

Ged Williams Awarded Officer of the Order of Australia

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Congratulations to Professor Ged Williams, RN, Bach. App. Sc. (Midwifery), Crit. Care Cert., LLM, MHA, GAICD, FACN, FACHSM, FAAN, the founder and co-editor of the *International Journal of Critical Care* (previously *Connect*), who was recently



Figure 1.
Ged Williams

awarded the prestigious Officer of the Order of Australia. Currently, Professor Williams is the Chief Nursing Officer and Executive Director of Nursing at Alfred Health, a leading tertiary teaching hospital in Melbourne, Australia (Figure 1). Ged has qualifications in nursing, midwifery, critical care, public sector management, health administration, corporate governance, and law, and holds adjunct appointments with a number of universities as well as external board responsibilities related to nursing and healthcare.

Ged's contribution to critical care nursing has been global and impactful. He is the founding President of the Australian College of Critical Care Nurses (ACCCN, 1999) and the World Federation of Critical Care Nurses (WFCCN, 2001) and served on the board of the World Federation of Societies of Intensive and Critical Care Medicine (2001-9). Ged received the Life Member award from ACCCN in 2001 and a Lifetime Fellows award from WFCCN in 2016.

Ged has provided mentorship to hundreds of emerging critical care nursing leaders worldwide and has helped many establish national and regional critical care nursing societies and federations, and advised on policy

and practice in critical care in many countries over the years. Ged is also the Patron of the African Federation of Critical Care Nurses and a representative on the African Sepsis Alliance. He has published many journal and research articles, book chapters and is co-editor of a smaller number of books, and he supports many other healthcare journals and academic pursuits.

In more recent years, Ged has provided significant philanthropy to assist healthcare and healthcare workers and their communities in low-resource countries, including his role as Chair of the Advisory Board to Essential Healthcare for All Foundation (EHFAF), which is a registered healthcare provider and higher education institution in Cameroon with ambitions to replicate the model elsewhere in Africa.

The Order of Australia is the pre-eminent way Australians recognise the outstanding achievements and service of their fellow citizens. Community members nominate candidates to the Council for the Order of Australia, which makes recommendations to the Governor-General. Nominees must demonstrate achievement at a high level, have contributed over and above what might be reasonably expected through paid employment, or whose voluntary contribution to the community stands out from others who have also made a valuable contribution. We can think of no one more deserving than Ged Williams. Thank you to Ged for all that you do for critical care practice worldwide.



Figure 2.

First meeting of World Federation of Critical Care Nurses, held in Sydney, Australia, on 30 October 2001