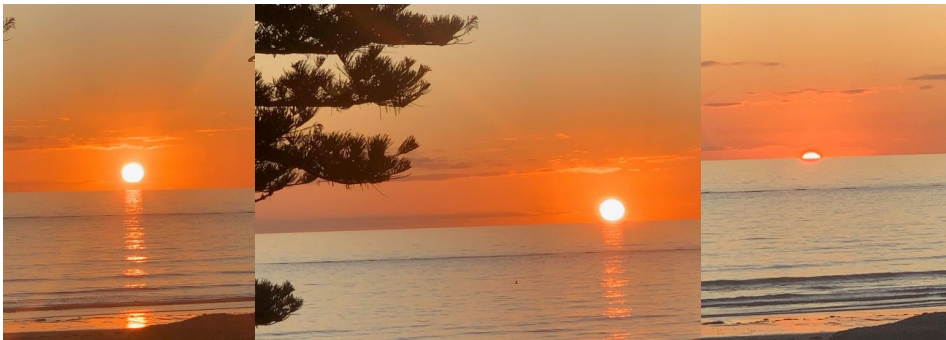


From the President

Amy Curran

president@acnn.org.au

Well as the sun sets in Glenelg, I have taken the time to reflect on another amazing conference with 205 delegates registered. These photos were taken on Saturday after the conference.



It has been great following you all on Facebook and Instagram and for those of you that managed to experience more of Adelaide, it looked beautiful. I am so glad the weather improved.

For those that didn't attend the conference the ACNN welcomed 3 international speakers, 15 Australian speakers and 19 ACNN members who presented with a focus on the "Neo-Matrix" a set of related things that affect how something develops or changes. The conference started with the workshop on Eat, Sleep, Console: Dyad care for perinatal women using substances and exposed infants workshop, attended by 80 delegates. Nicol Franz encouraged members to bring this program to Australia and if you are interested in further information, please contact nicol.franz@utas.edu.au. One-hundred and fifty of us then jumped on 3 buses to experience the delights of Hahndorf (Hahn's little village) and Grunthal's microbrewery – Udder Delights with an amazing experience of cheese with beers, wines and gin to match.

The special interest groups hosted 6 concurrent sessions and really engaged with delegates by having a range of activities and competitions with great prizes on offer at their tables. The majority held their annual meeting and formed new committees, please don't forget to update your website page, and inform Shelley: secretary@acnn.org.au on your new committee members. The conference closed with an inspirational presentation from Justine Parsons and a great take-home message about sustainability in the NICU: How green can we be – her implications for practice – taken from her abstract and I quote; "Seeking out opportunities to improve product choice, develop waste reduction strategies, re-use and recycle items are all important ways that NICUs can lead the way in becoming more eco-friendly and contribute to net-zero emissions". I think many members already have an idea of one thing they could change and if you would like further information, please contact: Justine.parsons@health.nsw.gov.au

It was lovely to meet some of our ACNN Champions at the conference and as mentioned in my AGM report the majority are from Western Australia, Victoria, and Tasmania where we currently don't have branches so this is a real opportunity to establish new branches this year. Therefore, the ACNN could have a branch representative

present at every local conference to host a table and engage in promoting ACNN activities and attract new members. I also feel that the collaboration between the special interest groups and branches should continue to grow and if any SIGs are planning workshops for 2024, please consider engaging the local Branch.

The new Executive has developed for a couple of reasons, as mentioned Denise Harrison has stepped down from the Professional Officer role due to other commitments and Shelley has informed us she is going to gradually retire from the Secretary role. Due to there being no new applicants this year the positions of a transition Profession Officer, Assistant Secretary and Membership Manager have been filled to lighten her role and give our Executive non-office bearing members an opportunity to undertake new positions.

The Executive is planning a face-to-face meeting on 16 and 17 of March 2024 at the Holiday Inn, Mascot near Sydney Airport. The Executive will support return flights (if required) and Friday nights' accommodation for one member of each SIG and Branch to attend who is not an Executive member. The Saturday will start at 8am with discussing the strategic plan due to be updated in 2025, the Professional Officer's role and engaging new members through local conferences and membership initiatives. This will be discussed further at the next forum.

National Executive 2023

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Amy Curran

Vice President
Linda Ng

Secretary
Shelley Reid

Treasurer
Samantha Lannan

Transitional Professional Officer
Margaret Broom

Social Media
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Melissah Burnett

Membership Secretary
Nicol Franz

Executive Support Officer
Karen New

THE PEAK PROFESSIONAL BODY FOR NEONATAL NURSES IN AUSTRALIA

Thank you for all your hard work.

Australian Capital Territory Branch

On 22 June we celebrated our first Twilight Seminar in many years (post COVID). We had over 45 attendees join us for a fantastic evening of education, networking, and delicious food. Our seminar was opened by Justine Parsons from John Hunter Hospital Newcastle who spoke to us about 'Enteral Feeding: why does change make us

nervous?’ This talk was highly educational, motivational and thought-provoking towards shifting our focus in evidence-based practices around neonatal nutrition. Following a delicious meal, we welcomed Jennifer Harland from the Australian College of Nursing who provided a highly informative and relevant presentation on ‘Recognising stress and preventing burnout’. We thank Justine and Jennifer for their time and look forward to working with them as we move forward.

The ACT branch has also been busy planning for upcoming education and scholarship opportunities for the second half of 2023. We offered Travel Scholarships to ACNN members for the National Conference held in Adelaide. Our next Twilight Seminar is planned for Tuesday 7 November ... save the date!

As we celebrated International Neonatal Nurses Day on 15 August the ACT Branch thanked all nurses for the incredible difference you all make to our profession. We look forward to continuing to support our members.

New South Wales Branch

Scholarship opportunities

The Jessie Everson-Checkley Education Grant is available to any NSW member who has been a member for at least 12 months at the time of application. The maximum award per person is \$2,000 with a limit of 3 grants per financial year. These grants are suitable for attending international conferences such as those held by COINN.

See [ACNN - Jessie Everson Checkley Education Grant](#)

NSW Branch Country Seminar 2023

This is being held in collaboration with the Education SIG and SA Branch.

THANKS TO THE GENEROSITY OF OUR SPONSORS FOR MAKING THIS WORKSHOP POSSIBLE:

ACNN THE REAL PROFESSIONAL BODY FOR NEONATAL NURSES IN AUSTRALIA

The Education Special Interest Group together with NSW Branch, SA Branch and the Nutrition and Feeding SIG invite you to:

BABIES IN THE BUSH BROKEN HILL

PRACTICAL WORKSHOPS, PRESENTATIONS AND A RURAL EXPERIENCE!

Presented by: Neonatal Nurses, Midwives & Neonatologists

VISIT THE OUTBACK THIS SPRING

REGISTER HERE

12-13 October 2023

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Image by @vlatkosphotography

Queensland Branch

Rocky wrap-up

Nicol Franz

On Saturday 20 May, the Qld Branch held another successful workshop, but a little bit different from our last island get away. This time we held a full-day event at the Rockhampton Hospital, and what an amazing local event!

The workshop program was put together by the Rockhampton team with the title 'Partners in Progress'. The focus of the event was to demonstrate some of the challenges that are seen in the regional centres in QLD. The presenters demonstrated how some of the common neonatal problems such as jaundice and newborn screening are managed in regional settings with limited resources.



One of the highlights from the event included a parent's first-hand perspective of an infant with medium-chain acyl-coenzyme A dehydrogenase deficiency (MCADD). Mum Andrea Melville provided great details of the trials and tribulations of what a day in the life of a MCADD mum looks like, discussing how she manages hospital visits, counts calories, proteins and carbs and also monitors developmental milestones. Andrea provided a very honest account of the day on which her

daughter Harriet received the scary diagnosis. Statistics indicate that this rare condition saw up to 25% of infants die before 30 months of age during the first episode. Yet Andrea and her family have managed Harriet's condition so well that Harriet is now getting ready for school. What a journey, we really appreciated hearing about the lived experience shared by Andrea Melville at Rockhampton.



Living with MCADD

- Regular feeds – setting alarms all the time
- Learning her 'signs'
- Levocarnitine supplementation
- 'sick day' plan
- Emergency management
- Hospital visits

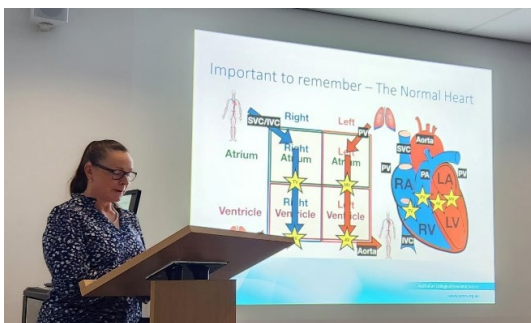
Photos by permission

If you are not familiar with MCADD and would like to know a little more about this diagnosis, the following article by Manson, Hindmarch and Dunham-Snary (2022) has some really good details on Beta-Oxidation and its relation to MCADD and the metabolic pathway.

[Medium-chain Acyl-CoA dehydrogenase deficiency: Pathogenesis, diagnosis, and treatment \(wiley.com\)](#)

Another highlight of the event was the raffle. The Rockhampton team put together an enormous prize draw with over 38 prizes available. The prize draw certainly engaged everyone, raising a whopping \$600 which will assist the QLD Branch to host more events like this (keep an eye out for our branch announcements for the next QLD event, it might be somewhere near you).

The QLD Branch committee would like to sincerely thank all those from Rockhampton Hospital who assisted at the event, including the presenters, and convey a special mention to Maxine Ballinger and Julianne Hite who made the day such a success.



Education SIG

Conference Report: Babes in the Vines

Kris York

Clinical Nurse Consultant

John Hunter Childrens Hospital, Newcastle, NSW

On 2 June this year John Hunter Children’s Hospital NICU held the Babes in the Vines neonatal conference. It was an incredible conference with over 150 nursing, medical, midwifery and allied health clinicians attending on the day. Topics included impacts of Covid on the neonatal/nursing/midwifery workforce, neonatal kidney development, lung ultrasounds, neonatal nursing around the world, outcomes for the extremely preterm infant born at the limits of viability, developmental care in neonatal units and bringing compassion back to healthcare. We were so blessed to have incredible speakers and there was not a dry eye in sight when our guest speaker Rachel Callander spoke about her daughter Evie.



*Babes in the Vines Conference Committee
(missing from this picture - Sam Jarrett and Jess Taggart)*

I was privileged to be on the conference committee this year. This is the first conference committee I have been part of, so it was an eye-opener to see how much hard work and commitment goes into the planning and delivery of a smooth conference. I will certainly look at conferences in a different light! Many hands make light work, and this was particularly true in this dedicated committee.

As a district CNC, I get to meet many neonatal nurses and midwives around my local health district and I am proud to say that I had a nurse/midwife/paediatrician representing every special care unit in Hunter New England region, and I loved being able to catch up with them outside of their individual units. I do, however, need some work on recognising people out of uniform and recognise their faces with no masks!

Niche medical and Comfy Koalas very generously sponsored two scholarships for our rural neonatal nurses in HNELHD to attend this year's conference. These companies paid for their accommodation and conference fees and both recipients were very grateful as they both lived more than 4 hours away from where the conference was held. Our lucky winners of these scholarships were Melanie Williams (Armidale SCU) and Anju Kafle (Tamworth SCU).



It is a year for firsts for myself, and this year I have found myself elected as the secretary of the NSW Branch of ACNN. Of course, what do you do when you have the Chair, Secretary and Treasurer at the same conference? You organise a table, buy a couple of bottles of Hunter wine and a box of chocolates as incentives and have a recruitment drive for ACNN members! We came away from this conference with many new ACNN members and we are navigating ways to increase our members in the NSW Branch in the future.

NSW ACNN Branch Treasurer Liaison Karen Walker, Chair Justine Parsons and Secretary Kris York

Leadership SIG

Scholarship report

International Council of Nurses Congress 2023

Kristin Bennie

Clinical Nurse Educator, Newborn Care, Royal Prince Alfred Hospital

I was fortunate to be awarded a scholarship through the Australian College of Neonatal Nurses Leadership and Management category to attend the International Council of Nurses (ICN) Congress in Montreal, Canada in July. What an overwhelming Congress to attend! There were 6,000 nurses from over 130 countries in attendance and the Congress was also streamed online to reach even more participants. The theme of the Congress was *Nurses Together: A Force for Global Health*. The calibre of guests and speakers at the Congress was awe-inspiring and a definite force for global health.

The Congress welcomed special guests including Her Royal Highness Muna Al Hussein of Jordan who has been instrumental in the development of nursing in Jordan, and the Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau who addressed the Congress on the last day. Mr Trudeau praised nurses across the globe on the work we do and spoke about his commitment to continue supporting not only Canadian nurses but nurses across the globe for better working conditions and pay. The President of ICN, Dr Pamela Cipriano, challenged Mr Trudeau to continue this support with global leaders when they meet at upcoming Summits.

The World Health Organisation (WHO) had a big presence at the Congress, highlighting the key strategic goals for health across the world and also highlighting the need to support the health and well-being of nurses and midwives worldwide. The ICN rallied the WHO to commit to undertaking a global nursing and midwifery workforce report, which will be only the second of its kind. The global workforce report is due out in 2025 and will determine the effect of the pandemic on the nursing and midwifery workforce. There is already a prediction that the nursing and midwifery workforce shortage will not improve.

The main themes highlighted during the Congress were the mass exodus of nurses from the profession, professional burnout, and the migration of nurses to other countries. The prediction of a global nursing shortage will be further impacted by the highlighted themes. There were presentations and discussions throughout the

Congress that aimed to address these themes and what nursing leaders and universities are doing to support retention and improve the working conditions of nurses and midwives. However, more work is needed.

There is so much to report! Across the world nurses are doing incredible things for the profession, not only improving patient care but also improving the profession. The vast range of topics covered throughout the Congress related to patient safety, disaster nursing, regulation, and building strong leadership in nursing and healthcare.

One of my favourite sessions of the congress was a plenary session with a panel discussing 'How great leaders inspire action'. Simon Sinek is the founder of The Optimism Company, a leadership and development company, and has dedicated his professional life to inspiring leaders and organisations from many industries to create a vision for the future. Simon was inspiring to listen to and raised interesting points regarding leadership and his spin on optimism, with it not just being an optimist (a positive or a happy person) but that optimism is when the future is seen as bright, a vision that is positive. One statement that he mentioned more than once and which really resonated with me was that leaders (and managers) 'need to take care of the people who take care of the people', and when this occurs, patient safety naturally occurs and improves.

Following the end of the official programme of the Congress, I had the opportunity for a hospital visit and tour of one of Montreal's largest hospitals, McGill University Hospital. The tour of the hospital included the ICU, operating theatre, and the Neonatal ICU. The tour of the NICU was interesting, a large NICU with 50 beds and all single rooms, with a couple of rooms to accommodate twins or triplets.

Attending this Congress was invaluable. It provided the opportunity to gain a further understanding in global nursing, leadership, and regulation, which are my interests. The ICN has a powerful role with its global voice for nurses and has the ability to influence global leaders to support nurses, midwives, and patients. ICN has collaborated with the BBC on a series of films called *Caring with Courage* to showcase nurses across the world with some of the incredible work they are doing for their communities. I highly recommend checking it out! The BBC is also seeking nominations to showcase more incredible nurses working for their communities. A nomination form can be located on their website.

Research SIG

Scholarship report

Dr Rosemarie Boland

Aloha Hawaii!

After 3 years of COVID lockdowns, no overseas travel and conference presentations given over Zoom at odd hours of the morning to align with international timetables – I cannot describe my joy at having 2 abstracts selected for presentation at the inaugural ALIGNN congress in stunning Waikiki, October 2022. Being able to share my research with other neonatal nurses on the development of NIC-PREDICT, an extremely preterm birth outcome predictor was a privilege and an honour.

Attending and presenting at ALIGNN had many highlights, but standout memories were seeing all Executive members of the neonatal nursing organisations from around the world together on stage for the first time, including the COINN President, our own Karen Walker.

The presentation of the Royal Order of Kapiolani to 3 Hawaiian neonatal nurses was an especially moving ceremony. A lifetime of memories was created in just 3 days, meeting and sharing stories with neonatal nurses from Hawaii, mainland USA, Japan, SE Asia, Australia, New Zealand, and presenting alongside



my friend, Deanne August. But my absolute highlight was being awarded the conference prize by the inspirational Carol Kenner and having her inscribe my prize book encouraging me to continue to strive to achieve my goals as a neonatal nurse researcher.

Mahalo to ACNN for awarding me the Research Scholarship, which allowed me to attend ALIGNN. To my new ALLIGNN friends... a hui hou... (until we meet again).

Scholarship report

Dr Linda Ng

I was awarded the Research Scholarship in July 2023 to attend the Higher Education Research and Development Society of Australasia (HERDSA) Conference. The Conference was held from 5 to 7 July 2023 at the Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre. The scholarship opportunity was crucial to my attendance at the conference and enabled me to experience first-hand the many essential aspects of the Higher Education community represented at the event.

During the conference, I had the opportunity to attend various informative and insightful talks, workshops, and panels led by respected experts in the field. I was particularly inspired by Prof David Hornsby from Carlton University in Canada, who spoke on 'Socially-just pedagogies and the future of Universities', which provided me with new and innovative perspectives on this issue. Furthermore, I was able to network with professionals and experts in nursing and higher education, which greatly expanded the possibilities for my academic and professional development. I also had the opportunity to meet fellow students with similar research interests, fostering new scholarly collaborations and the exchange of ideas.

The knowledge and connections I gained at the conference were invaluable, and the opportunity to share my research and receive feedback was essential to my academic growth and development. I am confident that I am better equipped to engage with the nursing and higher education community and contribute to advancing knowledge in this area. Thank you for the generosity and support of ACNN, which allowed me to attend the HERDSA Conference and participate in such a transformative experience.

Joanna Briggs Institute (JBI) Evidence-Based Practice Implementation Workshop - ACNN Conference

This introductory, interactive workshop aimed to equip neonatal healthcare professionals with the knowledge and skills to successfully implement evidence-based practice in their clinical settings. Participants learned the principles of evidence-based practice and how to apply them to clinical situations, as well as strategies for overcoming barriers to implementation. The workshop was presented by Dr Kylie Porritt and Dr Ashley Whitehorn from JBI and was targeted at neonatal clinicians interested in evidence-based healthcare. Dr Ashley Whitehorn is a research fellow in the Transfer Science team at JBI, within the University of Adelaide. She leads the JBI Women's and Children's Health field and works closely with invited experts to create clinically relevant evidence summaries for clinicians on various topics. Alexa McArthur is a Senior Research Fellow in the Implementation Science program at JBI, University of Adelaide. Alexa is a nurse/midwife with clinical experience in domestic and international settings, including the United Kingdom, Nepal, and Somalia.

Neo-Skin SIG



Response to enquiries about the use of barrier wipes under PIVC primary dressings

PIVC practices are complex and often best practices for newborns and neonates can be borrowed from paediatrics. Safe and effective PIVC care includes considerations for the moment of cannula insertion, securement (dressing and related products including possible barrier films) and management. However, there is limited emerging evidence for neonatal specific PIVC practices, including the benefit of skin barrier films for PIVC securement or

cannula effectiveness. While some paediatrics policies encourage securement practices including skin barrier films, this is likely related to the rate of dislodgement 16% (Kleidon, et al, 2019). However, this complication rate is not supported by neonatal data, with no cases of dislodgment in one study (Legemaat et al., 2016) and only one case (0.05%) in McIntyre C, et al., (2021). It may be that review of your local data related to PIVC securement or failure suggests problems different than this, but it should be evidence that suggests a change in practice.

Therefore, consideration for use of skin barrier films should primarily consider skin health, that is, does the use of barrier film improve or hinder skin health in the location of a medical device? Realistically the evidence is unclear, and with multiple barrier products on the market, it's difficult to make generalised recommendations. Traditional barrier films contain high proportions of benzyl alcohol so they were not recommended for fragile skin types including adults. All neonates, regardless of gestational age have skin that is still under development and therefore, have increased risk of absorption (August, 2022.) Interestingly, some alcohol-free barriers (containing Hexamethyldisiloxane/acrylate) may be toxic if swallowed or enters airways and prolonged use can irritate the skin, and there is limited evidence to support recommendations for neonates less than 30 days of age (Black, 2007: III). Comparably other silicone or dimethicone based (plastic-polymer) barrier films have no age restriction but limited evidence exists for neonates (Denyer 2011). The evidence for silicone-based films are borrowed from geriatrics, cancer care, paediatric or skin disease populations (epidermolysis bullosa) (Schurene et al 2005 and Campbell 2000; Lloyd 2012). They demonstrate skin protection from adhesives, nappy dermatitis and ostomy outputs (Kuller, 2016; Black, 2007; Irving, 2001). While, silicone-based skin barrier films are believed to be sting-free application (when compared to alcohol-based films), they leave a different kind of residue that may take slightly longer to dry. One study including neonates less than 33 weeks (mean 28.6 with SD of 2.5) demonstrated skin protection and reduction of Trans-Epidermal Water Loss or TEWL (Brandon, et al 2010). Although this study found efficacy without any safety concerns, additional research is warranted in a larger ELBW population, which is currently undetermined.

There are a variety of skin barrier film products on the market; and silicone contents and ingredients vary; it's also important to note that while market advertising suggests "sting-free" not all are silicone based. Emerging recommendations are to only use silicone-based wipes for fragile skin. Silicone-based wipes include Welland Barrier film or ESENTA Barrier Film (Convatec); compared to others which may contain alcohol or other substances (Sureprep No-Sting Skin Protectant Wipes, Skin Tac Adhesive Barrier, Marathon No Sting Liquid Skin Protection containing Cyanoacrylate Skin Protectant, Skin Tac containing isopropyl alcohol and partially hydrogenated rosin). Ingredients can be confirmed with Safety Data Sheets. Reviewing or requesting material safety data sheets produced by the manufacture is a good start, as the protective films can be a source of skin irritation with complex removal processes.

Examples of product safety information sources include:

https://wellandmedical.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/WBF-Barrier-Wipes-Sterile_Vs07.pdf

https://punchout.medline.com/media/catalog/Docs/MSDS/MSD_SDS0017.pdf

https://static.webarecontrol.com/CommonFile/Medline%20Sureprep%20No-Sting%20Protective%20Barrier%20Wipes_Safety%20Data%20Sheet.pdf

https://imgcdn.mckesson.com/CumulusWeb/Click_and_learn/SDS_MGM176_WIPE_SKIN_BARRIER_FILM_NO_STING_25EABX_100BXCS.pdf

https://multimedia.3m.com/mws/mediawebserver?mwsId=S555SuUn_zu8l00xMxtSnYt95v70k17zHvu9lxtD7SSSS55--

<https://www.clockmedical.com/customer/docs/skudocs/30868-convatec-sds.pdf>

This is an ever-evolving space and we welcome your questions and discussions around this at our next open Neo SIG Meeting (TBA) as well as at our table at the National Conference.

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Low Resource Countries SIG

In May LRC members Donna Hovey and Gill Mibus undertook the first post pandemic return visit to Goroka and Port Moresby in PNG to catch up with the Hospital and NGO Touching the Untouchables. The purpose of their visit was also to assess the situation for future LRC SIG member visits for in-country training. While there, Donna and Gill were able to undertake a helping babies breathe (HBB) training session for the nursing



students, with the assistance of several nursing educators within the school at Goroka. They found that our previous training had been continued by the educators as the students were familiar with equipment such as the ‘penguin sucker’ and what to do in certain situations.

Unfortunately, the situation with the Special Care Nursery has remained challenging and little of past achievements had been maintained, such as keeping babies warm. Also unfortunately due to the focus on pandemic issues, HBB training had been put on the ‘back burner’ by ‘Touching the Untouchables’ NGO as funding needed to be redirected to the pandemic response. However, they are on track to recommence this in the future and to continue to provide support to the Village Health Workers involved with maternal and newborn health as able. The accommodation situation within the hospital has also been affected by the pandemic and the ‘transit house’ in which groups stayed was assessed as not being safe enough for us to stay there. Therefore the current LRC SIG committee has made the decision not to restart in-county training in PNG for the foreseeable future.

Donna and Gill were able to deliver supplies of Birthing Kits, Solar lights and material to make uniforms for the Village Health Attendants on behalf of ACNN. Covid has impacted harshly on support and funding from other world health organisations and volunteers. They appreciated the visit and assistance given.



ACNN Nurse Excellence Award 2023

There were 30 nominations for this award for the judging panel to assess. The winner was Dr Rose Boland, selected for her outstanding contribution to research and neonatal nursing.



Professor Denise Harrison presenting the Excellence Award to Dr Rose Boland