



anf policy

australian nursing federation

admission to and discharge from health services

It is the policy of the Australian Nursing Federation that:

1. All health services should have in place admission and discharge protocols as these are fundamental to ensuring safe, adequate and continuing care across all health delivery contexts and to ensuring the effective use of resources.
2. Admission and discharge planning occurs through a multidisciplinary team approach which should include relevant health professionals as well as the person receiving care and their carers.
3. Admission of people to health services should only occur if the appropriate staffing levels and skills mix of nursing or midwifery staff are available to provide care, including specialist nursing or midwifery care.
4. The director of nursing and midwifery or the nurse or midwife manager of the health service or unit must have the discretionary power to refuse admissions if inpatient beds, resources or staffing levels and skills mix are not adequate to provide safe care for the person. It is the responsibility of health service managers to have mechanisms in place if admissions are refused to provide the person with appropriate alternate care.
5. Any discharge from health services of people requiring continuation of nursing or midwifery care should only occur where the appropriate nursing and midwifery services and resources are available in the community to meet the person's nursing or midwifery needs as assessed by the community nursing and midwifery service.

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