



# australian nursing federation

3 August 2012

Adj. Assoc. Professor Karen Linegar FACN

President

The Australian Council on Healthcare Standards

5 Macarthur Street

Ultimo NSW 2007

president@achs.org.au

Dear Adj. Assoc. Professor Karen Linegar

## Review of ACHS Constitution

Thank you for inviting the Australian Nursing Federation (ANF) to provide input to the consultation process on the review of The Australian Council on Healthcare Standards (ACHS) Constitution.

With a membership of over 215,000, the Australian Nursing Federation (ANF) is the largest professional and industrial organisation in Australia for nurses, midwives, and assistants in nursing. Our members provide clinical care in all settings where health and aged care is delivered, across all geographical areas, and in particular, in ACHS accredited health care facilities. As such the ANF values our position as a member organisation of ACHS and representation on the Council through Mr Mark Kearin. We have a long-standing and on-going interest in the work of ACHS in monitoring the safety and quality standards of health care facilities in the interests of the Australian community.

The ANF supports all recommended amendments to the ACHS constitution and accepts the corresponding rationale provided for each change, as outlined in the papers accompanying your letter. We provide the following brief additional amendments:

- Rule 1.2(a)(iii) – given the significant contribution to health care by all health practitioners engaged in care delivery in health care facilities the ANF recommends that the amended wording “...through coordinated effort of the organised medical staff **and other health practitioners...**” be further amended to read “...**through coordinated effort of the organised health practitioners...**”. This amendment more accurately reflects the shared contribution of the health practitioner team in health care facilities;
- Rule 1.2(o) – we suggest that with the amendment, the words “to establish” are no longer appropriate to the sense of the sentence. Suggest rewording to read “**to establish a process for making available** information on all matters...”;
- Rules 10.4 (a) and (c) – the amendments to these Rules also apply to Rule 6.9(a) and (c) and Rule 7.1(a) and (c)

In relation to the further issue raised in your letter regarding the election of Board office bearers, the ANF considers that this function may appropriately be undertaken by the Board once elected.

Should you require any additional information or wish to discuss this matter further please contact Elizabeth Foley, Federal Professional Officer, on (03) 9602 8500 or [elizabethf@anf.org.au](mailto:elizabethf@anf.org.au) .

Yours sincerely,



**Lee Thomas**

Federal Secretary

The industrial and professional organisation for nurses and midwives in Australia

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