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Development of a Melanoma Nursing Advanced Practice Pathway

A consensus driven approach

Sharon de Graves

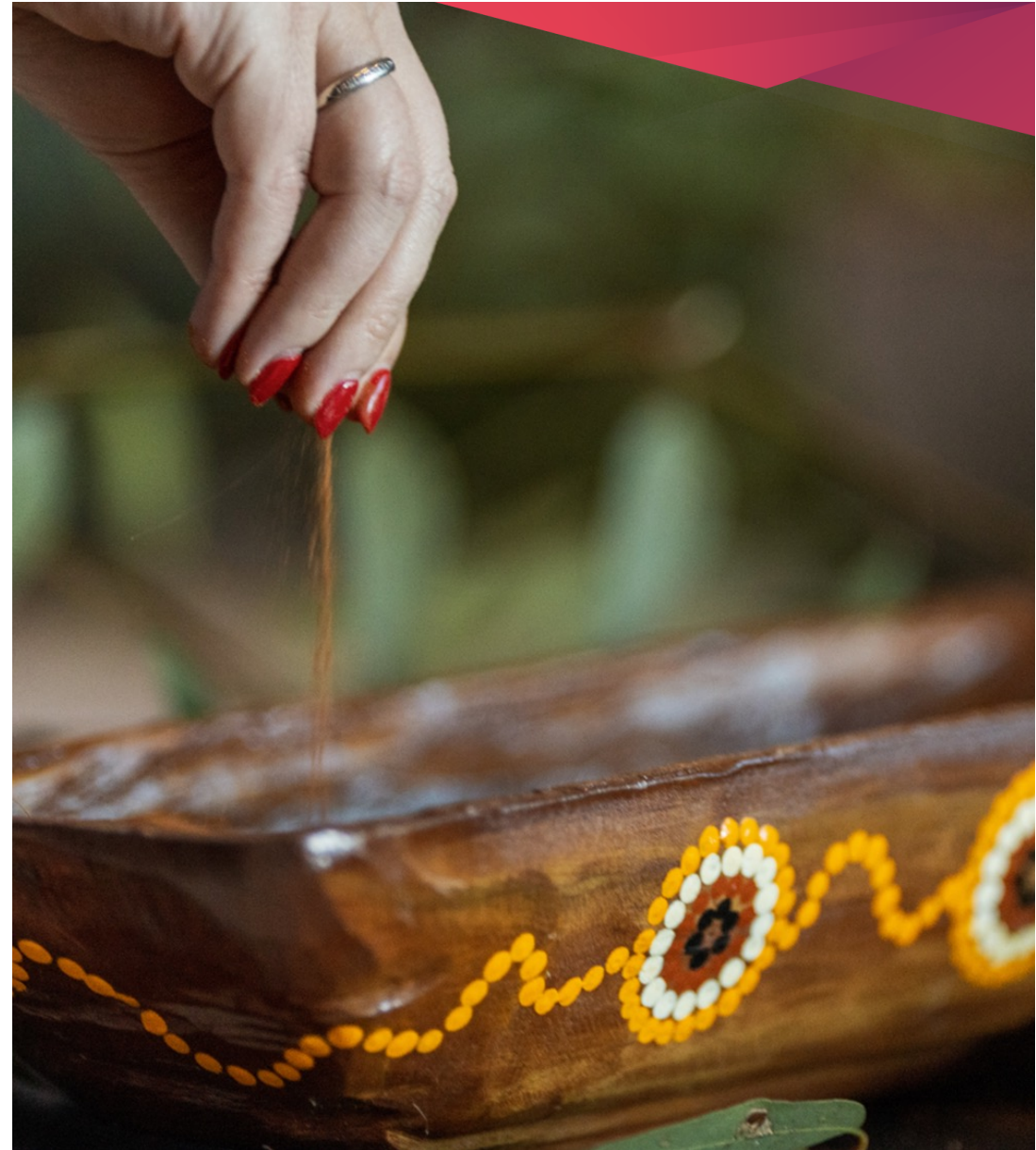
VCCC Alliance
Victoria, Australia



Acknowledgement

The VCCC Alliance acknowledges the Traditional Owners of Country throughout Australia, and their continuing and deep connections to land, sky, waters and community.

We pay our respect to Elders past and present and are committed to honouring Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures and promoting reconciliation.





Appreciation

We acknowledge the individual and collective expertise of people with experience of ill health and recovery.

We honour the courage of those who share the unique expertise of a lived experience.

We appreciate their contribution as equal and active partners in health system transformation.

Background



Australia has highest melanoma incidence globally



~17,443 cases expected annually¹



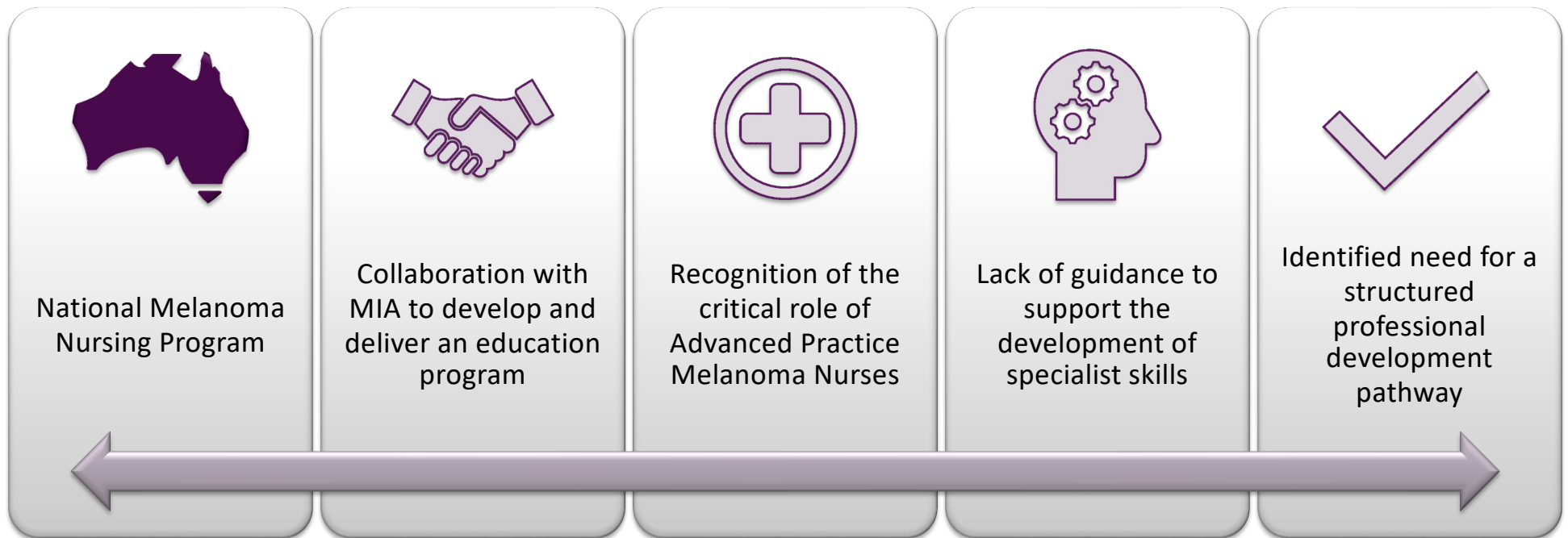
Advances: immunotherapy & targeted therapies



Greater complexity in patient management

¹ Australian Institute of Health and Welfare. Cancer data in Australia. (AIHW, Canberra, 2024).

Background



Why it matters

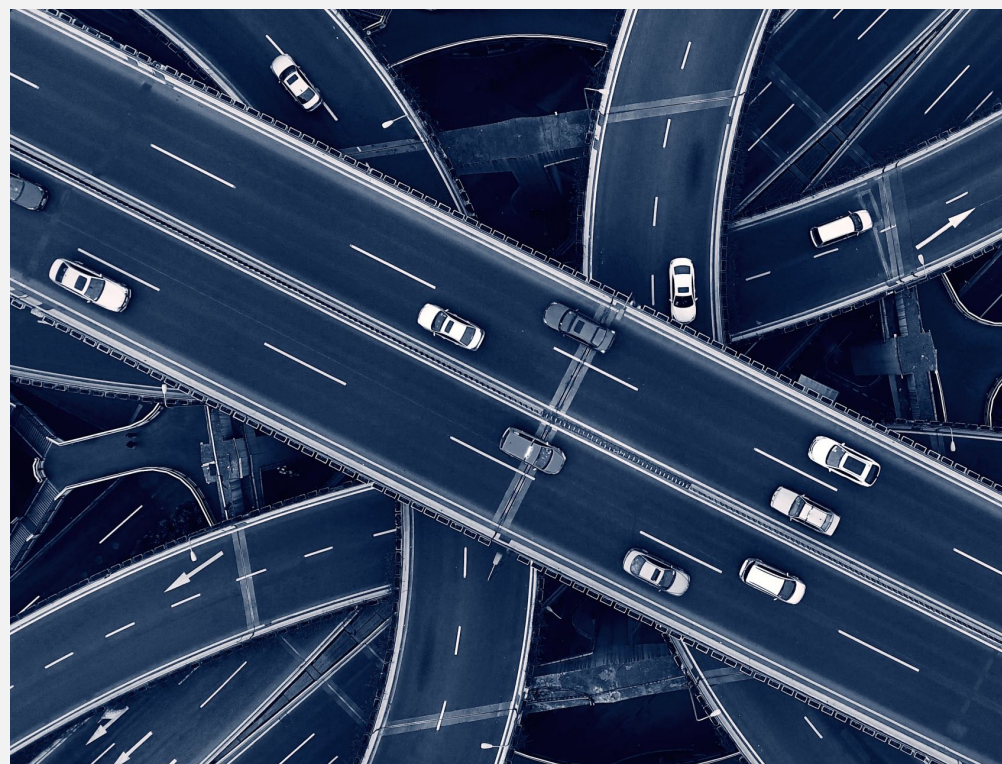
- Standardised capabilities to deliver consistent care
- Diverse and geographically spread population
- Equitable care, reducing disparities
- Growing demand for skilled melanoma nurses



Why now

- Supporting advanced practice pathways
- Addressing international workforce concerns
 - Global cancer workforce shortage projected to reach 100M by 2050 (65M nurses)¹
- Alignment with CNSA Cancer Nursing Capability Framework

¹Hricak H, Ward Z, Moraes F et al.(2026) **Cancer workforce—a global crisis: a *Lancet Oncology* Commission.** The Lancet Oncology; 27, e279-e316

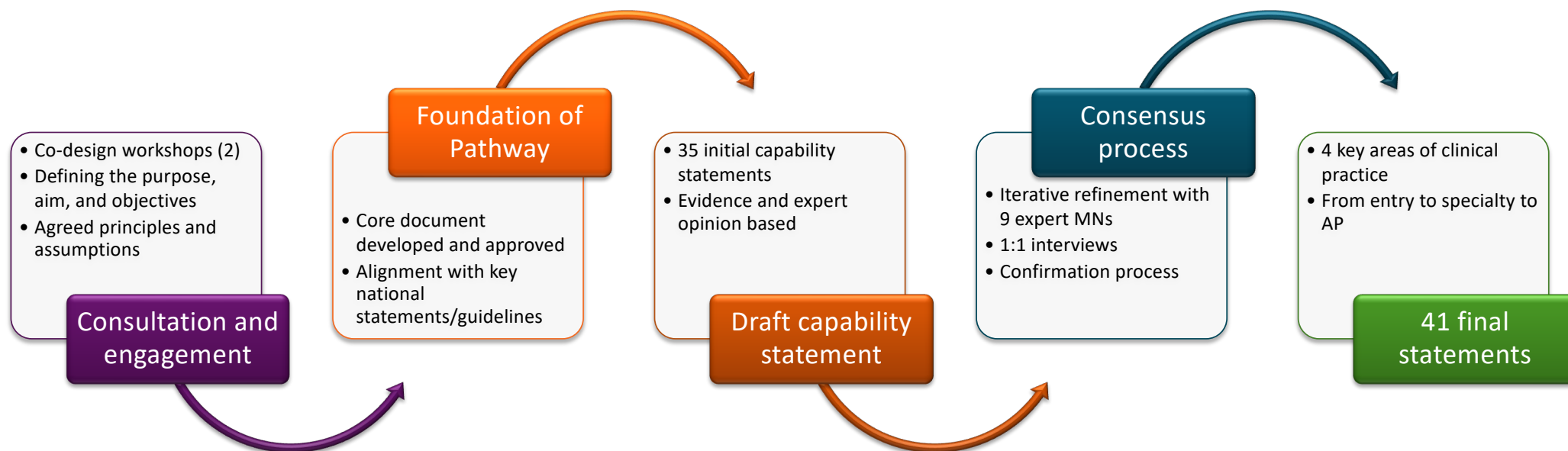




Project Aim

- Develop a structured professional development pathway for melanoma nurses
- Support progression from entry to specialist level to advanced practice
- Build capability, confidence, and consistency
- Embed consumer priorities across the pathway

Design and development



Purpose of the Pathway

To establish a professional development pathway for Melanoma Nurses that strengthens workforce expertise, supports the system, and optimises patient outcomes through personalised, evidence-based care.

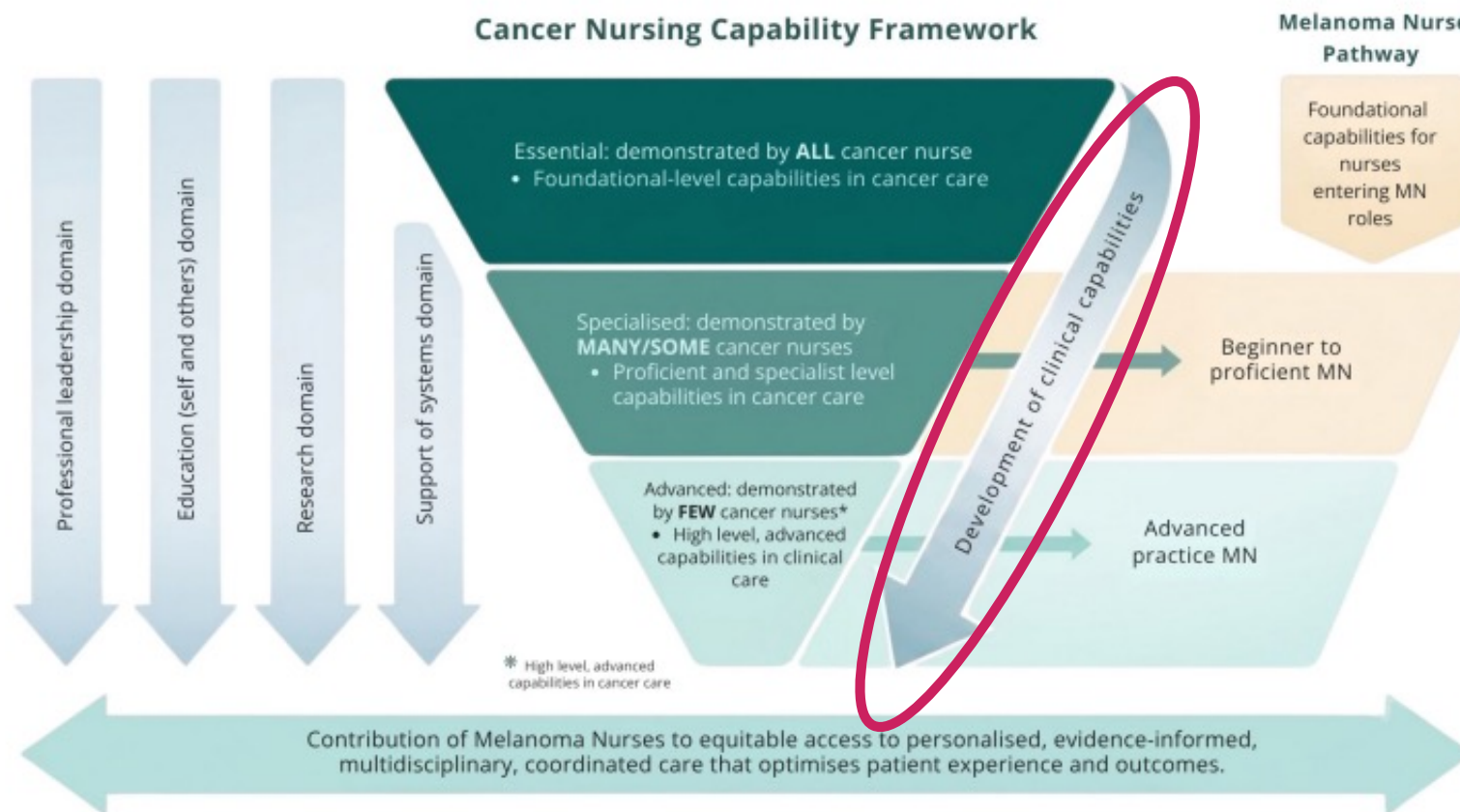
Agreed principles

- Avoid duplication
- Align with contemporary understandings of advanced practice
- Integrate with national nursing frameworks and pathways
- NMBA domains of practice
 - Clinical
 - Professional leadership
 - Education
 - Research
 - Support of systems
- CNSA Cancer Nursing Capability Framework
 - Specialised level

“...nurses practising at an advanced practice level incorporate professional leadership, education, research and support of systems into their practice. Their practice includes relevant expertise, critical thinking, complex decision-making, autonomous practice and is effective and safe. They work within a generalist or specialist context, and they are responsible and accountable in managing people who have complex healthcare requirements”²

²Chief Nursing & Midwifery Officers Australia (2020) Advanced Nursing Practice: Guidelines for the Australian Context. Office of the Chief Nursing and Midwifery Officer, Department of Health, Canberra, ACT.

Melanoma Nurse Pathway



Clinical capability statements

- 41 agreed capability statements
- 4 clinical domains identified
 - Knowledge of melanoma
 - Advanced clinical knowledge & application
 - Assessment & monitoring
 - Multidisciplinary coordinated care
- Supports progression from entry to specialty to advanced practice
- Supports national standardisation



Clinical capability statements

No.	Melanoma Nurse clinical practice capability statements	Beginner to proficient MN	Advanced practice MN
1. Knowledge and understanding of melanoma			
1.1	Describe the pathophysiology, staging, and diagnosis of melanoma	●	
1.2	Explain the various treatment modalities (for example, surgery, radiotherapy, immunotherapy, targeted therapy, other systemic treatments) for melanoma	●	
1.3	Identify and explain common melanoma treatment related side effects and adverse events	●	
1.4	Identify rare side effects associated with melanoma treatment and escalate for management	●	
1.5	Explain surgical care management in the context of melanoma, including post-operative wound assessment and care, pain management, infection prevention, and other complications	●	
2. Advanced clinical knowledge and application			
2.1	Demonstrate a comprehensive and up-to-date understanding of the genetics of melanoma, the clinical implications (such as treatment modalities and prognosis) of various mutations, and the integration of this knowledge into individualised patient care and education		●
2.2	Understand and describe the pathophysiology of complex cases of melanoma, including rare presentations and complications		●

Impact of the Melanoma Nurse Pathway



Addresses
critical
workforce gap



Provides
melanoma
specific
capability
framework



Supports
future-ready
nursing
workforce



Opportunity
for National
adoption

Acknowledgements

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Thank you

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