

## ACMHN Strategic Plan - 2021-2026

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The Australian College of Mental Health Nursing (ACMHN) is the lead organisation representing mental health nursing. Its members include those working as clinicians and therapists, educators, managers, public servants and other administrators, researchers, and students. The ACMHN sets standards for practice, supports mental health nursing research and provides a forum for collegial support, networking and ongoing professional development for its members. The ACMHN also works to promote public confidence in and professional recognition of mental health nursing.

A mental health nurse holds specialist qualifications in mental health nursing and is registered as either an enrolled nurse (EN), registered nurse (RN) or nurse practitioner (NP). Taking a holistic approach, guided by evidence, the mental health nurse works in collaboration with people who are living with mental ill-health, their family and community, towards recovery as defined by the individual.

The scope of practice of mental health nurses in Australia encompasses a wide range of nursing roles, functions, responsibilities, accountabilities, activities and creativities, modalities, and innovations. It is founded upon a process of ethical decision-making and compassionate care underpinned by personal and professional reflection. This diversity is fundamental to promoting optimal physical and mental health, prevention of physical and mental illness, and providing therapeutic interventions and treatment to support the physical and mental health preferences and needs of individuals, communities, and population groups.

### **Our mission**

To set and promote standards for excellence in mental health nursing capabilities and therapeutic practice. These standards will solidify the drive towards recognition of mental health nurses as a nursing speciality and attract respect and dignity for mental health nurses and the consumers they work alongside. The ACMHN Constitution outlines further objects for which the College is established.

### **Our vision**






Advancing the profession of mental health nursing to enhance the mental health and wellbeing of all those living in our communities. Members work together to ensure the ACMHN is contemporary, thriving, and striving for excellence.

### **Our values**

The ACMHN is committed to a high level of professional behaviour from Board Directors, staff, volunteers and all who represent the College. We value integrity, compassion, professionalism, and aspiration.

## Priorities

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-  Expand the ACMHN membership including further development and support for local branches/networks and ACMHN Special Interest Groups (SIGs).
-  Work towards achieving improvements in the national regulation for mental health nursing and further lobby for increased pathways into the speciality.
-  Provide professional and strategic leadership focused on advocating for and advancing the needs and unique contributions of the mental health nursing workforce across local, state, and Commonwealth jurisdictions.
-  Offer a range of professional development opportunities for members that will contribute to the growth and continuous learning of mental health nurses and their scope of practice.
-  Strengthen governance provisions that ensure a robust and sustainable ACMHN that is capable of further engagement with and collective contributions of the members.