

National Diabetes Nursing Education Framework

This information sheet is for nurses working with people who have diabetes.

Diabetes is the fastest growing chronic condition in Australia. In March 2020 there were just over 1.35 million Australians registered with the National Diabetes Services Scheme as living with diabetes. This represents about 5% of the Australian population.

People live with diabetes 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days of the year. The condition requires careful management by each person living with diabetes.

As nurses, you are important members of the health care team that supports people living with diabetes. When you work in partnership, better outcomes can be achieved.

What is the National Diabetes Nursing Education Framework?

The aim of this new framework is to guide the development of a skilled nursing workforce that is capable of providing a high standard of diabetes care.

The National Diabetes Services Scheme funded the Australian Diabetes Educators Association to develop the framework and related online modules. Credentialed Diabetes Educators and other expert diabetes nurses led the development of this framework, and many other nurses helped by giving feedback and sharing their ideas.

“Remember everybody is different and that we have lived with our condition for a number of years - often we in a practical way know what is best for us. Try and work with us to improve our journey.”

Person living with type 2 diabetes

“Diabetes is a chronic health condition that takes a lot of time and hard work. It also never takes a break.”

Person living with type 1 diabetes



Your trusted partner in diabetes care

ADEA is a National Health Professional Body Agent for the NDSS.



The NDSS is administered by Diabetes Australia

The framework has three parts.

- » **Part One** describes four nursing practice levels in diabetes care: foundation, proficient, specialist and expert. There is also a pathway for nurses who want to build their competence and specialisation in diabetes
- » **Part Two** outlines diabetes care and management competencies at each nursing practice level
- » **Part Three** contains knowledge and skill statements listed under different aspects of diabetes care. Developing your knowledge and skills will help you to achieve the competencies listed in Part Two

The framework is for all nurses, and it covers all types of diabetes across different ages and stages of life.

An online learning package complements the framework, helping you gain the foundation-level knowledge identified in the framework.

How will the framework help nurses?

The framework will help you to:

- » evaluate your own diabetes knowledge and skills
- » plan for professional development
- » explore a career in diabetes education and the pathway to status as a Credentialed Diabetes Educator with the ADEA
- » mentor junior nurses and nursing students
- » understand performance expectations in the workplace, according to levels of practice and your practice setting.

The framework will also help:

- » **workplaces** to benchmark appropriate nursing performance standards, plan professional development for nurses, and develop diabetes-focused policies and procedures
- » **universities and other education institutions offering nursing qualifications** to plan learning programs for student nurses and ensure their graduates gain the necessary baseline knowledge and skills in diabetes care
- » **people living with diabetes, their families and carers** to understand what to expect of you as a nurse caring for the person with diabetes. The framework will also help you decide in consultation with the health care team when the person may need to see a specialist or expert nurse, or a Credentialed Diabetes Educator.

More information

You may not have seen the framework yet as it is relatively new.

To view the framework go to ndss.com.au/health-professionals-resources.

If you would like to ask any questions about the framework, call the Australian Diabetes Educators Association on **02 6287 4822** or send an email to inquiries@adea.com.au.