



Lead, represent, develop and support Australian critical care nurses



A Message from the President

As the year draws to an end, it provides a moment for reflection. The last few years have seen exceptional challenges presented to and overcome by nurses. Our patients have become more complex, we are seeing demands on our time, skills, and resources that we have not seen before, as we navigate where the health system is developing in this 'new world'. It has forced us to grow in perseverance, compassion, and bravery. It has created a time for us to think differently, to demand better - better for us and better for the patients we care for. There is a strength in us to advocate for and change the health systems we work within.

As the demands on critical care health professionals have increased, health and wellbeing has continued to be most important - taking care, supporting, and advocating for each other. The genuine collaboration and teamwork that is still seen across critical care nursing is nothing short of amazing. I would like to acknowledge the work all critical care nurses have continued to deliver during these periods of uncertainty and high demand. ACCCN is exceedingly proud of the critical care nursing community. Throughout the last year, the college's mission to lead, support, develop and represent Australian Critical Care Nurses has remained paramount. The College has continued to provide leadership, governance and advocate for our members and the Critical Care Nursing profession.

This year saw our two major events held, the joint ACCCN/ANZICS Annual Scientific Meeting (ASM) and the Annual Education Meeting (AEM). It was fantastic to see the ASM delivered in Sydney after two years of cancellations. October saw nurses gather together for the AEM in the Gold Coast. It was great to see a strong contingent of paediatrics incorporated into the event. With 240 attendees, it was wonderful to see the networking and learning between critical care nurses, allied health members and industry sponsors. To see all those taking the time to focus on themselves and their learning, was inspiring. Something the College will continue to support and drive in any way we can. Maintaining its focus on delivery of education

and professional development, ACCCN has embraced the opportunities to facilitate a wide range of both virtual and in-person events in the form of webinars, journal club meetings and Hot Topics across all states and territories.

The ACCCN advanced life support (ALS) courses and products continue to be held in high regard by the critical care community, with access to hundreds of courses across Australia. I encourage all critical care nurses to explore the high-quality option of ACCCN ALS accreditation within their state and territories. Thank you to all the ALS Coordinators and Instructors who continue to commit to the College vision and deliver an exceptional high-quality service and product.

The Australian Critical Care journal continues to go from strength to strength under the leadership of the Editor-in-Chief Professor Andrea Marshall, the Editorial Board and the Editors. This will allow the Journal to continue being a proud and valued icon of the College.

Representation of ACCCN and advocacy in the area of critical care is an important role for the College. The relationships with our stakeholders have continued to strengthen, with improved focus on collaboration across multi-disciplinary groups. The development of these positive relationships will be enduring and provide basis for collaboration into the future.

The College recognises that workforce is one of the most significant issues facing not only critical care nursing, but all of health, and more specifically the need for workforce that has expertise and is appropriately skilled. There have been multiple initiatives and collaborations to support and advocate for critical care nurses. Moving forward the College is focused on workforce sustainability, excellence in patient care and education, this includes the intensive care workforce minimum staffing standards which is a significant piece of work, that I know many of you are keen to see delivered. This has been a collaborative piece with 18 organisations involved, including NZCCCN, ANZICS, CICM and Allied Health organisations. It will help drive for minimum staffing standards across Australia and New Zealand. The development of the minimum staffing standards made it clear to the College the need for the ACCCN Workforce Standards to also be reviewed, having been published in the pre-pandemic world. The working group has been collated, with work on these standards commencing in the new year.

I would like to take this moment to thank and acknowledge all the members who have contributed their expertise, experience and time to the college's projects and endeavours through their most valuable advisory and collaborative roles. I also need to acknowledge the hard work of the National Office staff, National Board and State Committee members, who have managed significant change and development of the College over the last 12 months.



I look forward to the continued evolution of ACCCN and the opportunities this will provide to our members and the profession of critical care. As previously highlighted, this is a time for us to think differently, and demand better. There is a strength in us to advocate for and change the health systems we work within; we can achieve this together. With hopeful optimism I look forward to networking and connecting with our members and the critical care nursing community in 2023 and the changes we can lead together.

Alison Hodak
ACCCN President

Grants

ACCCN Branch Members Professional Fund Grant Recipient Report

Making a Splash in Critical Care ACCCN AEM Review - Melanie Maginnity SA/NT Branch

"The AEM was hosted at Sea World on the Gold Coast 20-21 October. The first morning set the scene with a very early tour of 'Shark Bay' - a magical underwater world of grand sea life. The proud shark with his enthusiastic entourage of yellow fish frantically darting to keep up with him reminded me of when I was a graduate nurse, eagerly chasing an experienced nurse, frantically learning the ropes. I was in such awe of those extraordinary knowledge-filled nurses and how fast they walked, and never dreamed I would one day have graduates looking up to me!"



Following an inspiring opening plenary from the energetic Ged Williams, the day was packed with amazing insights into critical care practice around Australia. I found myself completely absorbed by the diverse range of topics. The highlight on day 1 was the CALS (Cardiac Advanced Life Support) workshop with Amy Rogers. She made one of my most feared procedures (chest re-opening) seem clear, approachable, and even straight forward! It was very hands-on, and I left with a new sense of confidence. The dolphin show that night was enthralling. Georgie Carroll thinks new nurses can be compared to dolphins - I agree (but for different reasons) as this show highlighted that dolphins are highly skilled, enthusiastic, hard-working, compassionate, loving, disciplined, and enjoy a good time. Party night was a terrific time to relax and make connections with like-minded nurses.

Day 2 was equally as interesting, and I am amazed by how much was squeezed into the program in a meaningful way. Like all units around the world, the last few years have been difficult on staffing and morale in my part of the world. Mikheil Matcharadze's presentation on where ICU's might be heading in relation to using technology to decrease the staffing burden was fascinating. From smart toothbrushes to eICU support call centres - my mind boggled with interest (and some trepidation) of how our future may evolve.



The AEM was not just inspiring - it also covered very real and relevant issues eg. best practise and personalisation for end-of-life care, case studies on emerging technology (eg. Impella VAD and Prisma for CO2 removal), the importance of staff wellbeing, and of course, the staffing crisis and what's being done to address this on the national level. Carolyn Griffiths' presentation on defence critical care nursing was simultaneously terrifying and intriguing, making me rethink the elaborate comforts of nursing in a tertiary first world hospital. It was great to be joined by the delegates from PNG with their challenges, passion for education, and generous laughter. I would like to end on some hilarious anecdote from Georgie



Carroll who made us all cry with laughter in closing, but I think my final comment comes from Alison Hodak who reminded us that we (nurses) are a lot more than the tasks we perform; we are the brains, hearts, and hands of our organisation.

I am not back at work yet, but I will go back inspired to be more involved with supporting graduates (we are taking 50 just in intensive care across 2023) because they are our future and need every bit of support we can provide during this stressful time. I will be reminded to walk a little slower and be a 'friendly' and 'approachable' shark as they hopefully look up to me and learn lots. I am also looking forward to checking the cardiac re-opening trolley with a new mindset! I do have some questions for our managers about putting up CALS algorithms in each bay as is common in other units that do cardiothoracic surgery. We have had the Prismax in our unit for a few months now, but I haven't had an opportunity to use it - now I am intrigued and look forward to using it - hopefully with Prismalung capability.

Thank you so much for supporting me to attend this AEM. I absolutely loved being a part of it."
Melanie Maginnity, October 2022.

2022 Research and Education Grant Recipients

The successful recipients of the 2022 education grants and awards were announced at the Annual General Meeting last month.

There were two successful applicants for the **Diane Chamberlain Seeding Grant**. Congratulations to **Auxillia Madhuvu** for the early career research grant award. Auxillia's research project is on "Nurses' clinical oral care practices and prevention of hospital-associated pneumonia in non-ventilated patients in ICU: A qualitative study".

Congratulations to Dr Melissa Bloomer for the experienced research grant award. Dr Bloomer's research is focused on "exploring the paradox of voluntary assisted dying in the intensive care unit"

The **Rhonda Sanders Professional Development Grant** has 2 recipients. Congratulations to **Lauren Murray** and **Asuman Salkaya**. Lauren will receive funding to support her attendance at the ACCCN AEM and Asuman is successful in receiving funding to support her in presenting a paper at an international conference in Turkey.

Upcoming Events

ANZICS/ACCCN Annual Scientific Meeting (ASM)



REGISTER TODAY to take advantage of **EARLY BIRD PRICES** (available until 17 February) and save up to \$260! You can register for either the full meeting or a single day.

THE PRELIMINARY PROGRAM outlines all the amazing speaker and topics which will be covered in this three-day conference. **REGISTER NOW** and don't miss out.

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS ANNOUNCED

Meet the Speakers

ANZICS and ACCCN are very proud of the speaker line-up for the 2023 Intensive Care ASM and we'd love to introduce you to some of them.

Laureate Professor Peter Doherty

Peter Doherty is an Australian immunologist and pathologist who, with Rolf Zinkernagel of Switzerland, received the Nobel Prize for Physiology or Medicine in 1996 for their discovery of how the body's immune system distinguishes virus-infected cells from normal cells. After leading a research group at the Wistar Institute, Philadelphia, and teaching at the University of Pennsylvania (1975–82), Peter headed the department of experimental pathology at the John Curtin School of Medical Research in Canberra (1982–88) and served as chairman (1988–2001) of the department of immunology at St. Jude Children's Research Hospital in Memphis, Tennessee, where he still holds the Michael F Tamer Chair of Biomedical Research. In 2002, he joined the faculty of medicine at the University of Melbourne, and from 2014, has been at the Peter Doherty Institute for Infection and Immunity, a joint venture between the university and the Royal Melbourne Hospital.



Peter is the author of many books, including *The Beginner's Guide to Winning the Nobel Prize: A Life in Science* (2005), *Sentinel Chickens: What Birds Tell Us About Our Health and the World* (2012), *The Knowledge Wars* (2015), *The Incidental Tourist* (2018), *An Insider's Plague Year* (2021) and most recently *Empire, War, Tennis and Me* (2022).

We look forward to Peter Doherty enlightening us on "How We Can Prepare for the Next Pandemic" at the ASM.

Doctor Melissa Hozian

Melissa Hozjan joined the Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) Medical Department as advisor for paediatric and neonatal nursing in July 2018. From 2011, she worked as nurse supervisor and emergency medical team leader in MSF humanitarian projects in multiple countries including Bangladesh, Iraq, Libya, Nigeria, South Sudan, and Yemen. Melissa completed her Bachelor of Sciences in Nursing in Canada in 2003, followed by a Master of Public Health and Tropical Medicine in 2010, and a Master of Arts in Intercultural and International Communication in 2014. She has post-graduate qualifications in infection control, global healthcare and quality improvement. Melissa has volunteered internationally with Operation Smile and studied in Finland, Papua New Guinea and China. In collaboration with Médecins Sans Frontières nursing advisor colleagues worldwide, she provides technical support to over 8,000 MSF nurses in more than 70 countries.



Melissa Hozoian will be speaking on “Delivering Health Care in Humanitarian Settings” at the ASM.

Look out for more speaker introductions to come!



PRELIMINARY PROGRAM NOW AVAILABLE

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ANZICS/ACCCN ASM on Intensive Care Presenting Partner Announcement

Fresenius Medical Care has been announced as the 2023 Intensive Care ASM Presenting Partner. Fresenius have a long association with ACCCN and ANZICS and we thank them for their continued support of the ASM!



**FRESENIUS
MEDICAL CARE**

WA Quiz Night - *Early bird registrations close 13 January*



WA ACCCN Quiz Night

A fun night for WA ACCCN members and friends to meet, relax, enjoy and showcase their general knowledge.

Friday the 3rd of February 2023 - 7.00pm to midnight
Mount Lawley Bowls Club
Tables of 8-10, Bar available and BYO food only - *No food will be provided by WA ACCCN.*

[REGISTER NOW](#)

VIC Seminar - *Early bird registrations close 27 January*



NEUROLOGICAL AND TRAUMA DAY



VIC CRITICAL CARE SEMINAR

FRIDAY, 10 FEBRUARY 2023
OAKS ON MARKET, MELBOURNE

accn.com.au

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[REGISTER NOW](#)

ACT Seminar - *Early bird registrations close 23 January*



DETERIORATION IN CRITICAL CARE

ACT SEMINAR DAY

THURSDAY, 23 FEBRUARY 2023
RAMADA ENCORE HOTEL, BELCONNEN

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WA Study Day


REGISTER NOW

ACCCN

**RECOGNISING & RESPONDING
TO THE DETERIORATING CHILD**

WA STUDY DAY

SATURDAY, 16 SEPTEMBER 2023
ROYAL PERTH HOSPITAL, PERTH

accn.com.au

NSW Seminar

SAVE THE DATE

**NSW CRITICAL CARE
SEMINAR**

Friday 12th May 2023
Kirribilli Club, Lavender Bay

www.accn.com.au

**ACCCN Annual Education Meeting**

Save the date for the next ACCCN Annual Education Meeting – 19-20 October 2023 at the Crowne Promenade Conference Centre, Melbourne.

ACCCN is pleased to announce the confirmation of Rose Jaspers, ACCCN Victoria President, as the Convenor for the AEM in Melbourne in 2023. Rose will be ably assisted by members of the newly appointed AEM 2023 Organising Committee, including Victoria Jennings from Ballarat, Bianca Lategan from Brisbane, and members of the National Events Committee. We are looking forward to delivering another interesting program and quality national conference in Melbourne.

Membership



Membership with ACCCN

ACCCN offers a range of member benefits. These include discounted registration for courses and events, access to the Australian Critical Care journal online, a premium subscription to Continulus online along with opportunities to apply for grants and funding assistance for professional development, education and research.

Join now and stay connected!

For further information please email member@accn.com.au

Are you an ACCCN Member? ACCCN members receive an extensive array of benefits that provide financial, educational, and professional opportunities. If you aren't already a member **JOIN NOW** to stay connected or visit our website for more information.

Existing member? **Visit our website to find out more about your ACCCN membership benefits.**

Research Project Invitation to Participate

The motivations of critical care nurses and the challenges they encounter in their roles

Our research project aims to explore the motivations and challenges encountered by critical care nurses in their roles. We are interested to find out what motivates nurses to work in critical care. Also, we wish to understand the challenges that critical care nurses experience in their role. We aim to recruit Registered Nurses who are currently working in critical care to be interviewed for their perspectives and about their experiences (a Zoom based interview for approximately 30-60 minutes).

Findings from this study will assist understanding in relation to the needs and interests of critical care nurses.

[Find out more and register your interest](#)

**Are you looking
for research
participant's?**

The ACCCN encourages research participation and can promote your research project.

All ACCCN members currently involved in research projects relevant to critical care nursing are eligible to promote their project through the ACCCN website, newsletter and social channels.

For more information or to submit a Research Project **CLICK HERE.**

Employment Opportunities

Queensland Children's Hospital: Registered Nurse

Are you passionate about outcomes for children and young people across Queensland?

We're committed to providing life-changing healthcare for children and young people for a healthier tomorrow.



About the Queensland Children's Hospital

The Queensland Children's Hospital (QCH) (formerly The Lady Cilento Children's Hospital), which opened on 29 November 2014, is Australia's largest and most advanced paediatric facility. Located in South Brisbane, the 359-bed hospital features more than 80,000 square meters of facilities spread across 12 levels.

Your Opportunity:

The Registered Nurse (RN) in the PICU delivers safe compassionate clinical care working collaboratively with the Healthcare team to achieve best practice patient outcomes. The RN engages in reflective, analytical practice through effective assessment, planning, implementation and evaluation of direct person-centred care. The RN continually improves their skills and knowledge developing from graduate to highly skilled Registered Nurse.

Autonomy:

- Practice independently and interdependently
- Assume accountability and responsibility for their own actions and delegation of care to Enrolled nurses, Assistants in Nursing and healthcare workers.
- Demonstrates evidence of increasing autonomy and exercises greater levels of professional judgement in the clinical environment as the employee moves from a beginning to experienced practitioner.

<https://smartjobs.qld.gov.au/jobs/QLD-H22CHQ419932>

Closing date: 31 May 2023

Are you looking
for staff?

Why not advertise through the ACCCN?

With over 20,000 industry contacts on our email distribution list, almost 7000 Facebook followers, and over 500 LinkedIn followers, advertising through ACCCN's channels is a great way to reach high quality candidates. Our advertising package includes a ACCCN Website listing, Newsletter advertisement and Social Media advertisements.

[CLICK HERE](#) to submit an advertisement or to find out more.