



Nurse Practitioner 10 Year Plan Consultation

What is the Nurse Practitioner 10 Year Plan?

The Department of Health is developing a Nurse Practitioner 10 Year Plan to describe work that can be done to improve nurse practitioner workforce issues and improve nursing care in Australia.

Why are we consulting?

We want to hear from people so we can understand what issues may have an impact on the delivery of care by nurse practitioners. We want to understand your experiences with nurse practitioners – the benefits you experienced, any problems you had, and how we can fix those problems.

Why your views matter

Your views will inform the Plan so that it reflects a wide variety of viewpoints.

How to have your say

To assist you a survey has been developed and is available on the Department of Health's Consultation Hub <https://consultations.health.gov.au/health-workforce/nurse-practitioner-10-year-plan-survey>

You do not need to answer all survey questions; you can answer as many or a few as you choose. If you would prefer, you can also provide a written submission to nursepolicy@health.gov.au.

Submissions close on 20 December 2021.

Background

A nurse practitioner is a registered nurse who has completed additional university study. They have the experience, expertise and legal authority to diagnose and treat people of all ages with various health conditions.

Australia currently has 2,251 nurse practitioners. Approximately one third of them work in regional, rural and remote areas. Nurse practitioners care for people in many different areas of our health system. These include hospitals, nursing homes, mental health services, and community-based primary healthcare services such as general practice and Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Centres.

As part of providing care, a nurse practitioner may:

- Perform advanced health assessments
- Provide preventative healthcare
- Diagnose and treat short-term and long-term illnesses
- Provide a complete episode of care without oversight from a medical practitioner
- Prescribe any medicine within their scope of practice
- Request any testing, such as blood tests and x-rays
- Refer patients to other health professionals

Nurse practitioners can provide services that attract patient rebates through Medicare and prescribe medicines with subsidy by the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS).

Nurse Practitioners work as key members of the healthcare team and collaborate with other nurses and healthcare professionals like GPs to ensure the best health outcomes for their patients.