

Associate Professor Kathleen Gray
The University of Melbourne
Email: kgray@unimelb.edu.au

Professor John Slavotinek
Australian Alliance for Artificial Intelligence in Healthcare
Email: john.slavotinek@sa.gov.au

Dear Associate Professor Gray and Professor Slavotinek

Re: Artificial intelligence education for the Australian health workforce

The Australian College of Nursing (ACN) would like to thank the University of Melbourne and the Australian Alliance for Artificial Intelligence in Healthcare for the opportunity to provide feedback via your online survey.

ACN recognises the increasing importance of artificial intelligence in health systems and services. ACN has thousands of members in every state and territory across Australia and we have promoted this consultation opportunity to them to respond to you directly.

ACN is a strong proponent of the National Digital Health Strategy and advocates for the role of nurses to optimise the adoption and ongoing use of information and technology to improve patient care and patient outcomes.^{1 2 3} The role of nurses in the digital environment has the potential to not only deliver improvements in efficiency and patient outcomes, but also to facilitate improved consumer and clinician experience.⁴

ACN has made submissions on numerous digital health consultations, including the ***Health Practitioner Regulation National Law (South Australia) (Telepharmacy) Amendment Bill 2020*** and the Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia consultation on the ***proposed regulatory amendments to support the continuing medicines practice of the Rural Isolated Practice Registered Nurse (RIPRN) role in Victoria***. In the latter consultation, ACN welcomed the innovative and forward-thinking approach to provide for “future-focused models of practice”.

¹ Australian College of Nursing 2019. Position statement: Leading digital health transformation: The value of Chief Nursing Information Officer roles. Australian College of Nursing. Retrieved from: <https://www.acn.edu.au/wp-content/uploads/position-statement-leading-digital-health-transformation-value-cnio-roles.pdf>

² ACN 2017. Feedback to the Australian Digital Health Agency on the National Digital Health Strategy. Australian College of Nursing. Retrieved from: https://www.acn.edu.au/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/20170203_final_digital_health_strategy_with_kw_signature.pdf

³ Australian College of Nursing 2018. Submission to the Pharmaceutical Society of Australia (PSA) on the consultation for My Health Record – Guidelines for pharmacists. Australian College of Nursing. Retrieved from: https://www.acn.edu.au/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/20180216_PSA-Submission_My-Health-Record.pdf

⁴ Australian College of Nursing, Health Informatics Society of Australia SA & Nursing Informatics Australia 2017. Joint Position Statement: Nursing Informatics. <https://www.acn.edu.au/wp-content/uploads/joint-position-statement-nursing-informatics-hisa-nia.pdf>

ACN has a [position statement on nursing informatics](#) and we recently released a position statement on [Leading Digital Health Transformation: The Value of Chief Nursing Information Officer \(CNIO\) Roles](#). ACN also has an active **Chief Nursing Informatics Officers Community of Interest** led by the highly regarded Mr Aaron Jones MACN.

ACN however believes a major barrier to digital innovation in health care is the absence of true interoperability across health sectors, resulting in systems that do not communicate with each other⁵ and compromise patient safety and quality of care. As a result, ACN supports digital services such as my health record, electronic prescribing, telehealth and telepharmacy.

ACN highly anticipates the outcomes of your consultation and would like to receive a copy of the results. If you are able to send the results to policy@acn.edu.au we would be most appreciative.

ACN wishes you success with your consultation and thank you for undertaking this important work.

As the pre-eminent and national leader of the nursing profession and a community of dynamic and passionate nurses, we are committed to advancing nurse leadership to enhance health care.

If you have further enquiries, please contact Dr Carolyn Stapleton FACN, Director of Policy, Strategy and Advocacy, at carolyn.stapleton@acn.edu.au.

Yours sincerely,



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Australian College of Nursing

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⁵ Australian College of Nursing, Health Informatics Society of Australia & Nursing Informatics Australia 2017. Joint Position Statement: Nursing Informatics. <https://www.acn.edu.au/wp-content/uploads/joint-position-statement-nursing-informatics-hisa-nia.pdf>