



## Strategic Plan 2020-2023

### Context

Our Strategic Plan represents a collective leadership response to the challenges of the changing landscape of health and social care in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

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 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.

In developing our strategy, we have consulted with members and other stakeholders. Their views have informed the priority areas we need to focus on over the next three years. The actions required to deliver our objectives will be contained within our annual work plan. This is presented to Council annually for agreement. Council reviews progress mid way through our business year, and again at the end of the year.

### Our Purpose

*Who we are ...*

The Australian Council of Deans of Health Sciences (ACDHS) represents Australia's university faculties engaged in higher education and research for allied health professionals. As educators of allied health professionals, ACDHS sits at the nexus between health and education.

*What we do ...*

Providing a forum for representation with the aims of developing a sustainable health workforce that is responsive to evolving system demands our members provide insights on the demands our future

health workforce will face, improving the efficacy of professional practice and the sustainability of the systems they will work in.

## Our Focus

### Strategic Focus Area 1: Health Workforce Education

*We do this by ...*

Advancing innovation in health professional education

- Engaging with accreditors, government and the higher education sector to ensure curriculum supports the development of the future allied health workforce.
- Ensuring a systems perspective in our actions and advocacy in the health and education sectors.

### Strategic Focus Area 2: Health Systems and Services

*We do this by ...*

Promoting the value of allied health as a means of improving the health and wellbeing of the Australian community

- Promoting the role and contribution of the allied health workforce within the evolving health, disability and aged care systems that is underpinned by evidence.
- Influencing and advocating for sustainable workforce planning for allied health professionals.
- Promoting excellence in research within the health and human service systems.

