



**Lead, represent, develop and support Australian critical care nurses**

## **COVID-19 pandemic and the ACCCN response – a message from the CEO**

For quite some time now the COVID-19 pandemic has challenged all of us in different ways. In recent months the focus has quite rightly turned to the frontline clinical staff working tirelessly to meet the needs of patients effected by this disease. It is fair to say that many of these frontline clinical staff are experiencing levels of stress that most of us have not experienced throughout our entire lifetimes. Paradoxically others are experiencing different type of stress, waiting to see what the future holds. Some have somewhat flippantly coined this “pre-traumatic stress syndrome” but I think many of you will agree that this type of stress is indeed legitimate. Many of you may be contributing in an equally vital way to ensure that front line nursing staff are well supported and educated. Many have come out of retirement to help. Regardless of your individual circumstances this is a time when nursing is demonstrating its importance and relevance to our society.

Nurses are leading the way in this pandemic. It is nurses that are providing care for these patients. It is nurses wearing personal protective equipment for long shifts and working in isolation from their peers. It is nurses that are proning these patients. Many nurses are working above their comfort level. It is nurses that are vaccinating the population. It is nurses that are meeting extra-curricular requirements to provide education to university students so they can step up to assist the profession in this challenge. It is clear that nursing numbers are more important than the number of ventilators we have. It is the quality of critical care nursing care that will save lives. It is the empathy that nurses provide when patients need it most that will define the value of our response to this challenge.



While this health crisis is affecting us all in various ways, the intensive care patients are receiving in Australia is at the highest level in the world. We should all proudly acknowledge our collective contribution.

The standard of critical care nursing in Australia is amongst the best in the world. The ACCCN National Board is working hard for its members during the COVID-19 pandemic. Together with other expert ACCCN members, they have been volunteering their time to provide support to the Australian critical care community during this challenge. Some of the activities ACCCN representatives have been involved in are listed below:

- ACCCN provides ongoing input into the National COVID 19 Clinical Evidence Taskforce. This group meets fortnightly and continues to provide evidence-based recommendations for clinicians at the bedside.
- ACCCN is a core member of the Critical Care Advisory Group (CCAG). The purpose of the CCAG is to provide expert advice to the Office of the Chief Medical Officer on emerging issues identified in the critical care environment, provide recommendations where appropriate, and represent the interests of critical care clinicians involved in responding to the COVID-19 pandemic.

- ACCCN hosts the Critical Care Nursing Workforce Advisory Group. This group advises the Chief Nursing and Midwifery Office (CNMO) of Australia on matters relating to the critical care nursing workforce. The advisory group is a collective of nursing representatives on the CCAG group, state presidents and nursing clinical leaders/experts nominated by the State Presidents.
- ACCCN continues to provide important critical care nursing representation and input in the ANZICS COVID-19 Guidelines. Version 5 has been completed. The National President sits on the Editorial Board. This position continues to strengthen the relationship between ANZICS and ACCCN, as well as the respect and a greater understanding of nursing involvement on all these projects. The updated guidelines have an increased focus on staff wellbeing, sustainable workforces and rural and remote. There is a new section exploring the impact of long COVID on the ICU, in particular, outreach teams.
- ACCCN is supporting our nursing colleagues in less developed nations during this challenging time through regular online meetings.
- In recent months there have been multiple requests for ACCCN to be involved in the media. ACCCN members and National Board members have provided expert commentary highlighting the importance of quality critical care nursing response to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- ACCCN social media platforms are being used to circulate messages of support to the nursing staff and distribute information about opportunities to return to ICU if possible.
- Work on the Minimum Staffing Framework- Collaboration continues with CICM, ANZICS, NZCCCN. ACCCN members are currently undertaking a literature review and are in the process of defining nursing roles within ICU.
- The ANZICS and ACCCN Joint Executive agreed to continue to proceed with a face-to-face meeting for the Annual Scientific Meeting in April 2022 after two postponements due to COVID. This will be a great opportunity for the critical care community to get together next year.
- As part of its COVID-19 response the Chief Nurse of NSW reached out to ACCCN to request some eLearning content relating to the nursing management of COVID-19 patients in COVID wards and COVID Respiratory High Dependency Units. The request was to include content relating to topics such as awake proning, physiology of COVID-19, principles of respiratory nursing, etc. These short talks are freely available to everyone to assist during these trying times – [COVID-19 Acute Care Nursing Lecture Series](#)
- ACCCN has also renewed its annual subscription with Continulus to enable access to continuing education resources for members during the difficult periods of lockdown experienced by many.

*By Rand Butcher, ACCCN CEO*

## ACCCN AGM 2021

ACCCN will be holding the 2021 Annual General Meeting (AGM) via zoom.

Please note that registration is required for this online event. For further details including the Agenda please [CLICK HERE](#) and login. All ACCCN members are encouraged to join virtually.



The poster features a green background. On the left, there is a black monitor icon displaying a QR code. Below the monitor are three black icons of people wearing headsets. To the right of the monitor, the text reads: "Australian College of Critical Care Nurses", "2021 AGM via zoom", and "Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> November 2021". Further to the right, a list of times is provided: "18:00 AEDT", "17:00 AEST", "17:30 ACDT", "16:30 ACST", and "16:00 AWDT". At the bottom center, the ACCCN logo is displayed, consisting of a stylized blue 'A' followed by the text "ACCCN" in blue.



## QLD Critical Care Seminar – ‘Management of Complex Respiratory Failure in ICU’

Finally, after 3 attempts and a venue relocation, a very successful QLD Seminar - **Management of Complex Respiratory Failure in ICU** was hosted on 14th October. The Princess Alexandra Hospital (PAH) - Metro South Health, delivered a very interesting and topical program showcasing their expert multidisciplinary team, who presented on various aspects of care for this diverse patient group. It became clear that although we strive for evidence-based practice in managing complex respiratory failure, a combination of interventions may deliver notable improvements despite a lack of available evidence. The event was attended by over 90 people from across Queensland. With the support of our industry sponsors it was a great opportunity to network and discuss a topic that is currently causing many challenges in ICUs.

A special thanks to Griffith University also for re-housing the event after COVID lockdowns and a move to house a vaccination clinic at PAH disrupted the original plan to hold the seminar at PAH.



Photo from left-right, P=Presenter  
Regina Rowe, Lanie Pelonia, Elizabeth Robertson (P),  
Meg Harward, Joe Jennings (P), Mitch Gant (P), Jeff  
Sundin (P), Kim Northey, Penny Higgins, Janine Gorton,  
Chantelle Walker, Germaine Kenny (P)



Thank you to all the sponsors and exhibitors for their continued support and patience through all the re-scheduled event dates.



## ACCCN Grants & Funding

ACCCN offers a wide range of National and State funding opportunities to eligible members. Applications are now open for NSW/ACT Members' Professional Development Grant.

### NSW/ACT Members' Professional Development Grant 2021 – Round 2

Are you an ACCCN member in NSW or ACT? Are you interested in funding assistance to attend the ANZICS/ACCCN Intensive Care ASM in 2022 or perhaps another educational activity relevant to critical care? As an ACCCN member you are eligible to apply for support to attend conferences, seminars, workshops or other educational events in the field of critical care.

Closing date – Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> November 2021

[Click here for more information and to apply](#)

## ANZICS/ACCCN Intensive Care ASM 2022



We are pleased to advise that **abstract submissions** for the 2022 ANZICS/ACCCN Annual Scientific Meeting, are now open.

The ASM will take place **27-29 April 2022** at the International Convention Centre Sydney. The theme of the meeting is “Harbouring Excellence in Intensive Care and Beyond” and will focus upon the excellence and innovation achieved in the intensive care sector throughout Australia, New Zealand and the world.

The ASM will be the preeminent critical care conference in Australasia for the calendar year and will be an important platform that will allow doctors, nurses and allied health practitioners to meaningfully connect and discuss new developments and research in the field of intensive and critical care.

As always, the program will include keynote speakers in the forefront of the specialty of Intensive Care. The ASM provides an ideal opportunity to network with professionals, make new contacts and establish important relationships with leading intensive care professionals.

Abstract submissions will be open until **3 December 2021**. Please ensure you read the [submission guidelines](#) prior to submitting your abstract.

We sincerely hope you can join us at this vibrant meeting and we look forward to a memorable and rewarding experience in Sydney, in 2022.

For further information please visit the [ASM website](#).

## Upcoming Events

### SA/NT Spring Symposium – ‘Advanced Ventilation’



### WA Deteriorating Cardiac Patient Study Day – ‘A Change of Heart’



### VIC Critical Care Seminar – ‘In Case U missed it: Innovations and Inspiration’



## ALS Update

ACCCN offers a comprehensive range of Instructor, Adult and Paediatric Resuscitation programs. They are suitable for all healthcare professionals (nursing, medical, defence force) to attend, but are specifically aimed at nurses and medical staff working in a critical care environment, or with critically ill patients.

Standards used throughout the course follow the ILCOR 2020 and ANZCOR 2016 guidelines on Basic and Advanced Life Support. Annual re-certification is recommended for the Adult and Paediatric program. Biennial re-certification is recommended for the Instructor program.

- New South Wales - ALS courses are now running and open for registrations
- Queensland - Paediatric ALS courses are back at the Sunshine Coast
- Victoria – stay tuned for an update as VIC restrictions are further eased
- Western Australia – will continue to run all scheduled ALS courses for the remainder of 2021

**Please refer to your individual state for details on upcoming ALS courses and email the relevant state branch for any queries.**

[NSW Courses](#) – email [nsw@acccn.com.au](mailto:nsw@acccn.com.au)

[QLD Courses](#) – email [qld@acccn.com.au](mailto:qld@acccn.com.au)

[VIC Courses](#) – email [vic@acccn.com.au](mailto:vic@acccn.com.au)

[WA Courses](#) – email [wa@acccn.com.au](mailto:wa@acccn.com.au)



## Industry Updates

### Best Practice Guideline for Donation after Circulatory Determination of Death (DCDD) in Australia

The National Guideline has been developed by the Organ and Tissue Authority (OTA) and the DonateLife Network. The OTA acknowledges and thanks stakeholders for their input during the consultation and development process of this guideline. The National Guideline provides guidance in relation to the practice of DCDD in Australia. It promotes a consistent, medically appropriate, and highly ethical practice of DCDD in Australia that optimises donation and transplantation outcomes. This National Guideline supersedes the 2010 'National protocol for donation after cardiac death'.

The OTA wish to thank A/Prof Helen Opdam for driving this significant piece of work, along with the DonateLife Network and OTA staff who have played an important role in achieving the completion of this guideline.



#### Best Practice Guideline for Donation after Circulatory Determination of Death (DCDD) in Australia

Edition 1.0 October 2021

### [Best Practice Guideline for Donation after Circulatory Determination of Death in Australia](#)

## NATIONAL COVID-19 CLINICAL EVIDENCE TASKFORCE



### COMMUNIQUE

Edition 51  
15 October 2021

The National COVID-19 Clinical Evidence Taskforce has been continuously providing a set of evidence-based recommendations to guide care for people with COVID-19, which are kept up-to-date as new research becomes available. ACCCN, along with many other peak health professional bodies across Australia are working together to identify, evaluate and synthesise evidence to be used as the basis of new recommendations. The taskforce identifies and includes any new research evidence that might influence our existing recommendations. The panels of clinical experts meet weekly to review the evidence and make new and updated recommendations, which are endorsed by Taskforce members and immediately published online.

Australia is a world-leader in the development of living guidelines through the work of the Australian Living Evidence Consortium and in partnership with Cochrane, the world's most trusted provider of health evidence. This considerable expertise has now been deployed to ensure every Australian clinician has access to a single source of trustworthy advice about critical aspects of COVID-19 care.

Please [CLICK HERE](#) for the recent communication including the following:

- New recommendation for Continuous positive airway pressure / High-flow nasal oxygen therapy
- Six new treatment recommendations for children and adolescents

## Employment Opportunities



### Critical Care Registered Nurse - Intensive Care

We currently have a permanent full time and part-time opportunities for a Critical Care Registered Nurses with postgraduate qualifications.

At Monash Health, our Intensive Care Units at Monash Medical Centre, Dandenong and Casey hospitals are looking to grow the dedicated & knowledgeable teams to support the growth within the service and we are wanting you to bring your demonstrated skills and experience within Critical Care, to look after our patients.

Our Critical Care program and ICU – MMC and Casey are truly great places to work.

[To view the full position description and to APPLY NOW, click here](#)

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### Registered Nurses - Critical Care Trained

Monash Health currently has a number of opportunities for suitably experienced Registered Nurses holding a Graduate Certificate in Critical Care Nursing to join our team in providing excellent care to our complex patients. Working across a rotating roster (24 hours / 7 days) we have both full time and part time positions available on an ongoing basis to commence as soon as possible.

Bringing your passion and genuine interest for Critical Care nursing along with demonstrated experience in high standards of patient care will ensure your success within our team. You will have access to resources to support your work in ICU enabling you to advance your career whilst demonstrating nursing excellence.

Looking to grow our dedicated & knowledgeable team, we are wanting you to bring your demonstrated skills and experience within a Critical Care skillset to look after our patients.

[To view the full position description and to APPLY NOW, click here](#)

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## Registered Nurses – Adult and/or Paediatrics – Emergency Department

### We're Excited!

At Monash Medical Centre (MMC), our Emergency Department (ED) nursing team is excited and proud; the first phase of our expansion is complete and we have hired amazing experienced nursing talent to support our growth.

Our new ED is equipped with improved facilities enabling us to deliver enhanced services in a sustainable design filled with colour, natural light, space and state of the art technology. Now offering dedicated Adult and Paediatrics areas, our ED nursing team maintains its unwavering commitment to deliver patient centred emergency care across the whole life cycle.

We invite passionate emergency care Registered Nurses to join us as we continue our expansion journey to support the growing health care needs of our local community.

**Apply NOW to be part of our ED expansion and growth!**

[For more details about the role plus how to apply, please click here](#)



## Short-term Nursing Contracts with Incentives

Be part of the team fighting COVID - we need you in Western NSW Local Health District

If you are an experienced ED or ICU nurse with a sense of adventure, a commitment to those in need and keen to make a difference to the lives of the people of rural & remote Australia – we have a great opportunity for you!

We are after ED/ICU nurses who can assist our COVID teams in hospital and in the home, to look after our community and get the breaks and rest that they need. We are well equipped, have an unrivalled safety record and very much value our short-term staff, working together in a welcoming and inclusive way that sincerely expresses our appreciation.

This will be a well-regarded position on your resume, demonstrating your commitment, capability and adaptability of skills in a once in a lifetime global pandemic.

[Learn more and submit your expression of interest here: https://bit.ly/3tsgnSH](https://bit.ly/3tsgnSH)