



# COMMUNITY NURSING NEWSLETTER



Australian Government  
Department of Veterans' Affairs

No. 43 - November 2023

The *Community Nursing Newsletter* is being issued to provide Department of Veterans' Affairs Community Nursing program updates to providers.

## Updates to the Notes for Community Nursing providers



- The Notes for Community Nursing Providers (the Notes) have been revised to simplify information and update where required:
  - re-ordering of content to ensure a logical flow of information
  - removal of duplicate content
  - updates to COVID-19 and infection control requirements
  - Minimum Data Set (MDS) information moved from an attachment of the Notes to a quick reference guide, which is available on the [Community Nursing \(CN\) pages](#) of the DVA website
  - clarification on scope of the program, referrals and the care environment
  - differences between personnel and emphasis on the role of the registered nurse
  - simplification of palliative care information.
- The Notes will come into effect from the beginning of December 2023.
- The updated version of the Notes will also be available on the [DVA website](#) prior to the effective date.

## Introduction of Quality Standards

- DVA is making changes to the way we ensure quality and safety within the CN program by introducing quality standards to promote high quality care and services for DVA clients.
- The program will align with the strengthened Aged Care Quality Standards and will provide clarity about service standards and expectations and guide provider performance in delivering care for veterans.
- The strengthened Aged Care Quality Standards place a holistic focus on the individual. For the purpose of the DVA CN program, the term 'older person' will be interchangeable for 'veteran' or 'client'.
- DVA will implement an adaptation of the strengthened Aged Care Quality Standards with Standard 1 through to Standard 5 applying to the CN program:
  - Standard 1: The Person
  - Standard 2: The Organisation
  - Standard 3: The Care and Services
  - Standard 4: The Environment
  - Standard 5: Clinical Care





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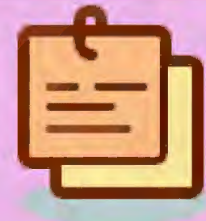
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### What do providers need to do?

- CN providers accredited with the Aged Care Quality and Safety Commission (ACQSC) are already aware the strengthened Aged Care Quality Standards come into effect in the aged care sector from 1 July 2024. DVA will accept providers accredited with the ACQSC as meeting the CN program quality standards.
- Commencing February 2024, CN providers without accreditation with the ACQSC will be contacted, to arrange a collaborative review of their current systems and processes for future alignment with the standards.
- DVA will communicate with providers ahead of the standards being introduced for the Community Nursing program. Providers can stay informed by reading the CN Newsletter and sharing with their staff.

### CN resources

- DVA recommends that providers share "[A guide for veterans, family members and carers](#)", with clients and family members. The brochure provides information on eligibility, nursing services, providing feedback and the rights and responsibilities for clients and CN providers.



### Feedback – Complaints, Compliments, Suggestions

- CN providers can submit feedback at any time via the [feedback page](#) on the DVA website. DVA will review all complaints and inform the CN provider of the outcome.

### National Nursing Workforce Strategy

- Consultation is now open to capture views on nursing workforce issues and opportunities for improvement. Face-to-face workshops around Australia and webinars are underway, to participate please see the below information from the Department of Health and Aged Care.





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### ***Have your say on the future of Australia's nursing workforce***

The Commonwealth and Victoria, in collaboration with all states and territories, are developing a National Nursing Workforce Strategy to address workforce challenges and support the nursing profession to deliver person-centred, evidence-based, compassionate care to Australian communities across all sectors now and into the future.

Consultation activities to capture views on nursing workforce issues and opportunities for improvement will run from September until the end of November 2023. Opportunities to have your say include targeted interviews, sector specific webinars, yarning circles, community conversations and an online survey.

Face-to-face workshops are scheduled around Australia:

- Devonport (TAS) 8 November
- Perth (WA) 14 November
- Bendigo (VIC) 22 November
- Hobart (TAS) 9 November
- Geraldton (WA) 15 November
- Melbourne (VIC) 24 November

Sign up to attend a workshop at [National Nursing Workforce Strategy Consultations | Australian Government Department of Health and Aged Care](#)

In addition, a range of webinars are available. Sign up to the one that best fits your current experience, role or area of interest. There are also sessions for providers in relevant industries.

Sessions include:

Early career nurses	Aged Care nurses	Nurse Practitioners
Nurses 5+ years' experience	Midwives	Acute healthcare providers
Nurse leadership	Internationally qualified nurses	Rehab/Community nurses
Primary Care providers	Rural and remote nurses	Digital health
Education institutions	Aged care providers	Former nurses
Casual/Agency nurses	Primary healthcare nurses	LGBTQIA+ community group
Future nurses and family	Student nurses/midwives	Mental Health nurses

To register for the webinars please visit [National Nursing Workforce Strategy: Webinars | Eventbrite](#) or scan the QR code:



For more information and other consultation opportunities please visit [www.health.gov.au/NNWS](http://www.health.gov.au/NNWS)

Please contact [nursepolicy@health.gov.au](mailto:nursepolicy@health.gov.au) if you have any questions at all.