



2021

Year in Review



President's Report



I have been in the President position for two years now and it has been a huge learning curve, and at time it has been extremely challenging, but I have been supported by an extraordinary Executive, who work hard and are always striving to provide the best possible benefits for members. As you all know we meet twice a year in what's called a face-to-face meeting though its via zoom now and work all weekend setting out priorities for the college and developing new ideas.

This past year we have progressed several items:

1. Our governance activities are on track and all our policies and guidelines are currently up to date and published on the website.
2. There is an ongoing review of the strategic plan (twice a year adding items and ticking off items we have achieved).
3. Developed documents to support Branches and SIG in the form of how to guides.
4. Have created several partnerships and we are scoping the possibility of more for increased exposure for the college:
 - a. Finalising an MOU with the ACNP facilitated by the NNP SIG
 - b. Bronze Affiliation with the Australian College of Nursing which offers benefits and exposure of our ACNN emblem on their website
 - c. Continue our excellent relationship with University of Tasmania
5. The college has also supported the Developing Australian Neonatal Nursing Care Outcomes: Neonatal Nursing Outcome Measures (NNOM) - Phase 1 by providing a research grant for this important work to understand the needs and requirement for the neonatal workforce.
6. Promoted membership with May Madness and are currently working on a survey to make sure we are meeting the needs of the members and understand why members that have left the college. Currently we have over 1000 members.
7. Quality process of continually reviewing and revising opportunities for Scholarships and Awards and the allocation of prize money.
8. Increased availability of educational opportunities for CPD points through virtual presentations

We welcomed Denise Harrison to the role of Professional Officer. The Executive would like to acknowledge Linda Ng who has been in the professional officer role for a number of years. Linda has been steadfast and organised managing the MoU with UTAS, the scholarships and awards and contributes to all discussions and changes related to the functioning of the college. Your humour your passion and dedication to the college has been considerable. So, a huge thank you Linda from all of us. I would also like to thank the Conference Committee which is compose of the Chair-Karen New and the executive, plus invited contributors, Jennifer Dawson and Margaret Broome.

And lastly, I would like to acknowledge our members, because without you we wouldn't function.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'A Flint'.

Andrea Flint

Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer's Report for the Australian College of Neonatal Nurses (ACNN) was presented at the Annual General Meeting (AGM) via videoconference on 10 September 2021 accompanied by the Financial Statements and Independent Auditor's Report compiled by Moore Accounting, Brisbane.

Total income for the 2020/2021 financial year equalled \$157,281 and total expenditure was \$93,153. This created a total net income of \$64,127 and ACNN ended the year with funds totalling \$521,376. Overall expenditure was significantly less than the projected budget due to the ongoing impacts of Covid, the decrease in face-to-face events and the reduced opportunities for members to utilise the scholarships available.

Following the closure of the eight individual Branch accounts in 2018, the financial administration of ACNN has been greatly simplified. The accounting software, Xero, enables the College to clearly keep track of the financial activity for each Branch and Special Interest Group (SIG).

ACNN's main income is from membership dues and from National, Branch and SIG events. Most events have been virtual and free to members but, despite lockdowns and restrictions, some Branches and SIGS have managed to hold some much-needed face to face events.

Expenditure for the year focused on two main areas: the costs associated with running the College, and national, Branch and SIG events including the Virtual Conference.

Costs associated with the administration and governance required to keep the College running totalled approximately \$88,000. This included our much-needed executive support officer, professional conference organiser and accountant. Other expenses that support the running of ACNN include insurance, Office of Fair Trading fees as well as the technical and software items for the maintenance of the website, videoconferencing, meeting management and accountancy.

Ongoing support was also provided to members in the form of scholarships, grants and awards although this expenditure was again less than in previous years due to the ongoing impacts of Covid-19.

The proposed budget presented at the AGM was based on previous years and the anticipated income and expenses for the coming year.

ACNN will continue to meet its requirements for the running of the College with a strong focus on supporting its members. ACNN is in a healthy financial position and it is a priority of the National Executive to support all ACNN members not just with conference and educational events and seminars but also with scholarships, grants and awards.

The proposed budget with an income estimate of \$118,000 and a proposed expenditure of \$266,000 indicates the college will spend approximately \$148,000 to achieve the continued support for its members.

Samantha Lannan

Executive Committee

Executive Committee 2020-2021		Executive Committee 2021-2022	
President	Anndrea Flint	President	Anndrea Flint
Vice President	Amy Curran	Vice President	Amy Curran
Secretary	Shelley Reid	Secretary	Shelley Reid
Treasurer	Samantha Lannan	Secretary	Samantha Lannan
Ordinary members	Dustylee Williams	Ordinary members	Melissah Burnett, Nicol Franz, Kristin Hughes, Linda Ng
Professional Officer	Linda Ng	Professional Officer	Denise Harrison
Public Officer*	Shelley Reid	Public Officer*	Shelley Reid
Executive Support Officer#	Karen New	Executive Support Officer#	Karen New
Conference Coordinator	Karen New	Conference Coordinator	Karen New
Social Media	Deanne August/Sarah Neale	Social Media	Sarah Neale

* The Public Officer is a legally required role under the NSW Associations Act 2009 and must be held by a resident of NSW. # Non-voting role, appointed by contract

Branch Reports

Australian Capital Territory

Committee Members

Chair: Leanne Ehrlich, Secretary: Laura Maher, Treasurer: Margaret Broom

Ordinary members: Mary-Ellen Youseman, Allana Carter, Janine McEwan, Matthew Martens

Activities in 2021

Bimonthly meetings were held to coordinate branch activities

Annual Conference 2021

We were disappointed to once again have to cancel the annual conference due to be held in the ACT in 2021. We were however able to offer several scholarships for members to attend virtually. The ACT Branch was well represented at the conference with many posters and presentations.

Neonatal Nurses Day 2021

The ACT branch provided cakes for afternoon teas held at Canberra and Calvary NICU/SCN units to celebrate Neonatal Nurses Day

Sponsors

We would like to thank our major sponsor HESTA for their ongoing support of ACNN ACT Branch. Our Twilight Seminars are greatly supported by 3M, Medela, Red Nose, ABA, Stella Bella Little Stars Program and Pidgeon.

New South Wales

Committee Members

Chair: Jo Sheils, Secretary/Treasurer Liaison: Shelley Reid

Ordinary members: Justine Parsons, Suza Trajkovski, Karen Walker, Helene Anderson

Activities in 2021

Activity was limited due to pandemic restrictions since 2020.

Membership drive in first half of 2021, offered conference registration to new and renewing members in NSW.

Created Branch information flyer, Branch webpage updates made as required.

Branch and SIG Forum meetings – attended by representative for 4 meetings only: February, April, June, and August.

Members invited to NSW annual branch meeting, held by Zoom.

Queensland

Committee Members

Chair: Wendy Carlish, Secretary: Kristin Hughes, Treasurer Liaison: Melody Emerson

Ordinary Members: Anndrea Flint, Linda Ng

Katharine Lawlor resigned her position as an ordinary member on 11 August 2021.

Activities in 2021

Workshops and seminars

A workshop at Logan hospital organised for 20 February 2021 was cancelled due to low numbers and COVID uncertainty. This event was postponed until 26 June and went ahead as planned. This postponement allowed the committee to add a dinner seminar to the programme. The workshop had 31 delegates and presenters in attendance while the dinner seminar had 21 in attendance, plus one trade display due to space requirements, with Medela providing trade support for the event. There one cancellation requiring refund and received positive feedback for the event.

The Branch held a seminar at Caboolture hospital on 6 November. This seminar moved away from the traditional respiratory topics and focused on workloads, workforce, funding, and models of care. It also talked about recently released Clinical Guidelines and new information on Neonatal abstinence and adaptation. The event was supported by trade representatives from Medela, Chiesi and GE. The event was attended by 46 delegates and presenters and included a virtual presentation via teams by Patricia Bromley from Tasmania.

Membership Activities

The QLD Branch held a membership drive in the first half of the year to encourage membership renewal and enrolment of new members. Janene Douglas and Amanda Cowan won annual membership as new members. Stephany Hall and Amanda Merchant each won \$700 for recruiting the most members. The QLD Branch will continue to hold membership drives each year.

A general meeting was held during the Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital's Neonatal Seminar in Brisbane on March 23, 2021. This was an opportunity to present and promote ACNN and the benefits of membership and provided a forum for neonatal nurses and midwives to ask questions and provide feedback on Branch and National activities.

The Queensland Branch had a "trade" table at the NeoRESQ and RBWH seminars on the 22 and 23 March 2021. This allowed the Branch to promote the college, provide opportunities for non-members to join and allowed networking with Neonatal Nurses and midwives.

QLD Branch supported World Prematurity Day celebrations this year by offering members \$50 to cover expenses for celebrations at local units. The branch also used social media to encourage members to take selfies in front of landmarks that were lit purple or in front of work displays. A selfie competition with a cash prize of \$50 was held to encourage participation. The winner of the Selfie competition will be drawn at the January (2022) Committee meeting.

Queensland branch (Linda Ng) in collaboration with PIPA was successful in lighting the Brisbane City Hall, Story Bridge, Victoria Bridge and Sandgate Community Hall purple on Nov 16 and 17.

The Queensland Branch held door Raffles at the Workshops in June and November and at the RBWH/NeoRESQ seminar in March. These are always popular with delegates and offer great opportunities to network.

The QLD Branch Raffle for \$1000 towards attendance at a National or COINN conference was drawn at the Caboolture Workshop in November. This raffle has been carried over from 2020 due to COVID. The winner was Judy Macey.

The Queensland Branch supported New Presenters from Queensland at the National Virtual conference in September. Nicol Franz and Karina Bates scored equally for their presentations and were each awarded \$700. There was only 1 poster presentation so an award for that category was not offered.

The Branch supports Queensland presenters by offering travel grants for their attendance at the National Conference. Applications for Travel Grants for attendance at the National Conference were received from Deanne August and Nicol Franz and will be held over for the 2022 National Conference.

A face-to-face meeting of the new committee was held at the end of November to work on the Strategic Plan for the year ahead.

South Australia

Committee Members

Chair: Megan Bater, Secretary: Miriam Long, Treasurer Liaison: Marissa Lewis/Susie Jones

Ordinary Members: Louise Stock, Anna Seppelt, Gill Mibus

Activities in 2021

Two education sessions were held in 2021 in South Australia despite difficulties with pandemic restrictions. In May there was a twilight session at Flinders Medical Centre with the theme of Neonatal Palliative Care. Both face to face participants and interstate members attended via zoom. Speakers were Victoria Kain, Bec May and Jenni Bowler.

Our second education session was face to face only at the Robinson Research Institute in October with Lynly Mader speaking on the impact of premature birth on the developing attachment relationship - why this is important and how to help. Both sessions were very well received and look forward to more education evenings in 2022.

The Terms of Reference were updated by ACNN SA committee members.

Special Interest Group Reports

Education

Committee Members

Chair: Patricia Bromley, Secretary: Linda Ng, Treasurer Liaison: Jennifer Dawson

Ordinary Members: Anne Walsh, Chelsea Anderson, Karen Walker, Justine Parsons, Priya Govindaswamy

Activities in 2021

Sustainable Committee Plan: Education SIG has consistently provided a representative at the Bimonthly Extended National Executive Meetings and has regularly submitted articles to the ACNN Newsletter.

Education SIG held a total of 8 meetings (6 weekly). Four meetings are General Meetings open to all members of the SIG. The Chair has sent invites to members at least 2 weeks prior to the General Meeting.

TOR 2021 was reviewed and submitted together with the 2021 Annual report.

Information Sheet was reviewed in 2021 and was added to the ACNN website. In addition, it has been distributed at ACNN conference and has been made available to clinical areas. This document was submitted together with the Annual Report.

The Education SIG Position Statement on the provision of Neonatal Intensive and Special Care Nursing Education was reviewed in 2021 and made available on the Education SIG page on ACNN website.

Research: Education SIG had two papers accepted by Journal of Neonatal Nursing 2021 (topic: Models of Nursing Education within Neonatal Intensive Care and Special Care Clinical Practice). The articles were 2 shared with all members of Education SIG. Education SIG was invited to present findings at the Queensland Branch Seminar in Caboolture on 6 November 2021.

Education SIG presented a Virtual seminar on Nutrition on 6 July with 88 members registered to attend, 49 members in attendance. This session was recorded based on requests from our members. Education SIG offered to co-host this seminar with Infant Feeding Group however, the offer was declined by the Infant Feeding Group.

ACNN Annual Conference (Virtual: The Education SIG invited Assoc Prof Jennifer Weller-Newton (Melbourne University) to conduct a virtual workshop: *Creativity in developing education in clinical practice: Symposia on workplace learning culture*. Assoc. Professor Jenny Weller-Newton also presented on *Harnessing moments of learning* at the conference.

Infant Feeding

Committee Members

Chair: Heather Taylor, Secretary/Treasurer Liaison: Lee Hopper

Ordinary Members: Bronwyn Bernerius, Rachel Jones, Maura McEvoy, Gabrielle Kerslake, Linda Thomasson, Shelley Reid

Activities in 2021

Established the SIG email address and a public page on the ACNN website. Members area SIG page populated with information, including meeting minutes.

Evaluated and selected resources to be added to website for members' information.

Contributed items for the March, June and September newsletters.

Presented two webinars, on topics selected after consulting with members, consisting of 30-minute presentations followed by question time, for maximum of one hour.

Provided an inaugural networking Peer Practice Q&A session for members to submit feeding-related questions for discussion.

Held the annual SIG meeting, by Zoom, in October and elected the committee for 2022.

Proposed scholarship guidelines related to infant feeding.

Reported to the Executive at the end of the provisional year in September, granted ongoing status.

Developed a SIG information flyer.

Leadership

Committee Members

Chair: Dustylee Williams and Lyn Chapple, Secretary: Kristen James Nunez, Treasurer Liaison: Lyn Chapple

Ordinary Members: Jo Sheils, Wendy Carlish

Activities in 2021

Virtual presentation series: The leadership SIG have been incredibly fortunate to have Julie Sorrell, MSc in Health and Social Care Leadership & Nurse Researcher at Qld Health, complete a series of leadership directed presentation over the course of the 2021. Julie developed the BOOST! Leadership Development Program which has been adopted by Hospital and Health Services across Queensland. Julie's presentations covered: Conflict competence in July, Effective communication in August and Role modelling in November. Each presentation offered practical knowledge and skills" that members could take back to their units and be translated into everyday practice, inspiring nurse leaders in all positions, environments and clinical capacity.

Leadership SIG scholarships 2021: In 2021 the leadership SIG offered two scholarships to Ms Alyson Smith and Ms Brittany Schoenmaker. We congratulate Alyson and Brittany on their scholarships and thank them for contributing to the ACNN national newsletter.

ACNN National Conference: this year's national ACNN conference was held from Wednesday 8-10 September in a virtual capacity due to ongoing COVID concerns. Nonetheless it was inspiring to have so many knowledgeable and skilled presenters across a number of specialist areas collaborate to form such a powerful conference.

Change leadership Management: Julie Sorrell Leadership is Julie's passion, and she was able to use her knowledge and experience when she developed a Clinical Nurse Leadership development program for the North West Hospital Health Service nurses. A program that has been adopted by two further HHS across Queensland. The BOOST! Leadership Development Program has been presented at the 'Are you remotely Interested' conference, JCU centre for Rural and Remote Health, the 2019 ICN congress in Singapore and the 2019 AQNML conference in Brisbane and is supported by the QH OCNMO.

Futuristic Nurse Leaders: Annie Beverly and Angela Casey Annie Beverly has a broad background, having worked as a Registered Nurse as well as in the commercial sector within the human resources and management fields. Annie builds leadership capability by developing intrapersonal (self-awareness, self-management) and interpersonal skills; she has worked with individuals and teams across the employee / management chain to facilitate practical management solutions to maximise performance outcomes / confidence levels, which then translates into greater job satisfaction.

Angela Casey is currently the Clinical Program Director for Critical Care at the Sydney Children's' Network. Previously Angela was the Nurse Manger of the Grace Centre for Newborn Intensive Care Unit and has extensive experience in management and leadership roles for over 15 years. Angela has a creative and supportive management and leadership style and inspires teams and individuals to achieve their best, create the vision and to look towards the future.

Angela is a certified coach with Gallups International which focuses on strength-based skills and talents to support and build leadership growth

Annual Meeting 2021: the leadership SIG held there annual general meeting on Tuesday 2 November via a virtual platform. The committee for 2022 was elected with planning for another excited and inspiring year coming soon. The leadership SIG would like to thank Jo Sheils and Wendy Carlish for their dedication over the past years. Jo and Wendy will be stepping down from the committee for 2022.

Leadership SIG provided newsletter submissions to the majority, but not all, of the quarterly newsletters. This was either from a SIG representative or from our scholarship applicants.

The leadership SIG was represented at majority but not all of the executive meetings throughout the year. This attendance was dominated by the chair representation and was not met due to conflicting obligations, particularly clinical work requirements.

The leadership SIG was instrumental in the development of Selfcare Sunday, an initiative to provide ACNN members resources on the importance of self-care in stressful times, particularly around COVID 19. The content provided to the social media group was used to continue the #positiveleadership presence on social media.

Low Resource Countries

Committee Members

Chair: Karen New, Secretary: Robyn Schmid, Treasurer liaison: Karen Walker

Ordinary Members: Donna Hovey, Gill Mibus, Leanne Sheppard, Linda Ng, Judy Macey, Melissah Burnett.

Activities in 2021

Had a SIG representative participate at each National Forum meeting – rotated among the committee.

Submitted an item for each edition of the newsletter.

Opened each meeting with an acknowledgement of country.

Organised 2 virtual presentations open to all members.

Updated our information brochure.

Our webpages were reviewed regularly and updated throughout the year.

SIG members delivered virtual presentations via our Taking Paediatrics Abroad partnership in November and December. Two presentations were given during the 1-hour session. To date clinicians from Fiji, Vanuatu, Solomon Islands and Tonga have attended.

The SIG engaged a professional videographer and an interpreter to produce a video demonstrating the resuscitation training session that we do in LRC countries.

We continued to collaborate with the Kokoda Track Foundation, however activities were non-existent due to Covid-19.

Fundraising – individual members had ‘birthday’ fundraising events – requesting purchase of gifts from LRC SIG products instead of presents. A special thank you to Gill Mibus who raised over \$1000 for the SIG.

Scholarships updated with the LRC SIG scholarship renamed to the Renee Collison Scholarship.

Received a supply of birthing kits from Soroptimist International (Brisbane South).

Received a donation of bunny rugs from a sewing group in Tasmania led by Marian Hardman.

Offered 4 National Conference registrations to nurses from low resource countries (join virtually) and one person from PNG responded and was sponsored.

Neonatal Skin

Committee Members

Chair: Deanne August/Lyn Chapple/Kristin Hughes (co-chairs), Secretary: Karen New, Treasurer Liaison: Linda Ng. Social Media Liaison (new position): Nicol Franz

Ordinary Members: Judy Macey, Emma Yeomans

Activities in 2021

SIG committee meetings were to be held on the 3rd Wednesday of odd numbered months and general meetings open to SIG and ACNN members in even months. However, during the year, due to work and personal workloads the frequency of meetings was decreased but the committee did hold two general meetings in February and April and the annual general meeting in November. Committee meetings were held successfully in January, March, June and August. The scheduled face-to-face committee meeting to be held in May was cancelled due to Covid considerations. The June meeting involved discussing the future of the SIG as the Chair stepped down due to increased workload in preparing her thesis for submission. Outcomes from this discussion was to decrease the frequencies of meeting for the rest of the year as many committee members were completing post-graduate studies and Kristin Hughes agreed to stand in as acting Chair.

The SIG planned to communicate with SIG members via email, social media, the ACNN newsletter and the ACNN website to promote open meetings and scholarships on offer, and to highlight relevant skin related resources available and planned SIG activities. A social media liaison position was established to take responsibility for planning social media content activities with the social media committee as a way in improving the profile of the SIG and to have more engagement with members and also non-members. Social media content posts included fun facts, quizzes, and reminders of meetings/events. Members were emailed regularly through the “Round Up” and via dedicated SIG emails. Newsletter

items were submitted as planned, and the Members Area SIG webpage was updated with the SIG information brochure, and relevant and current peer reviewed resources. Resources developed by the former Neonatal Skin forum were also added to the website after endorsement by the ACNN Executive committee.

An action of the committee was to identify opportunities to represent ACNN and the SIG at relevant forums. A representative from the SIG presented at the ACNN Queensland Branch workshop held in Logan in June 2021. The SIG also explored membership with Pedraresearch and Wounds Australia early in 2021 but the committee decided that the benefits did not outweigh the cost of membership with Pedraresearch and the communication from Wounds Australia did not proceed.

The committee had set the action of providing support to ACNN members on issues and correspondence relating to neonatal skin and skin care products. This was achieved throughout the year: all requests for information were responded to, highlighting resources and current evidence while also encouraging attendance at open meetings to discuss Neonatal skin topics of concern. A table was established to track enquiries and aid discussion as a committee.

Funding opportunities were to be explored to help with project work and development of resources. This was not progressed due to reduced SIG activity.

The activity of acknowledging SIG member achievements (with the consent of the member) was achieved. Deanne August was acknowledged for her research work at the Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital via social media.

The SIG related scholarship was reviewed and updated at the beginning of 2021 – for skin related projects/workshops/study. Disappointingly no applications were received despite promotions at general meetings/open forums and via social media.

SIG members were invited to be observers at committee meetings with Judy Macey joining as an observer for several meetings before being accepted as an ordinary committee member.

The engagement of consumers for projects and research pertaining to skin was not pursued in 2021 due to restrictions around research activities during Covid and also due to the redirection in activities/focus for the SIG.

The committee encourages members to discuss skin initiatives and topics of concern at general meetings/open forums. A list of project topics was established by the SIG to track progress.

Peer reviewed publications, summarising gaps and/or suggestions for practice change and new resources were promoted via the meeting minutes and on the SIG webpage. The committee reviewed several articles of interest to establish strength of evidence and relevance to the neonatal population.

The committee had planned to assist with requests for advice and mentoring from members. However, a redirection in effort and aims was undertaken in August in response to committee member workloads external to SIG activities. The committee felt the number of activities and priorities the SIG was trying to work on meant that quality output was difficult to achieve. It was also acknowledged that improvement in the knowledge of skin related issues was essential for committee members to assist with the demands of the SIG's correspondence and project workload. The committee decided to focus on upskilling the current committee members so the workload of the SIG can be shared. An alternative structure was agreed on at the subsequent November general meeting whereby the role of the Chair would be shared.

Neonatal Nurse Practitioner

Committee Members

Chair: Jane Langford, Secretary: Amy Curran, Treasurer Liaison: Jo Scott

Ordinary Members: Karen Hose, Gill Mibus, Miriam Long, Mariann Hennessy, Louise Williamson, Sil Sissing, Donna Hillyard, Annie Hatfield, Julie Bernardo, Barbara Monk and Susan Scott

Activities in 2021

The committee recognises the challenges of 2021 for the committee membership from a workforce and capacity perspective, particularly within the context of COVID 19. This has undoubtedly impacted on participation capability for committee members. Despite these challenges, the committee has been able to continue forward momentum, particularly in the education space. The committee is thankful for the generosity of speakers in sharing their expertise, and for those committee members who have coordinated these excellent educational initiatives.

Annual NNP SIG Workshop – Recharge & Reconnect March 2021 Brisbane

Virtual presentations by invited speakers:

12 March 2021 – “Lung Ultrasound” Dr Arun Sett

20 April 2021 – “Pathophysiology of Hypoglycaemia” Dr Jane Harding

27 July 2021 – “Edi monitoring and NAVA in the Neonatal patient” Sharon Crocetti

25 November 2021 – “The blue babies (PPHN)” Dr Anu Kochar

Presentations conducted by NNP Sig Members:

Is peripartum fever alone a reliable predictor of neonatal sepsis? A single-centre, retrospective cohort study – Amy Curran
Queensland Neonatal Workforce Project 2020 – Karen Hose

Publications

Forbes-Coe A et al. *The Evolution and sustainability of the NNP in Australia, a discussion paper.*
<https://doi.org/10.1111/jpc.13882> 197

Scott J et al, *Delayed Diagnosis in Esophageal Atresia and Tracheoesophageal Fistula: Case Study.*
<https://doi.org/10.1097/anc.0000000000000763>

Gupta S et al. *Is peripartum maternal fever alone a reliable predictor of neonatal sepsis? A single-centre, retrospective cohort study.* <https://doi.org/10.1111/jpc.15492>

Research conducted or being undertaken:

- Bilious vomits requiring retrievals – a year review audit
- Maternal fever versus the sepsis calculator – ongoing
- Introducing the Sepsis Calculator into a tertiary hospital – ongoing

Recipients of Grants / Awards

\$1200 – Awarded to Amy Curran for attending the NNP Workshop & Neonatal seminar in Brisbane in March 2021

Neurodevelopmental Care

Committee Members

Chair: Annie Chang, Secretary: Ursula Haack, Treasurer Liaison: Renee Muirhead

Ordinary Members: Megan Bater, Amanda Bates, Sophia Dong, Cindi Escardo, Nadine Griffiths, Anna Seppelt, Carmel Pearsall, Kim Psaila, Michelle Thomas

Activities in 2021

NDC SIG hosted three virtual presentations in April, June, and December. These were:

- Ms. Furey (Speech Pathologist): Oral feeding our preterm babies not as easy as it seems
- Dr Gayatri (Neonatologist): Neuro-Critical nursing and supporting the developing brain
- Dr Psaila (FINE trainer and academic course advisor): infant mental health in the NICU: evidence challenge and strategies

NDC SIG contributed with two presentations and one workshop at the 2021 ACNN National Conference (virtual event).

NDC SIG conducted an online national survey regarding the existence of a clinical developmental care guideline in Australian NICU/SCN. Summary of survey below:

Response emails received from 18 NICUs: (NSW: 7, Victoria: 1, Tasmania: 1, South Australia: 1, WA: 1, Queensland: 7). Two NICUs had current developmental care guidelines, 4 NICUs had multiple guidelines regarding developmental care topics, 2 NICUs were developing a guideline, and 10 NICUs stated to have no existing developmental care guideline.

Co-approved two NDC SIG scholarship applications: Newborn Behaviour Observation (NBO) in the high-risk setting, Royal Women’s Hospital, Melbourne, and FINE 2 online training.

The recipients have written a summary of the above workshop/course. The paragraph was submitted for publication in the March 2022 edition of the ACNN newsletter.

NDC SIG attended five ACNN executive forum meetings (bimonthly zoom meeting).

NDC SIG committee remained active and diligent in promoting NDC events throughout the year by:

- poster design
- arrange award for NDC SIG guest speakers

- website update
- advertisement of events through multimedia platform (ACNN Facebook)

Maintained and expanded the working committee and ordinary membership.

Initiated and continued with a working group for the development of a NDC SIG position statement.

Research

Committee Members

Chair: Margaret Broom/ Patricia Lowe Secretary: Kim Psaila/ Jeewan Jyoti, Treasurer Liaison: Renee Muirhead

Ordinary Members: Kaye Spence, Margo Pritchard, Suza Trajkovski, Jann Foster, Sheeja Perumbil, Amanda Curley, Denise Harrison and Linda Ng

Activities in 2021

Research-Special Interest Group (R-SIG) Proposed National Study

The first phase of the Neonatal Nursing Outcome Measures (NNOM) research project was delayed due to COVID19. A research assistant was employed to assist with the scoping review and commenced in October. The team have written terms of reference and have formed a project steering committee which started meeting in November 2021.

Annual Meeting 2021

We contributed to the 2021 virtual Annual Meeting through a concurrent session and supported our guest speaker Denise Harrison. We judged and awarded scholarships for two best research oral presentations as well as an award for best abstract.

Research Virtual Education Sessions

We continued with our virtual research presentations throughout 2021 particularly focusing on presentations from HDR students. This provided them the opportunity to present their work during COVID. The presentations have been held during the first 30mins. of our monthly SIG meetings. Copies of most of these presentations have been recorded and are available on the ACNN website for review by members. We want to take this opportunity to thank all our outstanding presenters for giving up their time to share their work with us. We would also like to thank the membership for attending and supporting this initiative.

