



Consultation Paper

Developing the National Nursing Workforce Strategy

November 2023



Outline

What we did yesterday will not work tomorrow.

We will need to find new and different ways to attract and retain nurses now to meet the health needs of the future.

- O Why a national strategy?
- Purpose of this consultation paper
- An overview of Australia's nursing workforce
- Issues for consideration in a National Nursing Workforce Strategy
- The future of nursing in Australia – possible scenarios

Introduction

The Australian health, aged and disability care sectors are evolving in response to an ageing population, increases in chronic disease, and the impact of technology. Nurses are the largest health profession in Australia, comprising over 40% of the health workforce.

Nurses have a central role to ensure safe, affordable and respectful care for people. As members of multidisciplinary teams, nurses provide high-quality health, aged and disability care and coordination, and perform key functions across all service settings, in metropolitan, regional, rural and remote areas. Nurses also tend to have the highest contact rates within acute care, residential aged care and remote settings. A well supported nursing workforce is critical to effectively addressing the health, aged and disability care needs of the Australian community.

Why a national Strategy?

There has never been a national-level strategy developed to inform nursing policy and workforce planning. Australia's first National Nursing Workforce

Strategy (Strategy) will support the ongoing development of a capable, resilient nursing profession delivering person centred, evidence based compassionate care to all

Australian communities.

Scope of the Strategy

The Strategy will cover Registered Nurses (RN), Enrolled Nurses (EN), Nurse Practitioners (NP), Assistants in Nursing (AIN – however named) and students of nursing. It will also consider the roles of these individuals in the broader care team of the future.



Process to develop the Strategy

The Australian Government Department of Health and Aged Care, Victorian Department of Health and Safer Care Victoria are leading the development of the Strategy, in collaboration with all states and territories and nursing stakeholders.

The Strategy will be underpinned by extensive stakeholder engagement, including through targeted consultations and broader public consultation. Consultation events are being publicly advertised and are open to anyone with an interest in the future of the nursing profession.

The Strategy will complement and inform the work of a wide range of strategies and plans to support the nursing workforce in Australia. These linkages to broader health workforce planning and strategies will be explored through a national and international environmental scan.

For more information on the structure, scope and process to develop the Strategy visit www.health.gov.au/nnws.

Purpose of this consultation paper

This consultation paper has been developed by the Australian Government Department of Health and Aged Care, the Victorian Government Department of Health and Safer Care Victoria to provide stakeholders with information about the current issues facing the nursing workforce in Australia today.

The consultation paper also paints a picture of what the future could look like. It does not accept the status quo, embraces possibilities and suggests a range of workforce strategies that could be considered in the future.

It poses a series of questions throughout to promote different ways of thinking about the future of nursing to help inform the Strategy. These questions are put forward to stimulate your thinking as you engage with the consultation, whether that be in the workshops, the webinars, the survey or in a written submission.

We are seeking to engage with a vast and diverse range of stakeholders. Your feedback will assist us to develop a future-focussed strategy that seeks to support nurses to continue delivering high quality health care in future care environments.

Nursing workforce in Australia

Australia's health system is complex, with nursing workforce accountabilities split between various stakeholders. The nature of federation means that decision making is distributed and reflects the different priorities of the Australian government and individual state and territories. However, at the centre of the health system is the person, the health consumer.

The Australian government is responsible for developing national health policies and funding population specific services, including health and medical research, National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS), Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS), and Medicare Benefits Schedule (MBS). It contributes funds to the states and territories for public health and hospital services through the National Health Reform Agreement.¹

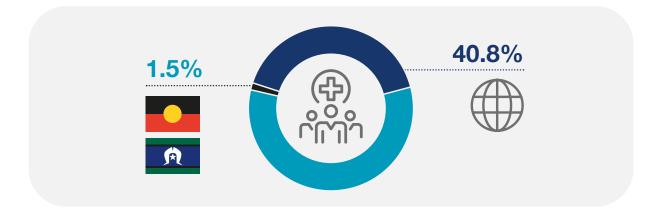
State and territories are the largest employers of the nursing workforce who fund and manage public hospitals, deliver community, preventative and ambulance services, and regulate and license private hospitals. In 2020–21 nurses accounted for 2 in 5 (41%, 175,000) full-time equivalent (FTE) staff in public hospitals. In private hospitals, nurses accounted for 52% of FTE staff in private free-standing day hospital facilities and 56% of FTE staff in other private hospitals.² Figure 1 illustrates the integration of the nursing workforce in Australia's health care system.

Nursing in Australia has always been a female dominated occupation. Of the 363,505 employed nurses in Australia in 2022, 87.8% (319,249) were recorded as female, while only 12.2% (44,231) of the workforce were male.³ The average annual growth rate from 2017 to 2022 for employed male nurses increased by 4.5%, while the average annual growth rate from 2017 to 2022 for employed female nurses increased by 2.6%.



There are also proportionally fewer nurses from indigenous or non-English speaking backgrounds.

In 2022, 1.5% of employed nurses in Australia reported to be Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander. 40.8% of Australian nursing workforce were born outside of Australia in 2022, illustrating the diversity of the nursing workforce.



More data and information on the education and regulation of nurses is available at www.health.gov.au/nnws.

Figure 1: Australian health care system

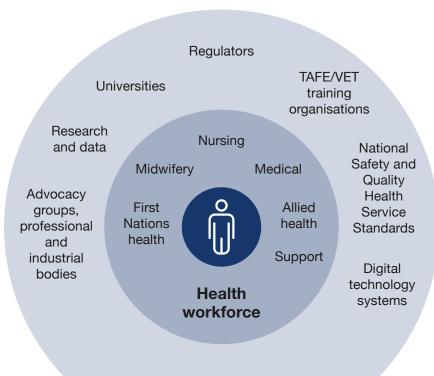
State and Territory Governments

- · Largest employers of workforce
- Deliver community-based and preventive services and ambulance services
- · Health prevention
- Fund/manage public hospitals
- Regulate and license private hospitals and other health premises
- · Quality & Safety
- Health promotion

Private and not-for-profit sector

- Operation of private hospitals, pharmacies and medical practices
- Provide private health insurance products

Australian health care system



Regulation, education and infrastructure

Environmental factors

- Social determinants of health
- Climate and the impact of climate change on health
- · Rural and remote
- Impact of technology

Population factors

- Chronic disease
- Ageing population
- Health care expectations
- Health promotion and disease prevention

Commonwealth Government

- Develop national health policy
- Fund population-specific services:
 - Aboriginal and Torres Strait
 Islander primary health care
- Veterans health services
- Aged care
- Fund health and medical research
- Support access to and regulate private health insurance
- · Fund Primary Heath Networks
- National Disability Insurance Scheme
- Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS)
- Medicare Benefits Schedule (MBS)
- Contributes funds to the states and territories for public hospital services through the National Health Reform Agreement. This includes services delivered through emergency departments, hospitals and community health settings.

Issues for consideration

The growing need in aged care services

Australia's changing demographics are influencing the demand for and provision of aged care. Australians are living longer than ever before. It is projected that the number of Australians aged 85 years and over will increase from 515,700 in 2018–19 (2.0% of the Australian population) to more than 1.5 million by 2058 (3.7% of the population). With advanced age comes greater frailty. Older people are more likely to have more than one health condition (comorbidity) as their life expectancy increases. As the population of older people increases, more people are expected to have memory and mobility disorders.⁴

What effect will the ageing population have on the nursing workforce needs of tomorrow?

There is also increasing demand in other complementary sectors which are competing for the same workforce and facing a workforce that is also ageing.

The regional, rural and remote nursing workforce

How do
we grow,
support and
sustain the regional,
rural and remote
nursing
workforce?

Sustainability of the nursing workforce in rural areas is vital to the health outcomes of rural communities, and key to protecting the viability of health care services outside of metropolitan areas.

Nursing professionals in rural/regional areas tend to be older than their metropolitan counterparts and require a broad skill base.⁵

The employment of newly registered nurses into smaller rural centres can be difficult.

Working in remote areas provides a rewarding experience for nurses but is not without its challenges. The role of the nursing workforce

broadens and expands with increasing remoteness and remote area nurses are often the only health professional

to which consumers have access.⁶ Nurses working in remote areas need to have broad generalist knowledge and skills as well the capacity to manage emergency situations.⁷ Workforce fatigue and professional isolation among remote area nurses is common.⁸ In addition, high staff attrition and turnover pose significant challenges to quality and increases the cost of service delivery.⁹

How will nurses in regional, rural and remote areas provide care in the future?

Cultural safety

Australia is known as one of the most culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) countries in the world. According to the 2021 Census of Population and Housing, more than 7 million people (28%) in Australia were born overseas.¹⁰ The number of people who

reported speaking a language other than English at home increased from almost 5 million people in 2016 (22%) to around 6 million (23%). In 2021, 3.4% of the Australian population indicated they spoke

English not well or not at all.

It is critical to engage with priority populations and people for whom access to health care can be challenging, to provide safe, supportive health care. This includes engaging with and providing culturally safe care to First Nations Australians, people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds and people with disability.

How can
we ensure
the healthcare
environment is
culturally sensitive for
nurses from diverse
backgrounds?

It also includes ensuring the diversity and safety of the nursing workforce, including those who are First Nations Australians, from CALD communities, live with disability and/or identify as LGBTIQ+.

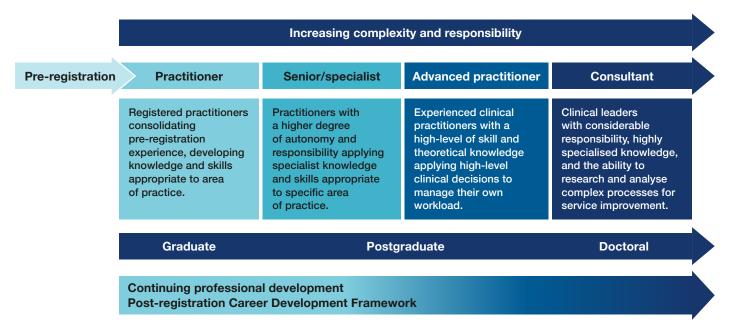
First Nations nurses

Decades of research tells us that a culturally safe holistic model of health care works best for First Nations people and that they are more likely to access care from First Nations health professionals. A key principle of the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Workforce Strategic Framework and Implementation Plan 2021–2031 is the importance of culture and recognising that First Nations health workforce participation is an essential element within all health workforce initiatives, settings, and strategies.¹¹

What actions should be taken to build and support the First Nations nursing workforce?

Career pathways and specialisation

Figure 2: Scotland Career Map¹²



Career pathways in nursing are diverse, and mainly stem from a nurse's development or specialisation associated with setting of practice. Specialisation is loosely defined by experience but can increase through continuing professional development

(CPD) or undertaking postgraduate qualifications. The limitations of specialisation are that nationally, there are no robust methods for advanced standing/recognition of prior learning and there is a reliance on a subjective assessment by an organisation. In addition, there are no defined pathways to progression which exist in some other countries, such as in Scotland (Figure 2, above).

The collective benefits of establishing career pathways include but are not limited to continuity of performance, capacity and capability building, continuous practice improvement, creating prepared employees and contribution to the profession.¹³ How
can nursing
career pathways be
articulated so that the
workforce understands
how to navigate and
build a satisfying and
stimulating career
in nursing?



Nurses' health and wellbeing

The COVID-19 pandemic required transformative changes to both healthcare workplace culture and environment. Nurses were required to undertake new responsibilities and adapt significantly as a workforce.

Burnout has been identified as a factor in nurses exiting the profession with nurses reporting decreased feelings of accomplishment and increased levels of fatigue and cynicism. Those who remain at work report greater levels of stress, and an increasing propensity to consider leaving their job or profession. Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, nurses had identified similar stressors, however the workload and pressure following the pandemic increased and therefore exacerbated factors that contributed to feelings of burnout.

What are
the barriers and
enablers that need
to be overcome to
enhance workplace
culture for
nurses?

For nurses deciding on career mobility or professional longevity, safety has become a key concern. ¹⁴ The notable rise in occupational violence has become a prominent concern for the workforce and is contributing to an employee's decision to opt for lower risk settings or leave the profession. ¹⁵ The effective identification and investment in well-supported nurses will be required to continue to attract and retain the best and brightest, where the nurse workforce themselves are cared for and thriving.

Nursing leadership and management

Clinical expertise is a critical component for a nurse, but it is not necessarily the most appropriate measure for nurses in leadership and management roles. Just as clinical expertise has required capabilities, leadership and management have recognised capabilities to be exercised effectively. Visible, accountable and purposeful leadership at all levels of a service is required to cultivate an inclusive and just culture. Both nursing leadership and management need to be supported by relevant education programs.

Internationally the Nursing Now Challenge¹⁶ is working to see greater recognition and capability of nurse leadership in contributing to health care policy. Good nursing leadership and management is also important in setting the culture and environment within which nurses work.

Effective leadership at all levels has been identified as a critical factor in supporting and sustaining the nursing workforce. This requires investment in management training, supervision and support to develop and advance new and established leaders. A critical success factor of effective leadership is positive workplace culture – from a student on placement feeling valued and supported, to the most senior administrator feeling purposeful and engaged. Setting the tone for a positive workplace culture is a key feature of highly skilled leaders today.

Building nursing research capability

Nurses are well-positioned to conduct research in Australia's healthcare system and academia as they are employed in every healthcare setting and care for people across every stage of life. Quality nurse-led research can improve care outcomes and find efficiencies and savings for the health system. ¹⁷ Globally and in Australia, nurses are

under-represented as recipients of research funding and postgraduate scholarships, and opportunities to combine clinical practice and research at all stages in a nurse's career are limited. In Australia, a major source of research funding comes from the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC). Analysis of the 238 investigator grants awarded by NHMRC in 2020 showed only 7 (3%) were awarded to nurses, and one of the 64 (1.6%) postgraduate scholarships awarded was to a nurse. These are low numbers for Australia's largest health workforce.

What actions/
change needs
to occur to build
capacity and numbers
of nurse researchers
across whole
of health?

Recruitment and retention

To support the recruitment of the domestic nursing workforce, there are numerous strategies and approaches underway. This includes raising awareness to target school students to enter the profession, building and supporting the professions' identity as being the most 'trusted' profession. Focusing on school leavers alone will not address critical shortages – there will be a need to attract 'second career-ers' who are drawn to nursing and bring skills gained in other professions to the nurse workforce. Recruitment strategies must also encourage culturally and linguistically diverse groups to enter nursing so that the composition of the profession in Australia reflects the community it serves.

While Australia's key workforce strategies strive to embed ongoing self-sufficiency in terms of workforce supply, the interim report of the independent Review of Overseas

Health Practitioner Regulatory Settings acknowledges this is a longer term solution. Recruitment of internationally trained nurses accounts for nearly one fifth (18% in 2022 of RNs, ENs and dual registered¹⁸) of the nursing workforce. From this review, a range of regulatory requirements impacting the recruitment of internationally qualified health practitioners will be addressed. These include streamlining requirements between multiple entities ranging in scope from immigration and regulation, up to employment.¹⁹

There are many factors that may influence workforce retention, including the practice environment, work conditions and remuneration, opportunities for career progression, workload management, job satisfaction, and professional development opportunities. Retention can be increased for existing nurses through leadership opportunities, best use of their skill set and professional knowledge, flexibility in scope of practice and roles, as well as innovative models of care.

Workforce returners are also an important consideration given lower numbers of nurses returning to the workforce after a break for family or other reasons.

As in all professions, there will always be attrition from the nursing workforce. However there is an opportunity to consider strategies to retain nurses to meet the current and future demand for services. A supply and demand study of the nursing workforce, currently underway, will provide updated data to quantify the nursing workforce in Australia.

How can we increase the recruitment and retention of nurses to meet the current and future demand?

The future of nursing in Australia

The skills shortage means that there are more people leaving the workforce (not just the nursing workforce) than entering it and the current birth rate in Australia is not high enough to replace them. That means less people in the workforce overall, supporting an ever growing ageing population.

The nursing workforce shares many of these challenges with a range of other workforces. Many other workforces, from teachers to police, defence to hospitality share the same dilemmas as they plan for a workforce that will look very different in the future.

What should our ambition and vision for the nursing workforce be in the future?

What will the nursing workforce of the future look like? How will it be different? And what impact will that have on workforce planning?

How
does the
system need to
change to support
a sustainable
future fit nursing
workforce?

Scenarios in blue have deliberately been prepared to provoke future thinking. They are entirely fictitious, apart from some examples that are referenced in the text. Please read them with the spirit in which they are intended – an opportunity to reframe perspective and consider "what might be, not what currently is".

A workplace that thrives on a positive culture, empowered by accomplished leaders, fully supporting their nurse workforce

A sustainable health workforce relies on a workplace culture that is positive and supportive of all who interact with it. A key aspect of workplace culture is leaders and managers who set the tone and direction for their teams, empowering them to reach their full potential.

Effective leadership is a skill like any other, requiring skills and training, and practical application. One that embraces diversity in all its forms, and ensures that people feel valued in the roles they undertake, from a student nurse on their very first day through to a seasoned senior administrator. Ensuring a positive safe and supportive workplace culture across the health workforce is a critical success factor in retention.

What are
the barriers
that need to be
overcome to enhance
workplace culture
and conditions for
nurses?

Delivering person-centred care

How do
we equip
nurses to deliver
person-centred
care?

In person-centred care, health and social care professionals work collaboratively with people who use services. Person-centred care supports people to develop the knowledge, skills and confidence they need to more effectively manage and make informed decisions about their own health and health care. It is coordinated and tailored to the needs of the individual. And, crucially, it ensures that people are always treated with dignity, compassion and respect.

Adopting person-centred care as 'business as usual' requires fundamental changes to how services are delivered and to roles – not only those of health care professionals, but of patients too – and the relationships between patients, health care professionals and teams.

What changes are required to deliver person-centred care of the future?

Nurses working to their optimum scope of practice

SCENARIO

Cara has been a Registered Nurse in primary care for over 10 years. She also has an endorsement for prescribing medicines and works in a designated prescribing relationship to facilitate this part of her role. It took a while for her expanded scope of practice and skills to be recognised, but now she – and many like her – are in high demand in primary health and aged care settings. The new bundled payment method (rather than fee for service) has meant she can better integrate and coordinate healthcare for people with chronic conditions.

Twenty-first century health challenges related to demographic, epidemiological and technological changes require a health workforce geared towards health promotion, disease prevention, people-centred community-based health services and personalised long-term care.²⁰

The skillset of nurses working to their full potential and to an optimised scope of practice poses enormous benefits to healthcare systems including increased access to healthcare, reduction in waiting times, more timely assessments and referrals, and a greater focus on early intervention, to name a few.

Optimal use of the nursing skill set as part of a multidisciplinary team promotes an integrated care model and improved patient experiences.

What
are the most
important skills
and capabilities that
will be required of
nurses in the
future?

Encouraging and enabling nurses to work at full capacity within their scope of practice will provide benefits at all levels, from individual and team, to the healthcare system nationally and most importantly to the health outcomes of the Australian community.

Assuming a
wider scope of
practice for nurses
in the future, what are
the emerging roles
nurses will need
to fill?

Technology drives a very different workforce and health service

SCENARIO

Jamarra works in a remote health service and uses technology to care for a far greater number of people than he has ever been able to previously. Technology has meant he can check in on every person daily without leaving the health service; triage new patients; monitor their vital signs; deliver medication; and review their progress seamlessly alongside other integrated specialists across Australia and around the globe. He is a central part of a skilled multidisciplinary care team, where he is listened to and respected as an equal voice. Technology means he can also access further learning and specialisation remotely, to improve his experience and skillset.

Digital technology is being increasingly incorporated into healthcare to improve quality, safety and efficiency. Digital health encompasses a wide range of technologies used by consumers and healthcare providers such as digital health records, electronic prescriptions, electronic medication systems, and telehealth.

Consumers in Australia are also using digital health solutions more than ever before to help them to manage their health and make informed decisions. Research shows that digital technology solutions can improve patient care and outcomes. For example, a recent study of the impact of electronic medication systems at a large teaching hospital in Australia showed a reduction in the rate of medication administrative errors.²¹

Technological advancements are fundamentally changing the way nursing is undertaken, with everything from drones delivering medication and life saving equipment to remote areas; to wearable healthcare that can monitor temperature, movement and even mood (including loneliness) of older Australians remotely; to a wound clinic that uses Artificial Intelligence to sift through thousands of pictures of wounds and quickly highlight those that are in need of attention, exponentially improving the productivity of nurses. In defence parlance, technology will be a 'force multiplier' of the greater health system – allowing health professionals to be more productive, effective, integrated and efficient than ever before.

What are
the main ways
technology will
change the role of
a nurse in the
future?

Education and lifelong learning that provides high quality skills

SCENARIO

Having worked in administration in primary health care for 5 years Leanne decided she wanted to retrain as a Registered Nurse. She was able to find flexible training through a partnership between a University and her Primary Healthcare Network. This meant she did not have to move away from home to complete her clinical placements, was able to combine work and training, and her prior skills were recognised.

Future requirements of our health system mean there is opportunity to re-think how our nurse workforce is educated and equipped with the optimal skills to fulfil their potential and ensure the biggest impact on health outcomes. Globally, there are trials aimed at providing high quality education and a work-ready nurse workforce through initiatives such nurse apprenticeship schemes, simulation-based nurse certification and increased numbers of nursing schools, faculty, and student slots.

The education system of the future could also encourage nurses to re-enter the workforce by providing nationally recognised blended short course and hands-on experience to fast track re-entry.

There is opportunity to provide tailored education for experienced individuals with an array of skills developed in other sectors or industries, who are attracted to the dynamic, professional care-based environment of nursing. Currently barriers for people wanting to enter the health profession can be significant, including the cost of education and the need to travel to complete clinical placements.

changes
to educational
opportunities and
career pathways
would support
the future
workforce?

Career pathways that are globally aligned, nationally recognised and provide structured progress

SCENARIO

Scott was always interested in a job helping people. He liked the idea of nursing, but he elected for an unscored ATAR when he finished school. A careers advisor suggested he become an EN which he liked the idea of, because the Pathway Planner he received from a few different private and TAFE institutions had a heavy emphasis on speed and practicality. Scott had access to a Digital Passport that outlined step by step how he could progress up to an RN and beyond, options of where he could undertake on-the-job training, competencies required and expected pay, all nationally consistent. Scott isn't sure whether he wants to progress past EN stage, or how long he will remain interested in the job – but in the short term he really likes knowing where he could be headed.

As in many other industries and sectors, career progression will be easier with structured pathways so people can see what they need to do and how, as they progress. Nationally recognised skills will boost mobility, ensuring all of Australia can benefit from a skilled workforce, and people can experience a range of health settings in different place should they desire.

Career pathways are also available for a growing international workforce that are educated and skilled in the particular needs and requirements of the Australian health system.

How can we improve nurse career progression to ensure nurses are retained over their lifetime?

References

- Department of Health and Aged Care. 2020–25 National Health Reform Agreement (NHRA). 2023 [Available from: https://www.health.gov.au/our-work/2020-25-national-health-reform-agreement-nhra]
- 2 Australian Institute of Health and Welfare. Hospital Workforce. 2022. [Available from: https://www.aihw. gov.au/reports-data/myhospitals/themes/hospitalworkforce]
- 3 Department of Health and Aged Care. National Health Workforce Dataset. 2022 [Available from: https://hwd.health.gov.au/resources/information/ nhwds.html]
- 4 Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety. Final Report – Executive Summary. 2021. [Available from: https://agedcare.royalcommission. gov.au/publications/final-report-executivesummary]
- 5 Health Workforce Australia. Australia's Future Health Workforce – Nurses Overview Report. 2014 [Available from: https://www.health.gov.au/sites/ default/files/documents/2021/03/nurses-australia-sfuture-health-workforce-reports-overview-report.pdf]
- 6 McCullough, K., Bayes, S., Whitehead, L., Williams, A., & Cope, V. We say we are doing primary health care but we're not: Remote area nurses' perspectives on the challenges of providing primary health care services. Collegian. 2021.
- 7 CRANAplus. CRANAplus framework for remote and isolated practice. 2018. [Available from: https://crana.org.au/cranaplus-framework-forremote-and-isolated-practice]
- 8 Opie, T., Dollard, M., Lenthall, S., Wakerman, J., Dunn, S., Knight, S., & Macleod, M. Levels of occupational stress in the remote area nursing workforce. Australian Journal of Rural Health. 2010.
- 9 Wakerman, J., Humphreys, J., Russell, D., Guthridge, S., Bourke, L., Dunbar, T., Zhao, Y., Ramjan, M., Murakami-Gold, L. & Jones, M. Remote health workforce turnover and retention: what are the policy and practice priorities? Human Resources for Health. 2019.
- 10 Department of Health and Aged Care. National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Workforce Strategic Framework and Implementation Plan 2021–2031. 2022. [Available from: https://www.health.gov.au/resources/ publications/national-aboriginal-and-torres-straitislander-health-workforce-strategic-frameworkand-implementation-plan-2021-2031?language=en]
- 11 National Agreement on Closing the Gap, July 2020. [Available from: https://www.closingthegap.gov.au/national-agreement/national-agreement-closing-the-gap]

- 12 Chief Nursing Officer Directorate, Scottish Government. Transforming Nursing, Midwifery And Health Profession (NMaHP) roles: review of Clinical Nurse Specialist and Nurse Practitioner roles within Scotland. 2021. [Available from: https://www.gov.scot/publications/transforming-nursing-midwifery-health-profession-nmahp-roles-review-clinical-nurse-specialist-nurse-practitioner-roles-within-scotland/pages/14/]
- 13 Jenkins, D. & Spence, C. The Career Pathways How-to-Guide. Brooklyn, NY: Workforce Strategy Center. 2006.
- 14 Halcomb, E., McInnes, S., Williams, A., Ashley, C., James, S., Fernandez, R., Stephen, C., & Calma, K. The Experiences of Primary Healthcare Nurses During the COVID-19 Pandemic in Australia. Journal of Nursing Scholarship. Australia. 2020.
- 15 Galanis, P., Vraka, I., Fragkou, D., Bilali, A., & Kaitelidou, D. Nurses' burnout and associated risk factors during the COVID-19 pandemic: A systematic review and meta-analysis. Journal of Advanced Nursing. 2021.
- 16 Nursing Now Challenge. Championing leadership development opportunities for student and early career nurses and midwives around the world. 2023. [Available from: https://www.nursingnow.org/]
- 17 Medical Journal of Australia. Harnessing the nursing and midwifery workforce to boost Australia's clinical research impact. 2022. [Available from: https://www.mja.com.au/ journal/2022/217/10/harnessing-nursing-andmidwifery-workforce-boost-australias-clinicalresearch#16]
- 18 Department of Health and Aged Care. National Health Workforce Dataset. 2022 [Available from: https://hwd.health.gov.au/nrmw-dashboards/index. html]
- 19 Department of Health and Aged Care. Independent review of health practitioner regulatory settings. 2023. [Available from: https://regulatoryreform.gov. au/sites/default/files/FINAL%20Independent%20 Review%20of%20Overseas%20Health%20 Practitioner%20Regulatory%20Settings%20-%20 Interim%20Report_1.pdf]
- 20 International Council of Nurses. Human resources for health. 2023. [Available from: https://www.icn. ch/membership/specialist-affiliates/nursing-policy/ icn-strategic-priorities/human-resources-health]
- 21 Vaghasiya, M., Poon, S., Gunja, N., & Penm, J. The impact of an electronic medication management system on medication deviations on admission and discharge from hospital. International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health. 2023.

