

NURSING IN THE COMMUNITY

WEEK *Nurses where you need them*



Nurses in your community support you during every stage of your life. The many ways they contribute to your health and well-being may surprise you.

Nursing in the Community Week aims to raise awareness on how nurses can support you to stay safe at home, wherever that is. Nurses are indeed where YOU need them.

Join us in the conversation of 'Nursing in the Community'... your community #NursesWhereYouNeedThem.

You have a choice, why not ask the question
HOW CAN I ACCESS NURSING IN THE COMMUNITY?

1 THE BEGINNING – Child, adolescent and women’s health

In 2015, over 1 in 5 (22%) Australian children were developmentally vulnerable on 1 or more domains of the Australian Early Development Census.¹

Nurses assess and support these children and their families in their homes and community from the beginning.

2 NAVIGATING TWISTS AND TURNS – Injury, Infection, Mental Health, Sexual Health, Drug and Alcohol Concerns

Hospital emergency departments (EDs) play a role in treating mental illness. People seek mental health-related services in EDs for a variety of reasons, often as an initial point of contact or for after-hours care. In 2017–18, there were 286,985 public hospital Emergency Department (ED) presentations with a mental health-related principal diagnosis.²

Nurses team with police and paramedics to co-respond to people experiencing a mental health crisis and facilitate easier pathways to care. This interprofessional approach by a local health service in Queensland has helped to avoid presentation to ED by 70% of these calls for help.

3 CHALLENGES – Chronic illness and disability

Almost half of Australians (47%, or more than 11 million people) were estimated to have 1 or more of the 10 selected chronic conditions.³

In recent years, community nursing has increased in scale, scope and importance, with many services being provided that were historically only available in the hospital setting.⁴

4 THE GOLDEN YEARS – Aging in place

The number of Home Care recipients has increased by 84% over the last 10 years, reflecting an increasing preference by older Australians to age in place.⁵

Nurses are key stakeholders in care delivery for older Australians who choose to live their golden years in their own environment.

5 GOOD ENDINGS – End of life care

Although, Australia ranks second in the world for palliative care not all Australians are currently able to access specialist palliative care services and the quality of palliative care services vary.⁶

Nurses advocate and support their patients to experience a good end of life in the setting they feel most comfortable in.

With thanks to the support of our official partner



1. "Children's Headline Indicators, 10. Transition to primary school - Australian Institute of Health and Welfare", 2020
2. "Mental health services in Australia, Hospital emergency services - Australian Institute of Health and Welfare", 2020
3. "Chronic conditions and multimorbidity - Australian Institute of Health and Welfare", 2020
4. "Admission avoidance: hospital at home. British Journal of Community Nursing" 24(5), 238-240 Barrett, D. 2019
5. "Older Australia at a glance, Aged care - Australian Institute of Health and Welfare", 2020
6. Productivity Commission, Introducing Competition and Informed User Choice into Human Services: Reforms to Human Services, Draft Report, Australian Government, Canberra, 2017.