



AUSTRALIAN COUNCIL OF  
DEANS OF HEALTH SCIENCES

# Strategic Plan

2018-2021

# ACDHS 2018-2021 Strategic Plan

## Background and context

The Australian Council of Deans of Health Sciences (ACDHS) is a forum for representation, coordination and information sharing with the aims of developing a sustainable health workforce that is responsive to evolving system demands and promoting a broad cross-discipline approach to the development of national health policy.

As educators of allied health professionals, ACDHS sits at the nexus between health and education. As such, members are well placed to provide insights on the demands our future health workforce will face, and opportunities to improve the efficacy of their practice and the sustainability of the systems they will work in.

## Changing operational environment

Both the education and health sectors are facing challenging operational environments.

- Demand for health professionals is projected to continue to be amongst the highest of any employment sector for the foreseeable future.
- Population growth and structural ageing, increasing chronic disease, the needs, expectations and preferences of the community and persistent workforce shortages in rural and remote Australia are among the many factors influencing this demand.
- Maldistribution of the health workforce continues across geography, sectors and services.

Looking beyond these challenges we maintain our focus at the health system level and on the contributions across professions as we educate our future health workforce to deliver safe, high quality and appropriate health care to the Australian population and nearby economies.

## 2018 Priorities

Leadership and innovation in health professional education

Promoting excellence in research within the health and human service systems

Informing multidisciplinary health workforce planning and promoting health workforce research

## Consistent strategy

Provide a systems perspective in our actions and advocacy in the health and education sectors.

## Focus areas

Three key focus areas underpin our value and combine to create a unique platform for our action

1. Health Workforce Education
2. Health Systems and Services
3. Research Advocacy

## Health workforce education

Leadership and innovation in health professional education.

Contribute a systems approach to the development of national health and education policy.

Promote excellence in allied health professional education.

## Health systems and services

Promote the role and contribution of the allied health workforce within the evolving the health, disability and aged care systems.

Promote improvements in health in underserved areas and populations through education and workforce development.

## Research advocacy

Promote excellence in research within the health and human service systems.

Inform multidisciplinary health workforce planning and promote health workforce research.