



Neurodevelopmental Care

SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP

2026 Terms of Reference

Statement

The Australian College of Neonatal Nurses (ACNN) is dedicated to the promotion of excellence in the care of neonates and their families. It's Special Interest Groups (SIGs) support this outcome by monitoring, informing, and making recommendations to the ACNN National Committee on many aspects of neonatal nursing care.

Purpose

The purpose of the Neurodevelopmental Care SIG (NDC SIG) is to advocate for the promotion and consistent implementation of evidence-based infant- and family-centred developmental care (IFCDC) across neonatal settings, recognising the essential role IFCDC has in optimising long-term neurodevelopmental outcomes and the emotional wellbeing of preterm or medically vulnerable neonates and their families via individualised neuroprotective practice.

Operating Committee

The operating committee must consist of a minimum of 5 members. Positions are Chair, Secretary, Treasurer Liaison, Social Media Liaison and at least one ordinary member. Operating committee members hold the positions for a period of 12 months and can be re-nominated each 12 months. The operating committee positions become vacant at the NDC SIG Annual General Meeting (AGM). NDC SIG members can nominate before the meeting, or from the floor at the meeting. Nominations will be put forward and accepted at this meeting. Committee member changes will be communicated to the National Secretary and ESO as they occur.

Meetings

Committee meetings are held monthly by videoconference and general meetings open to all members approximately every fourth meeting. The AGM will preferably be held face-to-face during the National Conference, however if not possible, it will be held via Zoom between September and December.

Four (4) committee members shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of SIG business. Committee members are expected to attend at least 80% of committee meetings. Minutes are completed by the NDC SIG Secretary, or nominated NDC SIG member in the absence of the Secretary, who will distribute the minutes to the committee, including where quorum is not met. Minutes will also be emailed to the ESO as a PDF to be uploaded on the ACNN website for ACNN member viewing.

Strategic Planning and Sustainable Committees Document

The NDC SIG has planned activities in line with the ACNN Strategic Plan 2026-2030 and the Sustainable Committee's Policy (P13). Activities are listed within the strategic plan (available on the ACNN website) and reported against in the annual report. This plan is updated yearly after selection of the new committee.

Generative AI use, IP and Copyright Policy

SIG members will be aware of Policy 17 and will ensure that documents and resources developed and/or authored within the SIG, SIG meetings and/or for events align to P17 requirements, including authorship details, rights and permissions.

Membership

Current financial members of ACNN are eligible to be members of the NDC SIG. Membership is open to any nurse or midwife who is interested in neonatal nursing education, networking, and/or research, and has a specific interest in IFCDC. Current ACNN members may nominate to join the SIG by contacting the SIG at ndcsig@acnn.org.au. Nurses or midwives applying for ACNN membership may nominate to be a member of the SIG on the application form. Membership to the SIG becomes active once ACNN membership is approved.

Reports to: ACNN National Executive Committee

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