

MEDIA RELEASE

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TAFES LAUNCH NATIONAL ENROLLED NURSING ADVISORY COUNCIL

TAFE Directors Australia (TDA) is pleased to announce the establishment of the National Enrolled Nursing Advisory Council (NENAC). The council brings together experts in education and training for enrolled nursing from across Australian TAFEs to better represent and advocate for enrolled nursing education.

Enrolled nurses play a key role in the Australian health system, and their importance is growing across many areas of health and care in increasingly complex situations.

According to the Australian Industry and Skills Committee, future demand for enrolled nurse job roles is expected to increase over the next five years, and ensuring the quality of the education and training experience for enrolled nurses will be vital.

TDA CEO Craig Robertson said that NENAC would lead and represent those who provide education to student and graduate enrolled nurses in Australian TAFEs.

"NENAC aims to be a strong focal point of vocational education for enrolled nurses – something that has been missing from the sector up until now," Mr Robertson said.

As well as providing learned insights and strategic advice to both regulatory and core nursing and midwifery organisations on relevant policy and education matters, NENAC will advocate on behalf of enrolled nurses and promote quality in the delivery of enrolled nursing programs.

"Enrolled nurses operate in increasingly complex care contexts, particularly when you think about the COVID-19 pandemic. It is critical that their education and training is informed by professional practice and guided by experienced professionals," Mr Robertson said.

"The call for new capabilities expected of enrolled nurses needs contemporary education and training approaches, reflecting local, national and global health priorities beyond that prescribed within national training packages."

The work of the NENAC is also expected to support vocational education and training for other important allied health and care roles, as appropriate, which also have increased expectations.

Further information on NENAC can be found here.

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TAFE Directors Australia is the peak national body representing 28 TAFE institutes, including six dual sector universities with TAFE divisions and nine TAFEs that are also Non-University Higher Education Providers. The core business of TDA is supporting our member institutes and leading the advocacy for quality skills in Australia.