

# ACN Foundation Policy Fellows

## Expression of Interest

The Australian College of Nursing (ACN) invites expressions of interest (EOI) from Registered Nurses for the ACN Foundation Policy Fellows Program (program) for 2022.

The EOI is now open and closes at **9am AEDT, Monday, 6 December 2021**.

Launched in 2019, the program is Australia's first nursing-specific health policy fellowship and represents the ACN's Foundation's commitment to invest in the nursing profession towards improving health outcomes for all Australians.

Nurses undertaking the program will have the opportunity to gain the knowledge and skills to positively influence health policy development and implementation in Australia and internationally.

There are up to seven places available for 2022, and appointments are subject to a rigorous selection process.

## What you gain by undertaking the program

At the completion of the program, you will gain the following:

1. Highly developed research and writing skills specific to health policy and advocacy;
2. A nuanced understanding of health policy from a national and international perspective;
3. Media and other communication skills specific to advocating for nursing health policy, including political advocacy;
4. The opportunity to work with ACN's Fellows, Members, and other stakeholders;
5. Mentoring and guidance to further develop your skills as a next-generation nursing health policy leader; and
6. Exposure to senior nursing leaders and other external health policy experts.

## What you commit to as a Policy Fellow

The program requires a commitment of at least 10 hours per week for one calendar year, commencing in late January 2022.

Policy Fellows will actively participate in the specially designed program, which includes;

1. Six interactive online educational modules providing the theoretical basis to policy development and implementation, associated research and writing skills, types of policy documents and their purpose, and policy-related communication skills, including engagement with the media and key stakeholders such as politicians.
2. Four Master classes delivered by external policy experts with topics chosen from current health care policy issues.
3. Contributing to 'real time' policy projects chosen from ACN's strategic advocacy and policy priorities to obtain 'hands-on' policy development experience.
4. Attendance and participation in ACN's annual signature events including the Policy Summit and the National Nursing Forum.
5. Individual mentoring and support from ACN and ACN's Fellows and Members.

Upon completing the program, Policy Fellows are strongly encouraged to contribute to ACN's ongoing policy and advocacy work.

## Eligibility and selection criteria

The program is intended for nurses aspiring to advance their understanding of and contribution to national and international nursing health policy debate and discussion.

Applicants for the 2022 intake are required to meet two eligibility and five selection criteria as listed below. A guidance document to assist you in completing your application is attached. Please read it carefully before preparing and submitting your application. You do not need to be a member of ACN to apply.

### A. Eligibility Criteria

1. Applicants must be an early or mid-career registered nurse (RN) based in Australia and registered with the Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia (NMBA); **and**

Early-career and Mid-career nurse are defined as:

- **Early-career nurse**, an RN in their first five years of practice.
- **Mid-career nurse**, an RN who has worked in leadership roles within the health or aged care system but not at an executive level where executive level means a director or equivalent level role.

2. Willing and able to make a **one-year** commitment of **at least 10 hours per week** to the program.

Applications that do not meet the above eligibility criteria will not be considered.

### B. Selection Criteria

1. Demonstrated commitment to advancing nursing policy and advocacy;
2. Potential for leadership in nursing policy;
3. Anticipated impact of the program on the applicant's career, particularly regarding advancing nursing policy and advocacy;
4. Demonstrated ability to write well and to construct an argument; and
5. Demonstrated professional achievements in a clinical, education, policy, or academic setting.

Applicants who identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander who meet the eligibility criteria and who aspire to become leaders in advancing health policy for First Nations people, are strongly encouraged to apply.

### Referee reports

Although not a selection criteria *per se*, we ask that you submit two referee reports supporting your application, one of which must be from your line manager or academic supervisor, acknowledging their support of you undertaking this program.

Please make sure that each one includes the contact details for the referee as well as your name.

## Submitting your expression of interest (application)

You apply by submitting your expression of interest (application) electronically to [policy@acn.edu.au](mailto:policy@acn.edu.au).

The closing date and time is **9am AEDT, Monday, 6 December 2021**.

Before submitting your application, please ensure that you have completed all requirements. You will find a checklist at the end of the *Guide for Applicants* document below.

## Selection Process

The Selection Committee will consider the Expressions of Interest and assess each application in its entirety.

You will be notified in writing by mid-December 2021, advising the outcome of your application. The decision of the Selection Committee is final.

Please note your application will be considered an example of your writing skills.

## Further assistance

If you have any further questions about the program or require further assistance, please contact:

Linda Davidson FACN, National Director, Professional Practice; [Linda.Davidson@acn.edu.au](mailto:Linda.Davidson@acn.edu.au)

Dr Lexie Brans FACN, Policy Strategist; [lexie.brans@acn.edu.au](mailto:lexie.brans@acn.edu.au)

Personal or other identifying information in your application will only be used in accordance with ACN's Privacy Policy and for the sole purpose of assessing your application or providing information on the products and services of the Australian College of Nursing: see [Policies and assurance](#).