



Sandra Vale
Manager
National Allergy Strategy

By email: sandra@allergy.org.au
CC: heather@allergy.org.au

Dear Ms Vale

Re: All about Allergens for Hospitals: Ward Managers and Nurses Online Training module

I am writing to thank the National Allergy Strategy team for the opportunity to provide feedback on the Ward Managers and Nurses Online Training Module of All about Allergens for Hospitals. As the pre-eminent and national leader of the nursing profession, the Australian College of Nursing (ACN) represents Nurse practitioners, registered nurses, enrolled nurses and advanced practice nurses who work across a variety of health care settings. Nurses are the frontline clinicians who care for patients including those with allergy.

ACN has carefully reviewed the module draft which is specifically designed for hospital executives, unit/ward managers, registered and enrolled nurses and staff educators in their roles to improve food allergen management in hospitals.

Food allergy is an important public health issue because it affects children and adults. It can be severe and even life-threatening, and may be increasing in prevalence. Food allergy is also a growing problem for older Australians who are greater than 65 years of age. ACN suggests that the module provides information on allergy management for elderly people as the majority of hospital admissions are people aged 65 years and older.¹ In relation to this, there is also a need for the National Allergy Strategy to be developed specifically for the aged care sector which includes residential aged care, community care and disability services.

ACN commends the module as it provides reflective questions and case studies which lead to critical thinking and promotion of duty of care within the clinical setting. ACN wishes the National Allergy Strategy team all the best for the completion of this module and the online training in the future.

The Australian College of Nursing is a strong collective voice for nurses in all health care settings. Together, we increase the quality of patient care for all Australians. Our mission is advancing nurse leadership to enhance health care.

¹ Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, 2019, *Admitted patient care 2017–18: Australian hospital statistics*, Canberra.

<https://www.aihw.gov.au/getmedia/df0abd15-5dd8-4a56-94fa-c9ab68690e18/aihw-hse-225.pdf.aspx?inline=true>



If you have any questions please do not hesitate to get in touch with me, Dr Carolyn Stapleton FACN, Director– Policy, Strategy and Advocacy.

Yours sincerely

Carolyn M Stapleton

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