Australian College of Nursing

THE NATIONAL NURSING FORUM

MELBOURNE 6-7 AUGUST 2026

Power of Nurses in a Changing World

Abstract submission guidelines

Contact us today
ACN Events events@acn.edu.au

General information

BACKGROUND

As the national voice of the nursing profession, the Australian College of Nursing (ACN) is inviting Australian and International nurses, from all work settings, to submit an abstract for our signature event, The National Nursing Forum (NNF).

Presenting an abstract at Australia's peak annual nursing conference provides an invaluable opportunity to build your national profile and showcase your work.

ACN welcomes the chance to nurture and promote new talent and encourages first time presenters.

This is your opportunity to present on a national scale.

THEME

In 2026 we will be exploring the theme of '**Power of Nurses in a Changing World**' in our keynote plenary sessions and throughout the forum.

INVITATION TO SUBMIT AN ABSTRACT

We invite undergraduates through to retired nurses to share their learnings, insights, and stories and to submit an abstract for consideration as an oral presentation or poster in one of the four streams below:

1. **Workforce**
   Exploring how new policies are changing workforce models, so they reflect our diverse workforce and support flexibility, knowledge and professional growth.

2. **Sustainability**
   Highlighting sustainability as it applies to a variety of health and education settings.

3. **Innovation and Implementation**
   Spotlighting innovation and how it is being implemented in all areas of health care and services.

4. **Clinical Governance**
   Focusing on upholding standards and strategies to ensure high – quality person-centred care and safe and highly-skilled nurses.

RAPID FIRE ABSTRACTS

The 2026 NNF will introduce an opportunity to submit abstracts for a Rapid Fire plenary session. The oral presentations will be in a quick and succinct 5-7 minutes format (no Q&A) focusing on the theme of **Wellbeing** (describing initiatives addressing health and wellbeing of the nursing workforce)

The Pecha Kucha style presentation may work well in this format.

KEY DATES

5 DECEMBER 2025
Abstract submissions open

Submit your abstract via the online portal here.

16 FEBRUARY 2026
Abstract submissions close 11:59PM AEDT

20 MARCH 2026
Abstract Review Committee recommendations due

10 APRIL 2026
Authors notified of submission outcome

22 APRIL 2026
Presenters to confirm acceptance

8 MAY 2026
Presenter registrations finalised

Abstract submission guidelines

Abstracts must be submitted online by **Monday 16 February 2026**. No extensions or other means of submission will be considered.

1. All details must be completed to allow the automated system to process your submission.

2. The person submitting the abstract is the person who will receive all correspondence in relation to the abstract and is responsible for passing on information to co-authors and/or co-presenters and other parties.

3. If submitting for oral or poster presentation you must indicate which forum stream the abstract relates to.

4. You must include the requested information for any co-authors and/or co-presenters as their name will be included in the program if the submission is successful.

5. You must indicate which type of presentation is being proposed; oral, poster or rapid fire.

6. Authors must read and agree to the Terms and Conditions for your submission to be accepted for consideration.

7. If you are dependant on your employer paying for your attendance at the NNF 2026, please ensure you seek authorisation prior to submitting your abstract.

8. The abstract must be submitted as a text document only (graphs, tables, images etc will not be accepted).

9. The abstract must be structured to include a title, main institution/organisation which the research/paper can be attributed to and author/co-authors names.

10. Research based papers should be structured to include an introduction/purpose, methods, results and conclusions.

11. All other papers should be structured to include an introduction, main body and conclusion.

12. The abstract title must be a maximum of **10** words in length.

13. The abstract must be a maximum of **300** words in length, excluding the title, authors/co-authors and institution.

14. The main body of the abstract should **NOT** contain any author names or information.

15. The abstract must relate to the selected stream.

16. The content of the abstract must clearly reflect/link to the given title of the abstract.

17. The review process follows a weighted criteria and those submissions that do not adhere to **all guidelines**, will be penalised.

Evaluation criteria and weightings

The scoring process requires a rating of 1-10 for each of the follow criteria:

CRITERIA 1

Contribution to nursing
(Maximum weight = 60)

- Overall, does the abstract contribute to the selected stream? (Workforce, Sustainability, Innovation and Implementation, Clinical Governance, Wellbeing)

- Does the abstract contribute to the Forum theme?

- Does the abstract address current issues of importance to the nursing profession?

- Does the abstract present new and innovative ideas or strategies for nurses to use?

- Is there value to others in presenting this abstract as part of the NNF program?

CRITERIA 2

Overall quality
(Maximum weight = 30)

- Is the quality of the abstract of a professional standard?

- Does the abstract provide a brief (max 300 words) and specific outline that conveys the purpose of the presentation?

- Does the abstract demonstrate sufficient expertise and knowledge of the subject matter?

- Is the abstract evidence-based, and does it outline pertinent research or other methods adopted? Where appropriate.

CRITERIA 3

Abstract format
(Maximum weight = 10)

- Is the abstract structured to include a title, introductory sentence, description of pertinent research (if applicable), summary and conclusion, and a chronological flow?

- Does the abstract contain text only? Diagrams, illustrations, tables, references or graphics are inappropriate.

- Is the abstract grammatically, correct?

- Abstracts must not contain any author names, affiliations or information.

Each abstract is de-identified and is independently marked by 3 assessors with the highest average weighted scores being invited to present. The abstract review committee is made up of ACN Members and Fellows.

See table on page 5 for marking criteria used by the Abstract Review Team.

Marking criteria

CRITERIA 1 (Maximum weighing 60)

IMPACT	SCORE	DESCRIPTOR	ASSESSMENT
High	9-10	Exceptional	Exceptionally strong, criterion fully addressed
	7-8	Good	Very strong with weakness in one area of the criterion
Medium	5-6	Satisfactory	Some strengths but with moderate weaknesses in one or more areas of the criterion
	3-4	Fair	Some strengths but with at least one major weakness
Low	1-2	Unacceptable	Not for presentation

CRITERIA 2 (Maximum weighing 30)

IMPACT	SCORE	DESCRIPTOR	ASSESSMENT
High	9-10	Exceptional	Exceptionally strong, criterion fully addressed
	7-8	Good	Very strong with weakness in one area of the criterion
Medium	5-6	Satisfactory	Some strengths but with moderate weaknesses in one or more areas of the criterion
	3-4	Fair	Some strengths but with at least one major weakness
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High	9-10	Exceptional	Exceptionally strong, criterion fully addressed
	7-8	Good	Very strong with weakness in one area of the criterion
Medium	5-6	Satisfactory	Some strengths but with moderate weaknesses in one or more areas of the criterion
	3-4	Fair	Some strengths but with at least one major weakness
Low	1-2	Unacceptable	Not for presentation

Successful abstracts

SUCCESSFUL ORAL PRESENTATIONS

- Successful oral presentations must be delivered in-person at the NNF venue in Melbourne; no virtual presentations will be permitted.

- Abstract presentations will be 20 minutes, including five minutes for questions and discussion.

- Rapid Fire presentations will be 5-7 minutes in length. No questions or discussion.

- The room will be equipped with a data projector, screen and laptop computer.

- Only presentations in PowerPoint will be supported.

- ACN is committed to continuous quality improvement and encourages presenters to ensure their presentation reflects the content of the abstract as we wish to provide our delegates with an exceptional experience. If your abstract is successful, your presentation must remain true to the content in the submitted abstract.

SUCCESSFUL POSTERS

- Should be to an academic research poster standard.

- Posters will be displayed for the duration of the NNF on display boards.

- Dedicated poster presentation sessions will be held on Friday 7 August 2026 where the author(s) must be present to share their work and ideas and answer any questions.

- Each stream will have a 'best poster' prize as well as a 'most popular prize' awarded.

- Posters will be judged by forum delegates.

- Posters must be displayed at the NNF to be eligible for voting and the prize.

- The successful author/co-authors must bring their poster with them and contact a member of the events team on day one of the forum.

SELECTION PROCESS AND ACCEPTANCE NOTIFICATION

- The Abstract Review Committee will undertake a blind peer-review process to judge the abstracts.

- Abstracts will be reviewed on their contribution to nursing leadership, relevance to the NNF streams, adherence to the above submission guidelines, overall quality and abstract content link to given abstract title.

- Abstracts submitted for oral presentation may be offered a poster presentation at the discretion of the Abstract Review Committee.

- It is anticipated that the submitting author will be notified of their abstract submission outcome via email Friday 10 April 2026.

03.12.25

Terms and conditions

In order to submit an abstract for NNF 2026, the abstract submitter/main author must agree to the following terms and conditions that will apply if the abstract is accepted for presentation.

- I agree should my abstract be accepted that my presentation will be delivered in person at the NNF venue in Melbourne.

- I agree that I and any co-presenters will register for the NNF and pay the registration fee by Friday 8 May 2026, noting that we must also meet our own travel and accommodation costs.

- If my paper is selected as a poster, I agree that I or a co-author/co-presenter must be a registrant at the forum for the abstract to appear in the program and to be displayed at the forum.

- I give permission for my abstract to be published in the NNF program, and on the ACN website, social handles, and the internet.

- I give permission for my provided biography and any co-presenters' biographies to be condensed at the discretion of the organising committee and to be provided to the session facilitator for introductory purposes. I also give permission for any biographies to be available in the program.

- I give permission for a photographer to be present during my presentation and agree to these photos being used on the ACN website, in publications and on social media for promotional purposes.

- I understand that the allocation of the presentation day and time of successful oral abstracts is at the discretion of the organising committee.

- I agree that my oral presentation will be made available to registered delegates of the NNF.

- ACN may engage a videographer to film presentations throughout the NNF. If I do not want my presentation to be filmed, I will advise ACN via **events@acn.edu.au**.

FURTHER INFORMATION

For enquiries please contact ACN Events at **events@acn.edu.au**.

03.12.25