

## About the National Diabetes Nursing Education Framework

### This information is for nurses supporting people living with diabetes.

In January 2025 the National Diabetes Services Scheme (NDSS) had over 1.5 million people living with diabetes registered. This was just over 5% of the Australian population.

As nurses, you are important health professionals that support people living with diabetes. When you work in partnership with the person with diabetes and other diabetes health professionals, better outcomes can be achieved.

### What is the National Diabetes Nursing Education Framework?

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

The NDSS funded the Australian Diabetes Educators Association to develop the Framework and related online modules. The Framework was developed through co-design with credentialed diabetes educators (CDEs) and other nurses including expert diabetes nurses.

*“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

## The Framework has 3 parts.

- » **Part 1** describes 4 nursing practice levels in diabetes care:
  - foundation
  - proficient
  - specialist
  - expert.
- There is also a pathway for nurses who want to build their competence and specialisation in diabetes.
- » **Part 2** outlines diabetes care and management competencies at each nursing practice level.
- » **Part 3** 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 2.

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. The learning package will be available soon.

## How will the Framework help nurses?

The Framework will help you:

- » evaluate your own diabetes knowledge and skills
- » plan for professional development
- » explore a career in diabetes education and the pathway to status as a CDE with 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 CDE.

### More information

To view the Framework go to [ndss.com.au/health-professionals-resources](https://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 7173 1000** or send an email to [inquiries@adea.com.au](mailto:inquiries@adea.com.au).