

## CoNSA Strategic Plan 2017-2021

**PURPOSE:** The purpose of CoNSA is to act as a national professional interest group for nurses who have specialist knowledge and skills in continence care, whose member groups consist of State and Territory continence nursing bodies who are associated under CoNSA leadership.

**MISSION STATEMENT:** CoNSA is a national professional interest group of nurses who have specialist knowledge and skills in continence care. Continence nurses provide services which are an integral part of an interdisciplinary approach to care of people who have incontinence and other bladder and bowel problems. By supporting its' membership through advocacy, policy development, research, education, and establishment of clinical practice standards, CoNSA promotes continence across Australia.

**VISION STATEMENT:** CoNSA will maintain a high profile, authoritative, active and sustainable national body for continence nursing in Australia, promoting excellence in continence care.

**AIMS:**

1. Represent the interests of nurses and midwives in continence care;

GOAL	STRATEGY	OUTCOME	TIMELINE	RESPONSIBILITY
1.1 To ensure CoNSA is represented at a national nursing level as the peak body for continence nursing	CoNSA representative attends biannual Coalition of National Nursing and Midwifery Organisations (CoNNMO) and provides a report to each meeting	CoNSA is represented and has a voice for continence nursing through CoNNMO	Ongoing	CoNSA President and CoNSA Management Committee representative
1.2 To ensure CoNSA is represented within the Bladder and Bowel Collaborative (BBC)	CoNSA representative attends biannual BBC meetings overseen by the Continence Foundation of Australia (CFA)	CoNSA is represented as the nursing voice at the BBC meetings	Ongoing whilst the BBC is run	CoNSA Management Committee Representative
1.3 To ensure CoNSA is represented on appropriate State and National advisory groups	CoNSA representative attends advisory group meetings overseen by the governing body	CoNSA is represented as having clinical expertise in continence nursing within these groups	Ongoing	CoNSA Management Committee Representative

2. Promote and protect the role of specialist continence nurses;

<b>GOAL</b>	<b>STRATEGY</b>	<b>OUTCOME</b>	<b>TIMELINE</b>	<b>RESPONSIBILITY</b>
2.1 To review the CoNSA Competencies/Standards for Practice to clarify the role of the Nurse Continence Specialist	The CoNSA Competencies/Standards for Practice are reviewed using the structure of the Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia (NMBA) Registered Nurse Standards for Practice. Feedback is sought from CoNSA members on the review drafts. The final draft is presented to CoNSA members for ratification at a CoNSA Annual General Meeting	CoNSA Standards for Practice are reviewed and adopted by CoNSA to guide practice of the nurse continence specialist within Australia	2016-2017	CoNSA Professional Issues and Education Sub-committee, CoNSA President and CoNSA Management Committee
2.2 To promote CoNSA and continence nursing through the CFA Journal (Australian and New Zealand Continence Journal)	Develop an article for publication within the CFA Journal quarterly	The awareness of CoNSA is increased to continence nurses within Australia	Ongoing	CoNSA Management Committee
2.3 To ensure post graduate continence/tertiary level nursing education continues to be available	Active promotion of post graduate continence education programs to encourage enrolments, including via the CoNSA website and through relationships with educational institutions	The specialty of continence nursing throughout Australia is sustained with post graduate education to allow for the growth of the profession and succession planning	Ongoing	CoNSA Management Committee and Professional Issues and Education Sub-committee
2.4 To clarify the use of the title Nurse Continence Specialist (or equivalent)	Support the development of a position paper on the use of the Nurse Continence Specialist title in Australia	The Nurse Continence Specialist title is clarified and protected	2017-2021	CoNSA Management Committee and Professional Issues and Education Sub-committee

3. Develop and sustain quality organisational governance processes;

<b>GOAL</b>	<b>STRATEGY</b>	<b>OUTCOME</b>	<b>TIMELINE</b>	<b>RESPONSIBILITY</b>
3.1 To implement and maintain effective and contemporary governance strategies to allow for the forward development of CoNSA to suit our member needs	Develop and regularly review position descriptions (within constitution) and terms of reference for committee member roles and sub-committee governance. Actively approach CoNSA members who may bring specific skill sets and knowledge to enhance CoNSA Management Committee and its sub-committees	CoNSA Management Committee is well balanced, accountable and productive	Ongoing	CoNSA Management Committee

4. Provide comprehensive, useful services to members;

<b>GOAL</b>	<b>STRATEGY</b>	<b>OUTCOME</b>	<b>TIMELINE</b>	<b>RESPONSIBILITY</b>
4.1 To ensure the CoNSA Website is up-to-date and provides useful information to CoNSA members	The CoNSA Website is updated and reviewed regularly. Hits to the website are monitored on a regular basis. Feedback is sought from CoNSA members on the usefulness of the website and if any changes are requested	The CoNSA website is current and useful for CoNSA members	Ongoing	CoNSA Communication Sub-committee and CoNSA President

5. Develop positive and productive relationships with all levels of government and non-government organisations, industry, professional and consumer organisations;

<b>GOAL</b>	<b>STRATEGY</b>	<b>OUTCOME</b>	<b>TIMELINE</b>	<b>RESPONSIBILITY</b>
5.1 To maintain positive relationship with the CFA	Face-to-face, phone or email contact is made with the CFA Chief Executive Officer at least quarterly	CoNSA and the CFA have regular contact and maintain a good working relationship	Ongoing	CoNSA President
5.2 To work with Independence Australia (IA) and Tena in sponsoring the annual CoNSA Dinner and scholarships to attend the CFA Conference	Regular updates/meetings are held between IA/Tena and the CoNSA President on the progress in organising the CoNSA Dinner and conference sponsorship	The annual CoNSA Dinner is well attended by CoNSA members	2016 and then review	CoNSA President and CoNSA Management Committee
5.3 To encourage industry to offer scholarships to CoNSA members to attend national and international conferences etc	Maintain relationships with existing and new industry groups to encourage the provision of scholarships and ensure that conditions of the scholarship are met	The scholarships continue to be offered by industry to CoNSA members	Ongoing	CoNSA President and CoNSA Management Committee

6. Promote evidence-based continence care that places the person with continence needs and their family at the centre of the care;

GOAL	STRATEGY	OUTCOME	TIMELINE	RESPONSIBILITY
6.1 To generate, encourage and promote client centred, evidence based research conducted by or relevant to the CoNSA membership	Create a research network through the CoNSA website. Promote the availability of research grants and highlight relevant research papers through the CoNSA website	Sharing and dissemination of research related information that is underway or completed, including a publications list, is to made available to CoNSA members. An opportunity for collaborative research within and between states and territories and CoNSA members is created	Ongoing	Professional Issues and Education Subcommittee and Communication Subcommittee
6.2 To review the CoNSA 'Position statement of patient re-use of urinary catheters for intermittent catheterisation and urinary drainage bags' developed in 2008	Current research and Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) guidelines are considered in the review of the position statement as relevant to the re-use of urinary catheters for intermittent catheterisation and urinary drainage bags	Position statement is updated and placed on the CoNSA website	2016-2018	CoNSA Management Committee and Professional Issues and Education Subcommittee
6.3 To review existing research and participate in independent product research projects, as appropriate, that impact on the use of continence products in Australia	CoNSA members provide feedback and input into the development and use of continence products	Good quality, useful and cost effective continence products are available to the Australian population which are used safely and appropriately	Ongoing	CoNSA Management Committee

7. Advocate for the interests of people with incontinence and other bladder and bowel issues, their families, carers and unregulated workers;

<b>GOAL</b>	<b>STRATEGY</b>	<b>OUTCOME</b>	<b>TIMELINE</b>	<b>RESPONSIBILITY</b>
7.1 For CoNSA members to advocate on behalf of people affected by bladder and bowel control issues	CoNSA state and territory branches provide educational opportunities to CoNSA members that increase their knowledge, confidence and networks	CoNSA members are empowered through their association/membership with CoNSA and our membership network to speak up for continence issues that affect their community	Ongoing	CoNSA Management Committee

8. Provide, support and promote education on continence care;

<b>GOAL</b>	<b>STRATEGY</b>	<b>OUTCOME</b>	<b>TIMELINE</b>	<b>RESPONSIBILITY</b>
8.1 To develop a national education plan based, on best practice, for CoNSA members with regard to vaginal and rectal examination undertaken as part of a comprehensive continence assessment (see 10.1)	An educational plan is developed based on the survey results from research undertaken involving CoNSA members (see 10.1)	CoNSA members learning needs are addressed with regard to vaginal and rectal examinations	2017-2018	CoNSA President and CoNSA Professional Issues and Education Sub-committee

9. Contribute to policy on continence care; and

<b>GOAL</b>	<b>STRATEGY</b>	<b>OUTCOME</b>	<b>TIMELINE</b>	<b>RESPONSIBILITY</b>
9.1 To represent the interests of continence nurses and contribute to policy on continence care	CoNSA members make contact with relevant agencies and create a voice to raise issues with regard to policies that affect continence care. Up-to-date information or useful links are provided to CoNSA members, including via the CoNSA website	People with continence issues are appropriately referred to continence nurses in a timely manner and appropriate continence care is provided. Continence nurses are appropriately reimbursed for the continence care they provide	Ongoing	CoNSA Management Committee

10. Promote research that will contribute to evidence based practice for continence care.

<b>GOAL</b>	<b>STRATEGY</b>	<b>OUTCOME</b>	<b>TIMELINE</b>	<b>RESPONSIBILITY</b>
10.1 To undertaken research into CoNSA members' knowledge, skill and confidence in attending vaginal and rectal examinations as part of a comprehensive continence assessment	Develop application for a research project and look for research funding opportunities	To gain an insight into the learning needs of CoNSA members with regard to vaginal and rectal examinations for the development of a national education plan	2016-2018	CoNSA President and CoNSA Professional Issues and Education Sub-committee
10.2 To undertake research into the CoNSA members' profile including educational and workforce issues	Develop application for a research project and look for research funding opportunities	To determine the profile of CoNSA members/Nurse Continence Specialists in Australia and clarify educational and workforce issues	2016-2018	CoNSA President and CoNSA Professional Issues and Education Sub-committee