



Nutrition and Feeding

SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP

Terms of Reference 2025

Statement

The Australian College of Neonatal Nurses (ACNN) is dedicated to the promotion of excellence in the care of neonates and their families. Its 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

Nutrition and feeding play an important part in the experience of families whose infant requires admission to a neonatal unit. Successful establishment of feeding is affected by various factors, such as prematurity, neurological impairment, congenital abnormalities, surgery, and/or maternal conditions and choices. The purpose of this SIG is to provide neonatal nurses and neonatal lactation consultants with education, resources, and opportunities to optimise feeding outcomes; including but not limited to:

- evidenced based information
- content expert advice on aspects relating to feeding
- links to national and international resources
- learning opportunities delivered in person or via online session

Operating Committee

The operating committee must consist of a minimum of five members. Positions are Chair, Secretary, Treasurer Liaison and at least two ordinary members. Operating committee members hold the positions for a period of 12 months and can renominate each 12 months. The operating committee positions become vacant at the subcommittee annual meeting held in the last quarter of the calendar year. Members can nominate before the meeting or from the floor at the meeting. Ordinary members nominations are accepted throughout the year. Nominees are encouraged to attend two meetings as an observer prior to nomination.

Meetings

By Zoom on the second Wednesday on even months (February, April, June, August, October, December) all meetings are open to all members.

At each annual ACNN National Conference, an AGM, open to all members, may be held, in addition to an education workshop/seminar, at the discretion of the National Executive. If the AGM is not held at the ACNN National Conference it will be held on zoom at the October meeting.

Strategic Planning and Sustainable Committees Policy

The Nutrition and Feeding SIG will plan activities that align with the ACNN Strategic Plan and Sustainable Committees Policy. Activities planned by the SIG will be listed within the strategic plan, included on the annual report, and made available on the ACNN website. A representative of the SIG Committee will attend the Branch and SIG Forum every 2 months.

Membership

Current financial members of ACNN are eligible to be members of the Nutrition and Feeding SIG. 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 and Nutrition and Feeding SIG membership is open to all financial members who are passionate about Nutrition and Feeding.

Reports to: ACNN National Executive committee.

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