

Ms Marian Linnane Secretary Coalition of National Nursing and Midwifery Organisations By email: connmo@connmo.org.au

Dear Ms Linnane

The Australian College of Nursing has released our Position Statement on Leading Digital Health Transformation: The Value of Chief Nursing Information Officer (CNIO) This paper calls for recognition of this specialist role, recommending the establishment of a CNIO as part of the nursing workforce in every healthcare organisation to provide safer, better quality care.

Nurses play a critical role in ensuring clinical information and communication systems are designed and used to deliver high quality, coordinated care to all those engaged across the health care continuum in Australia. A CNIO has the expertise to support and drive successful planning, implementation, workforce adoption and management of both digital technologies and new models of care within any health care setting. For this reason, there is a growing recognition of the need for CNIO roles in healthcare organisations internationally, yet Australia has only begun to invest in these roles in the past few years, with Victoria being an early adopter to the value of CNIO/ CNMIO roles in health services.

Digital health technologies and information systems will continue to transform health care provision nationally. CNIOs are critical to the success of linking digital health, organisational change and clinical communities which have been demonstrated during the pandemic response. During this time, CNIOs were key in assisting electronic medical record systems in hospitals to evolve quickly to meet the needs of patients, enabling virtual models of care such as the virtual hospital model, which was supported by telemedicine and wearable devices.

ACN is the pre-eminent and national leader of the nursing profession. We are committed to our intent of advancing nurse leadership to enhance health care and strongly believe that all nurses, regardless of their job title or level of seniority, are leaders.

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We have attached a copy of the position statement for your information. If you have any further enquiries regarding the role of the Chief Nursing Information Officer or the intent of the position statement please do not hesitate to contact my office on 02 6283 3459 or at officeoftheceo@acn.edu.au.

Yours sincerely

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