nurses
- In 2017, McKinsey Global Institute found that in the US, full AI adoption could raise the productivity of registered nurses by 40 to 50%
- The same report also found the use of AI tools could improve nurse productivity by 30 to 50% by reducing the time they spend on ordinary tasks, like face-to-face patient registration and scheduling appointments.

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