



**Allied Health
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MEDIA RELEASE

Allied Health Professions Day highlights essential health and social care workforce

Allied Health Professions Day – Thursday 14.10.21

Allied Health Professions Australia (AHPA) and its members are proud to support Allied Health Professions Day on Thursday, 14 October 2021. Allied Health Professions Day is an international event recognizing and celebrating the allied health workforce and the essential work they do.

Despite the expertise and value that the allied health sector offers, its contribution is often overlooked.

“Most people think of doctors and nurses when they think of healthcare, but Australia’s allied health professionals make up a third of Australia’s health workforce, making them the essential third pillar of our healthcare system”, said Claire Hewat, CEO, Allied Health Professions Australia.

“The allied health workforce includes a range of professions with specific clinical expertise that provide services across the health system and beyond to disability, aged care, education, social services. They work in multi-disciplinary teams to assess, diagnose, prevent and manage a myriad of conditions. Their work is crucial to achieving the best possible health outcomes for Australians. . It’s estimated that the allied health sector delivers 200+ million services each year to the Australian community.

“In the community, allied health professionals have an important role in primary care and in the prevention of chronic and complex conditions that pose the greatest health threats for Australians. In hospital settings, their work is vital for the success of many medical and surgical interventions.”

During the coronavirus pandemic, allied health professionals have worked against the odds to deliver services both in the hospital system but also in the community in face of extended and severe lock downs. Allied health are now standing shoulder to shoulder with nurses and doctors to undertake testing and vaccination duties. They have comprehensively embraced telehealth and are now bracing to shoulder the burden of delayed general care and COVID19 recovery.

“We expect that as Australia deals with the longstanding impact of COVID-19, there will be an increase in demand for allied health services, particularly rehabilitation and mental health services. This will include people recovering from coronavirus and also the backlog of cases from health services that were put on hold for the acute pandemic response,” said Ms Hewat.

Advocating on behalf of Australia’s allied health professions to create fairer and more equitable health, aged care and disability systems.



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“Allied health professionals provide more than ‘healthcare’ and ‘treatment’ in a medical sense. They’re integral to maintaining the wellbeing of Australians. By addressing risk factors for chronic diseases, providing education and self-care techniques, and supporting rehabilitation and maintenance of functionality, allied health professionals provide the essence of ‘person-centred care’ that goes beyond medical treatment.”

“Allied Health Professions Day is an opportunity to celebrate our allied health workforce and shine a light on the highly qualified health professionals that provide the services many Australians desperately need access to.”

We invite allied health professionals and our colleagues and clients to join us in celebrating Allied Health Professions Day on Twitter, LinkedIn, and Facebook by downloading our digital kit full of sharable content from our website; or sharing their story or photo using the hashtags #AHPsDay2021, #strongertogether and #alliedhealth.

Help us to highlight the important work of allied health professionals, and connect with peers from around the world.

CEO Claire Hewat is available for comment

Please direct media inquiries to Suzie Medhurst – Communications Manager 0448958682

About Allied Health Professions Australia

Allied Health Professions Australia (AHPA) is a collegiate body consisting of 20 national allied health association members and a further 14 affiliate members with close links to the allied health sector. AHPA’s members collectively represent over 130,000 allied health professionals who work across the primary, acute and tertiary sectors in Australia.

AHPA believes it is vital that allied health professionals are recognised for their work alongside the medical and nursing communities and for their potential to help shape and implement the healthcare system of the future. Supporting allied health professionals and making allied health services accessible will ensure that Australia has an integrated, comprehensive healthcare system that delivers world class care.

Please visit www.ahpa.com.au for further information about us.

ENDS

Audiology Australia, Australian Chiropractors Association, Australian Podiatry Association, Australasian College of Paramedic Practitioners, Australasian Society of Genetic Counsellors, Australian Association of Social Workers, Australian Society of Medical Imaging and Radiation Therapy, Australian Music Therapy Association, Australian Orthotic Prosthetic Association, Australian Physiotherapy Association, Australian Psychological Society, Australian New Zealand and Asian Creative Arts Therapies Association, Australian and New Zealand College of Perfusionists, Exercise and Sports Science Australia, Occupational Therapy Australia, Optometry Australia, Orthoptics Australia, Osteopathy Australia, Rehabilitation Counselling Association of Australasia, Speech Pathology Australia.