



Lead, represent, develop and support Australian critical care nurses

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– Early bird closing soon!**

2021 Events – register now!

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Members' Professional Development Grants – applications now open

Employment Opportunities

Research & Continued Professional Development

Australian College of Critical Care Nurses

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ACCCN



@ACCCNAUST

Australia remains on track with the COVID-19 vaccination program roll out which commenced last week.

We can now look forward to increasing our face-to-face events and courses nation-wide. What better way to kick off the national event season than with the AEM to be held in Canberra 13-14 May 2021!

With a fantastic line-up of keynote speakers and two concurrent streams, join your colleagues and reconnect at AEM 2021. Take advantage of the great rates available for group registrations and early bird registration still available until Friday 5 March. Download the flyer for your tea-room!

We are creating a montage of images for the opening of the AEM and calling all Australian ICUs and critical care units to submit a photo that captures 2020!

Our state branches are working through some challenges with COVID restrictions and curve balls provide education in 2021. Registrations are now open for a number of study days and seminars.

ACCCN has recently developed a new position statement on adult end-of-life care in critical care. This is now freely available to ACCCN members through 'MY ACCCN'

ACCCN offers a variety of scholarships, prizes, funding and research grants annually. Several Members' Professional Development Grants are now open for applications.

As a founding member of the Australian & New Zealand Intensive Care Foundation, ACCCN makes a \$5,000 donation to ICF to support critical care nursing research in Australia.

Enjoy the February Newsletter.



READY TO ACT
CRITICAL CARE IN TIMES OF CHANGE

ANNUAL EDUCATION MEETING
13 - 14 MAY 2021
QT HOTEL, CANBERRA

ACCCN

ACCCN'S ANNUAL EDUCATION MEETING (AEM) FORMERLY KNOWN AS ICE CONFERENCE

DON'T FORGET
EARLY BIRD REGISTRATION CLOSES
FRIDAY 5 MARCH 2021

Flexible registration options and conditions available.
View the Frequently Asked Questions page on the website

REGISTER TODAY

[Download AEM Flyer](#)

[View Registration Information](#)

BE INCLUDED IN THE AEM 2021 PHOTO MONTAGE!

We are creating a montage of images for the opening of the Annual Education Meeting (AEM) to be held in Canberra, 13-14 May 2021. Calling all Australian ICUs and critical care units to submit a photo that captures 2020 for them. What did 2020 look like in your unit/hospital?

If you missed the opportunity to snap a photo in 2020, it's not too late. We want to include ICU photos representing both public and private ICUs in all states, even if it's 2021.

Are you creative? Take a photo at an interesting angle that includes the name of your unit. How about one of staff in PPE? How did humour help you through? Did you have any interesting signs or quirky slogans that circulated in your unit? A snapshot of these would be great as well.

[CLICK HERE](#) to upload your photo now!



Photo above - Celebrating International Nurses and Midwives day 2020 with a 'Thank You' cupcake from Northern Beaches Hospital Executive

2021 EVENTS CALENDAR

POSTPONED

WA Study Day - A Change of Heart: The Deteriorating Cardiac Patient

Hyatt Regency, Perth

November 2021 – DATE TBC

**REGISTER
NOW**

SA/NT Hot Topic Evening – Toxicology: That wasn't good for me!

Rydges Hotel, Adelaide

Tuesday 16th March 2021

**LIMITED
PLACES**

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

Griffith University – Nathan Campus

Friday 19th March 2021

**REGISTER
NOW**

WA Study Day – Recognising & Responding to the Deteriorating Child

Albany Health Campus

Tuesday 20th April 2021

**REGISTER
NOW**

WA Study Day – Recognising & Responding to the Deteriorating Child

Denmark Health Campus

Wednesday 21st April 2021

**REGISTER
NOW**

AEM (Annual Education Meeting)

QT Hotel, Canberra

13-14 May 2021

**REGISTER
NOW**

TAS Study Day – Recognising the Deteriorating Patient

The Old Woolstore Apartment Hotel

Friday 2nd July 2021

**REGISTER
NOW**

SA/NT Critical Care Seminar – When the War is Over

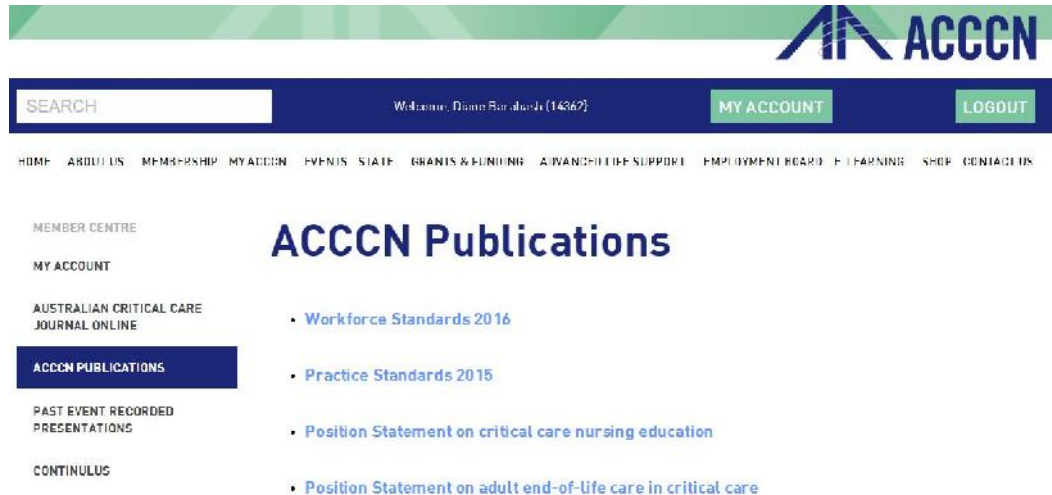
SAHMRI, North Terrace, Adelaide

Friday 30th July 2021

ACCCN UPDATES

Publications

ACCCN Position Statement on adult end-of-life care in critical care – now freely available for ACCCN members via [‘MY ACCCN’](#)



Grants & Funding

ACCCN state branches offer a variety of scholarships, prizes, funding and research grants. Applications now open for the following state funding opportunities:



SA/NT Members' Professional Development Grant

Closing Date – Thursday 11 March 2021

[CLICK HERE](#) for more information

NSW/ACT Members' Professional Development Grant

Closing Date – Saturday 10 April 2021

[CLICK HERE](#) for more information

INDUSTRY NEWS & EVENTS

ACCCN donation to support critical care nursing research in Australia

As a founding member of the Australian New Zealand Intensive Care Foundation ACCCN has provided a \$5,000 donation to the foundation to advance critical care nursing research in Australia. The Australian New Zealand Intensive Care Foundation has been very active in supporting critical care nursing research in Australia. Many ACCCN members value research and the College has prioritised this donation to support research during these difficult times.

**The Australian & New Zealand
Intensive Care Foundation**

ANZICS Paediatric Study Group Meeting

Centre for Children's Health Research, South Brisbane QLD
Tuesday 2nd March – Virtual registration is \$20 and interested participants can register online -

<https://www.anzics.com.au/clinical-trials-group/ctg-annual-meeting/registrations/>

ANZICS
Paediatric Study Group

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES



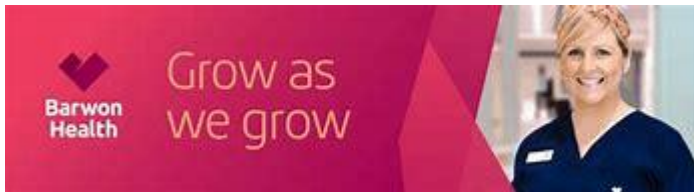
NUM – Emergency Department & ICU

Western District Health Service

- Flexible working arrangements
- Relocation assistance
- Professional development opportunities

Closing date – 5th March 2021

For more information – [CLICK HERE](#)



Registered Nurse (Grade 2) – ICU

Barwon Health - University Hospital Geelong

- Be a part of a multidisciplinary team striving for excellence
- Challenge yourself in a mixed adult and paediatric ICU
- Grow and develop your talents and capabilities within a supportive unit

Closing date – 8th March 2021

For more information – [CLICK HERE](#)



Eastern Health

Critical Care Registered Nurse – Intensive Care Unit – Angliss Hospital

Full-time/part-time and casual roles available

- Join an exciting new ICU team that has a friendly and supportive culture
- Work close to home in Upper Ferntree Gully, or travel against traffic to the foothills of the beautiful Dandenong Ranges
- Engaging career and learning opportunities

Closing date – 16th March 2021

For more information – [CLICK HERE](#)

RESEARCH & CONTINUED PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

INVITATION TO PARTICIPATE IN AN ADVISORY GROUP

Have you experienced caring for patients who were confused, restless, irritable or even aggressive in ICU? Then we need your advice

Patient agitation in ICU is prevalent and associated with several poor patient outcomes. Management of patients who are restless, confused, irritable and even aggressive is challenging and linked to overuse of physical restraints and sedation, violence towards staff, patient post-traumatic stress and staff exhaustion. Research indicates that nurses lack guidance on effective non-pharmacological strategies. To address this gap, a Danish-Australian study aims to develop evidence-based practice guidelines for non-pharmacological strategies to prevent, minimise and manage agitation in the adult ICU.

In the early phase of the guideline development, we plan to consult ICU clinicians to determine the scope of the guidelines. We want to understand current issues and concerns and consider such aspects to ensure that the guidelines are meaningful and relevant.

You are eligible to join the advisory group if you have experience with caring for patients displaying agitated behaviours in the adult intensive care unit.

If you choose to take part in this study, you will be invited to review and provide feedback on a 2-3 pages guideline scoping document. Feedback can be provided in three ways: by participating in an online workshop; by participating in an online one-on-one meeting; or by submitting written comments.

You will receive a \$30 voucher in recognition of your contribution and we will keep you updated on the progress of the study.

The project is led by Anne Mette Adams as a part of her PhD. If you are interested in learning more about the project or if you wish to register your interest, please go to our webpage www.agitationicu.com or contact Anne Mette Adams via e-mail at mette.adams@flinders.edu.au







EVERY NURSE'S BUSINESS

Building the capacity of nurses to deliver mainstream hospital and community based health services to people with Intellectual Disability and Autism Spectrum Disorder







Throughout your career registered nurses in critical care will care for many people with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD). By increasing your understanding of ASD and making small adjustments to your practice you can help improve the health outcomes of this cohort

What is Autism Spectrum Disorder?

Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) is a developmental disorder that is characterised by a fundamental difference to typical thinking in the way a person thinks, processes information and interacts with others and their environment. Previous diagnoses of Asperger's Disorder, Autistic Disorder, and Pervasive Developmental Disorder are now encompassed under the term ASD (DSM-5 ref).

Every person with autism is an individual in the same way that every typical thinker is an individual.

A different way of thinking

People with autism have different styles of thinking compared to those without autism who have a neurotypical or 'typical' way of thinking (Cashin and Barker, 2009).

These differences underpin the behaviours that are associated with being on the spectrum. The differences are:

- Impaired abstraction (the ability to differentiate likeness and similarities. This manifests as 'black and white' thinking).
- Impaired linguistic processing, strength in visual processing
- Impaired theory of mind (the inability to perceive and predict how others may think, react or feel differently to oneself, to empathise) Cashin et al, 2012).

The different thinking style underpins the behaviours that are used to recognise ASD.

Social communication and interaction (DSM ref)

- Limitations in social and emotional reciprocity (e.g. shared conversations).
- Differences in the expression of and challenges interpreting nonverbal communication (e.g. eye contact, body language)
- Difficulties with relationship development and adjusting behaviour in differing social contexts. (fn)

Restricted, repetitive behaviours (DSM ref)

- Inflexible need for routine and at times ritualised behaviour. High levels of anxiety around change in routine.
- Hyper-focused, restricted special interests.

The Autism Spectrum

Everyone with ASD is unique, and autism exists on a spectrum. The degree to which a person is impacted by their ASD may vary over time, and according to context. For example when in a novel situation, such as an unexpected hospitalisation, ASD characteristics may be more obvious.

Prevalence

Approximately 1 per cent of the Australian population have ASD, ranging from 1 in 70 to 1 in 150 people (ABS, 2015). In Australia in 2015, 164,000 people identified as having Autism, which was 42.5 per cent increase since 2012 figures (ABS, 2015).

Want to learn more?

To claim CPD hours (available May 2021) by testing your foundational learning or take part in an intermediate and advanced course for registered nurses about caring for people with ASD and/or intellectual disability please visit https://scuau.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_3EG4Kg9IAOB4S34 to register your interest.