

The logo for the Australian Council of Deans of Health Sciences (ACDHS) features the acronym 'ACDHS' in a bold, white, sans-serif font. The text is centered within a white, irregular, star-like shape that has a slight 3D effect, appearing to float above a dark blue background. The background of the top left corner of the page is a dark blue triangle with a red and yellow border.

AUSTRALIAN COUNCIL OF  
DEANS OF HEALTH SCIENCES



## FEDERAL ELECTION STATEMENT

### BUILDING THE ALLIED HEALTH FUTURE WORKFORCE

Allied health represents around 25 per cent of the health workforce, yet it is often overlooked when it comes to reforming the healthcare system and future workforce planning. Tomorrow's allied health workers are an untapped resource who can help transform the level of care experienced by older Australians.

**The ACDHS is calling on the federal government to implement to the recommendations of the Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety. That means supporting initiatives designed to address an impending allied health skills shortage and improving access to preventative healthcare.**

Making aged  
care the career  
of choice.

[acdhs.edu.au](http://acdhs.edu.au)



### ACDHS WHO WE ARE

The Australian Council of Deans of Health Sciences (ACDHS) members represent universities teaching more than 83,000 students around the country. As a collective, we are the largest provider of undergraduate allied health education in Australia. We deliver the future pipeline of professional health workers who, alongside nurses and doctors, represent the third pillar of healthcare. We aim to drive excellence and innovation in allied health education and to promote a person-centered, multidisciplinary approach to healthcare delivery with a strong focus on preventative health programs.

**83k** Number of students  
taught at ACDHS  
Member Universities  
nationally

### ALLIED HEALTH MATTERS IN AGED CARE

The Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety has repeatedly highlighted the importance of the allied health professions. The report has detailed numerous recommendations calling for greater involvement in and funding mechanisms to support allied health practitioners to work in the aged care sector. And yet, there has been no budget or timelines allocated to achieving this goal. This must change.

We need to factor allied health into data analysis of the needs of our future aged care workforce so universities, the professions, industry, and policy makers can plan solutions together.

**25%** Percentage of the total  
healthcare workforce  
represented by Allied  
Health Professionals



LEAD  
INNOVATE  
ADVOCATE

## CAN'T BE WHAT YOU CAN'T SEE: MAKING AGED CARE THE CAREER OF CHOICE.

**Aged care must become a priority area in the health system and one which offers a career of choice to graduating allied health professionals.**

As the future workforce, what our students experience on their placements is important. Research shows it influences where they will ultimately choose to work.

Placements in the aged care sector are predominantly limited to acute environments. This does not represent the complexity of caring for older people in the community, at home, or in institutional settings. However, universities face barriers to extending these programs.

Improving the quality of education and on-site training, particularly in student placements, must become a priority. There must be additional incentives extended to aged care providers to develop the required clinical oversights needed to train future allied health professionals in best practice standards of care.

## WHY DOES THIS MATTER? IT MEANS CONTINUED SUBSTANDARD LEVELS OF CARE.

**Without suitable training experiences in a diverse range of settings, students will continue to ignore aged care as their career of choice.**

In a competitive environment, with a distinct shortage of skilled health professionals across all sectors, there is a real risk we will have higher levels of unmet demand for qualified allied health professionals in this industry in the future.



## FAST FACTS

**\$312**  
MILLION

Cost of the 27,569 avoidable admissions of residents from nursing homes to hospitals in 2021 (Source: AMA)

**#1**

Falls are the leading cause of fractures and injury-related hospitalisations in Australia in people aged 65 years and over.

**3%**

Percentage of health workers employed within residential aged care as full-time allied health professionals.

**8**  
MINUTES

Studies show the average access to allied health services in residential aged care is just eight minutes of care per day.

## THE ACDHS CALL TO ACTION:

Specifically, the ACDHS is calling for the following commitments from the next federal government to improve outcomes for ageing Australians:

- 1. Targeted funding to enable better models for student training to rapidly develop and scale the allied health aged care workforce.**
- 2. A commitment to planning for and providing broader funding for a multidisciplinary workforce,** with allied health a major component of all residential aged care services and in-home care packages.
- 3. Support for a detailed skills gap analysis of allied health in the aged care sector which will enable further development of workforce capabilities,** university training needs, and resourcing for the future.