

MEDIA RELEASE

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Nurses converge to future proof workforce ***Australian College of Nursing Policy Summit 2023***

Nurses from all over Australia will gather in Canberra this week to address major policy issues for nursing and health care as part of the Australian College of Nursing's (ACN) Policy Summit: Power, Persistence, and Influence.

The ACN Policy Summit will be held on 17 March 2023 at the National Convention Centre in Canberra and will bring together Australia's leading nursing and health policy decision makers.

The Summit will discuss nurse-led solutions to Australia's most pressing health challenges, including the aged care crisis and how Australia can grow and maintain a sustainable workforce.

ACN CEO, Adjunct Professor Kylie Ward FACN said that we're facing the reality that by 2025 there could be a shortfall of more than 100,000 nurses. We must invest in our profession immediately to ensure future generations of Australians continue to receive high-quality nursing care.

"Nurses are Australia's largest cohort of health professionals, and it is nurses that are increasingly being called upon to support our struggling health system," Adjunct Professor Ward said.

"The reality is that we can't staff the Australian nursing workforce today, tonight or tomorrow.

"The Department of Health has recently shared the scale of the workforce shortages for the Government to meet their 24/7 Registered Nurse commitment in residential aged care. Australia is in need of almost 12,000 Registered Nurses and that figure is set to skyrocket to 21,000 Registered Nurses by 2031.

"Our older Australians deserve better. We need to bring comfort and confidence to our parents and grandparents who have given so much to their families and the communities throughout their lives.

"Our Policy Summit is our opportunity to come together as a community and put forward tangible solutions to rebuild our health system, support our talented but exhausted health workforce, and recognise the wonderful work still being done by our valiant workforce.

“From these discussions we will urge the State and Federal Governments to immediately act to address workforce issues and put consumer health first.”

ACN’s raised our concerns and provided our solutions about Australia’s nursing workforce, including aged care in our Pre-Budget Submission which you can [read here](#).

About the ACN Policy Summit

Keynote Speakers at this year's ACN Policy Summit include Professor Lisa Whitehead FACN, Editor in Chief, Collegian: The Australian Journal of Nursing Practice, Scholarship and Research and WA Nurse of the Year, and Paul Creech PSM, Chief Program Officer, Australian Digital Health Agency.

For more information about the ACN Policy Summit visit [here](#).

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Notes to Editors:

The Australian College of Nursing (ACN) is the national professional organisation for all nurses and its aim is to ensure that the Australian community receives quality nursing care now and in the future. ACN is a membership organisation with members in all states and territories, health care settings and nursing specialties. ACN is also the Australian member of the International Council of Nurses headquartered in Geneva in collaboration with the Australian Nursing and Midwifery Federation (ANMF). An organisation not afraid to challenge industry issues affecting the nursing profession or Australia's health care, ACN is a well-connected and educated national body that drives change with people of influence to enhance the delivery of health services to the Australian community. ACN's membership includes nurses in roles of influence, including senior nurses, organisational leaders, academics, and researchers.

Social media channels:

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/acnursing>

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CEO - Adjunct Professor Kylie Ward FACN - Bio



Kylie Ward. Policy Reformer. Nurse. For-Purpose Leader. Equality Warrior. Adjunct Professor. Transformation Specialist.

Kylie is the CEO of Australian College of Nursing. She has led a program of transformation at ACN, which has now become Australia’s beacon for Nurse Leadership.

She is a major policy influencer, advocate for women, children and equality.