

Decades of leadership

Dr Tracey McDonald AM FACN

ACN would like to pay tribute to an exceptional leader in our profession, Dr Tracey Thérèse Anne McDONALD AM FACN GAICD RN., PhD., MSc(Hons), BHA., Dip.N.Ed., RM, upon her retirement.



Dr Tracey McDonald AM FACN is a highly valued Fellow and extremely influential nurse leader who has made an enormous contribution to both our profession and organisation throughout her distinguished career spanning across the health, education, nursing and aged care industries.

Tracey has extensive professional qualifications and broad knowledge of health services, management, nursing, ageing and social issues, which have informed her influential work on clinical outcomes, management, and national and international policy relating to health concerns and late age. Through her work as a world expert with the United Nations on policy issues around social inclusion, human rights, equity and a global society for all ages, she has played a role in triggering the process of developing a UN convention on the Rights of Older People.

During the course of her career, Tracey has been an active member of the professional nursing community and held several senior leadership positions. She has worked across all levels of management, policy development and review, clinical nursing, midwifery, health services, professional education and clinical research. This has included working as the Manager of Research, Policy and Professional Services at the Aged Care Association, Australia, as the Management Consultant of the Australian Nursing Homes and Extended Care Association (NSW), and as the Manager of Professional Services for the NSW

Nurses' Association. Tracey is a Professor of Ageing at the Australian Catholic University and Visiting Professor at the Wuhan University in China, focusing on older adults and life quality. This has seen her complete research and publish on Chinese issues around ageing, policy and practice.

Tracey's current role is as the Professor and RSL LifeCare Chair of Ageing. In this position, she has been working on clinical and management research in the broader field of ageing, exploring areas of interest involving clinical nursing outcomes, veteran health, quality management, mental health, dementia, mobility, wellness, informatics in aged care environments, and policy development around funding and quality for residential and community-based aged care.

Throughout her career, Tracey has led and contributed to numerous research and policy development projects, studies, reports, reviews and submissions. She has also delivered a large number of conference presentations, published work in copious academic journals and been actively involved in the development and review of curricula and management systems for nursing and health science fields to support high standards of teaching and assessment of clinical proficiency. Furthermore, Tracey has travelled extensively to share her knowledge and insights as an invited visiting scholar at numerous international universities and institutions around the world.

Tracey's commitment to nursing has also been largely defined by her membership, leadership and contribution to a number of professional bodies, expert groups and networks nationally and globally. This includes a ministerial appointment to the National Lead Clinicians Group, as a research reviewer for the World Alliance for Patient Safety and an appointment to the NSW Ministerial Advisory Council on Ageing. She has also held several Board, editorial, advisory and honorary positions during her career. Tracey is currently a Director on the Salvation Army Board of Management, Honorary Treasurer of the Prince Henry Hospital Trained Nurses Association and a Justice of Peace in NSW, as well as a member of editorial boards for a number of highly positioned academic journals.

In recognition of her significant professional accomplishments, Tracey has received various accolades and awards throughout her career. Most notably, in 2012, she was invested as a Member of the Order of Australia (AM) for her work in nursing, health and aged care, as well as national and international health and social policy.

Tracey has a long and active history with ACN. She first joined the College of Nursing (TCoN) in 1977 and the Royal College of Nursing, Australia (RCNA) in 1984. She was a Fellow of both organisations before unification, and remains a Fellow of ACN to this day.

Tracey has represented RCNA and ACN on a number of national and international professional bodies and

projects. This has included the International Council of Nurses 2009-2013 Bank of Experts, the Australian Nursing and Midwifery Federation Staffing and Skills Mix Project, and the National Aged Care Alliance, for nearly two decades.

Tracey has also made many other important contributions to our organisation, including collaborating with RCNA to set up a private practice model of nurse practitioner services for aged care in the ACT and delivering the Patricia Chomley Memorial Oration at the 2011 RCNA Annual Conference. Tracey has also been an assessor for the Department of Health and Ageing Aged Care Nursing Scholarships facilitated through RCNA, Chair for the RCNA Health and Wellbeing in Ageing Faculty, and Editor for ACN's academic refereed journal, *Collegian*.

Through her continued contributions, before and after unification, Tracey has played an integral role in establishing ACN as the national and pre-eminent leader of the nursing profession. We would like to thank her for playing such a key part in shaping the future of our organisation, look forward to her continued Fellowship and wish her all the best in the next stage of her life.