

ACN Emissions Reduction Charter

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This charter outlines the core beliefs and responsibilities all Australians have in aiding the reduction of carbon emissions. Nursing leadership is key to the health and aged care industries reducing emissions safely and effectively. The Australian College of Nursing (ACN) is committed to driving this agenda to support all nurses to champion change.

ACN:

- Believes that nurses are vital stakeholders in driving sustainable development across the healthcare sector;
- Prioritises ethical leadership¹ that is committed to reducing carbon emissions across the healthcare sector;
- Develops and fosters inter-organisational partnerships with leading climate change organisations;
- Engages and supports members and leaders to increase their climate literacy, advocacy and action through specified education, training, research and communication;
- Listens to and values the concerns of its members and stakeholders for whom climate change, and emissions reduction strategies will mostly impact;
- Supports all nurses to advocate for and promote sustainable practices within their workplaces and communities;
- Believes that healthcare organisations should consider environmental consequences, and should reflect this when shaping and developing organisational policies;
- Strongly advocates for the healthcare industry to provide a clean, safe, physical environment of high quality, and an ecosystem that is sustainable for the long term.

ACN supports the Australian Government to:

- Transition to **net zero carbon emissions** by the year 2050;
- Prioritise emissions reduction as central to the global development agenda;
- Develop and implement the Climate and Health Alliance's Framework for A National Strategy on Climate, Health And Well-Being for Australia.²

¹ Ethical leadership is demonstrated through effective communication, emphasising ethical standards, role modelling, and ethical behaviour (Reference: Brown, M. E., Treviño, L. K., & Harrison, D. A. 2005. Ethical leadership: A social learning perspective for construct development and testing. *Organizational behavior and human decision processes*, 97(2), 117-134.)

² Climate and Health Alliance 2017, Framework for A National Strategy on Climate, Health And Well-Being for Australia, https://d3n8a8pro7vhmx.cloudfront.net/caha/pages/40/attachments/original/1498008324/CAHA_Framework_for_a_National_Strategy_on_Climate_Health_and_Well-being_v05_SCREEN_%28Full_Report%29.pdf?1498008324

ACN calls on all governments, organisations and Australian nurses to:

- Implement strong organisational governance at board level to make emissions reduction a core responsibility and develop a statement of priorities that reflects emissions reduction across the organisation;
- Contribute to and continue to support climate change research;
- Prioritise emissions reduction as a requirement for health sector practice; and supports inclusion of environmental considerations across health care policies;
- Develop a tool for measuring and evaluating every organisation's contribution to carbon emissions and opportunities for emissions reduction;
- Considering recyclable reusable alternatives - as specific as single use plastics and food waste use where plausible when considering all new products or tenders;
- Prioritise emissions reduction as a key focus of sectors, communities and civil society.

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