



Strategic Plan 2024-2026(DRAFT)

Context

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

Demand for health professionals is projected to continue to be ahead of supply 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 strategic plan, we consult with members and other stakeholders. Priority plans are adopted through Board oversight and governance for implementation through an annual cycle. Development and implementation of our plan is in collaboration with our members that form the council.

Our Purpose

Who we are ...

The Australian Council of Deans of Health Sciences (ACDHS) brings together and represents member from Australia's university faculties engaged in higher education and research for allied health professionals.

What we do ...

ACDHS seeks to lead at the nexus of the education and health sectors and navigate complex contextual settings. Providing a forum for allied health member 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 Strategic Focus

Strategic Focus Area 1: Health Workforce Education

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 strategic and collaborative perspective in our actions and advocacy in the health and education sectors.

Strategic Focus Area 2: Health Systems and Services

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, advocating for and participating in sustainable workforce planning for allied health professionals.
- Advocating for funding and dissemination opportunities for research within the health and human service systems.

Strategic Objectives

Our areas of strategic focus will be implemented over a 1- and 3-year cycle across the following areas:

- 1) Workforce – including graduates, academic and diversity of the workforce.
- 2) Education – including innovation, clinical placements.
- 3) Employment contexts of allied health graduates.
- 4) Member services – including a collegial community of practice, point of contact for external stakeholders.
- 5) Accreditation.

