

Date: 29/10/2025

Professor Brendan McCormack Appointed Chair of CDNM

The Council of Deans of Nursing and Midwifery (Australia and New Zealand [CDNM]) is proud to announce the appointment of Professor Brendan McCormack as the new Chair of CDNM effective 29 October 2025.

Professor McCormack is Head of School and Dean at the Susan Wakil School of Nursing and Midwifery, University of Sydney, and Head of The CARE Program at Sydney Policy Lab. He is internationally recognised for his work in person-centred healthcare, with a focus on developing cultures, practices, and processes that support this approach.

A clinical nurse specialist in gerontology and dementia care, Professor McCormack is a Fellow of the European Academy of Nursing Science, Royal College of Nursing UK, Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland, and the American Academy of Nursing. He has authored over 700 publications. His contributions have earned him global recognition, including induction into the Sigma International Nurse Researcher Hall of Fame and the 2025 Paul Tournier Prize for his leadership in person-centred healthcare.

Professor McCormack succeeds Professor Karen Strickland, who has served as Chair since 2021. During her tenure, Professor Strickland has made a remarkable contribution to CDNM. She guided CDNM through major milestones, including a landmark agreement with CATSINaM and Wharangi Ruamano, and an international collaboration with the UK's Council of Deans of Health. Under her leadership, CDNM successfully advocated for the Commonwealth Prac Payment for nursing and midwifery students, introduced various new CDNM courses, broadened its membership, established new advisory committees, hosted two successful symposia, and restructured into a company limited by guarantee with a skills-based board and an appointed CEO. CDNM extends its sincere gratitude to Professor Strickland for her outstanding service and lasting contributions.

"We are delighted to welcome Professor McCormack as Chair," said CDNM CEO, Rachel Yates. We recognise the legacy left by Professor Strickland in her work with CDNM and are confident that Professor McCormack's leadership and extensive expertise will continue to guide our strategic direction and strengthen our impact."

Professor McCormack said, "I'm honoured to take on this role and look forward to working with the Board and CEO to advance nursing and midwifery education and research, champion policy reform, and help shape a sector that empowers our workforce to improve the health of our communities and nations."

About the CDNM

The Council of Deans of Nursing and Midwifery (Australia & New Zealand) (CDNM) is the peak organisation representing universities and other higher education institutions that offer undergraduate and postgraduate programs in nursing and midwifery throughout Australia and New Zealand.

Media Enquiries:

Chair, Council of Deans of Nursing and Midwifery (Australia & New Zealand)
comms@cdnm.edu.au
www.cdnm.edu.au/contact-us