



# Neonatal Nurse Practitioner

SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP

## 2021 Annual Report to the National Committee

### Present committee members - elected 6 October 2021

- **Chair:** Jane Langford - After quickly working out which side of midwifery Jane preferred early in her career, she happily fell into neonates over 20 years ago. Neonatal nursing took Jane to tertiary centres across Australia and then led to the UK where she completed her Advanced Neonatal Nurse Practitioner training in London. Ten years on, Jane has the pleasure of working in such a privileged role caring for babies and their families on the Sunshine Coast.
- **Secretary:** Amy Curran - Amy is an English trained nurse who worked in Leicester and London before moving to Australia in 2004. Amy worked as a transport nurse for NETS, Victoria before moving to Townsville in 2007 and undertaking her nurse practitioner training, becoming endorsed in 2010. Amy has been an active member within ACNN and is the Vice President on the executive committee and the current secretary for the NNP special interest group.
- **Treasurer:** Jo Scott - Jo is a Neonatal Nurse Practitioner (NNP) on the Royal Children's Hospitals Paediatric Infant Perinatal Emergency Retrieval (PIPER) team in Melbourne. She earned her Diploma of Nursing and NICU certification in New Zealand. Jo moved to the USA early in her nursing career gaining NICU experience in Hawaii, Washington State and Virginia. She achieved her Master of Science degree at the University of Virginia where she graduated as a Family Nurse Practitioner. While working as a neonatal transport clinician on the Children's Hospital of the Kings Daughters retrieval team she earned her post master's certification as an NNP and her Doctorate of Nursing Practice with a research focus on non-accidental head injury in children under 1 year of age.
- **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.

Past committee members – Anndrea Flint resigned as an ordinary member

### Committee goals

This committee has pledged to enhance and support neonatal nurse practitioners and candidates.

The ACNN Neonatal Nurse Practitioner SIG will:

- Establish a communication forum for NNPs and provide mentorship and support for developing NNPs and/or those interested in the role working in Australia.
- Develop professional links and reduce the isolation commonly associated with small specialty groups.
- Provide clinical leadership and advice regarding current educational programs and resources available to NNPs in Australia.
- Provide professional leadership (via consultation with educators and universities) to ensure NNPs play a role in shaping the future educational landscape across Australia for NNPs.
- Examine recruitment and retention strategies for the NNP role.
- Develop and share resources for innovative practice and evidence-based guidelines that will enhance neonatal care.
- Provide support and advice to new NNPs and those interested in the role.
- Support education for Neonatal Nurse, NNP and ACNN.

[Australian College of Neonatal Nurses Inc.](http://www.acnn.org.au)

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  [www.acnn.org.au](http://www.acnn.org.au)

**Overall achievements for the year January – December 2021:**

Meetings conducted and attendance record:

NNP SIG Committee activity 2021						
Membership	17	3 office bearers; 14 ordinary members				
Meetings	8 (February to October 2021)					
Participation rates of committee members	100%	75%	50%	20-25%	12.5%	0%
	1	2	3	2	3	2
Resignations						2
New members	4 (elected October 2021)					

The committee recognised 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.

The following area of the report details these activities.

**Annual NNP SIG Workshop – Recharge & Reconnect March 2021 Brisbane**

Speakers & Program:

Time	Title & Speaker
1200-1215	Welcome - Jane Langford (Chair of NNP SIG)
1215-1300	<b>'Feasibility and accuracy of cord blood sampling for admission laboratory investigations: A pilot trial'</b> Dr Poliana Medeiros
1300-1345	<b>Pharmacokinetics &amp; Dynamics of Inotropes</b> Dr Karen Whitfield (Pharmacist)
1345-1430	<b>Indomethacin for IVH Prevention in ELBW Babies</b> Dr Jasmine Antonine
1430-1515	<b>High Frequency ventilation &amp; Volume guarantee</b> Dr Jany Pienaar
1515-1600	<b>Metabolic overview</b> Anita Inwood (Nurse Practitioner)
1600-1700	<b>"Happy Hour"</b>
1700-1830	<b>VR Education: Inside the body</b> "Bundles of Rays" – Bradley Chesham

**Virtual Presentations conducted:**

- 12<sup>th</sup> March 2021 – "Lung Ultrasound" Dr Arun Sett
- 20<sup>th</sup> April 2021 – "Pathophysiology of Hypoglycaemia" Dr Jane Harding
- 27<sup>th</sup> July 2021 – "Edi monitoring and NAVA in the Neonatal patient" Sharon Crocetti
- 25<sup>th</sup> November 2021 – "The blue babies (PPHN)" Dr Anu Kochar

**Presentations by NNP SIG Members:**

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

**Publications produced by NNP SIG Members:**

- 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 by NNP SIG members:**

- 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 NNP SIG Scholarship:**

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

**Neonatal Nurse Practitioners in 2021**

Queensland	New South Wales	South Australia	Victoria
Amy Curran*	Cathy Vickery	Gillian Mibus*	Helen Patterson*
Barbara Monk*	Marilyn Owers	Julie Bernardo*	Kim Fletcher*
Megan Murphy*	Mary Wagner*	Lynne Mitchell	Jo Scott*
Greg Coulson	Kristin James-Nunez	Claudia Markwart	Catherine Fox
Janene Moore	Amy Barker*	Jo-Anne French*	Sally Jeston
Jenni Scott	Sarah Kenny*	Ann-Marie Tamassy*	Lorna Kerr*
Jane Langford*	Lisa Berecny	Miriam Long*	Dalbir Singh
Anndrea Flint*	Sara Brown	Amber Wilson	Johnny Gallardo Canales
Seija Argyros*	Bonita Sullivan	Petra Noble*	Sil Sissing*
Karen Hose*	Penelope Janes		Danielle Cook
Gemma Spaight*	Karen Anderson-Hawke		Tracey Croft
David Brown*	Kym Pollock*		Usha Nair
Ruth Oldfield*	Mariann Hennessy*		
Jo La Spina*	Sheena Binoy		
Tenille Fraser			
Jade Barrett			
Donna Martin*			
Donna Hillyard*			
CANDIDATES			
Angie Reece Stephanie Hall Kate Brown Annalyce Hancock Jane Browne Kimberley Butler Mattea Farrugia			Elsie Cowan  * Current members of ACNN



**Plans for next year 2022**

Bi-monthly zoom meeting – Two meetings per year to be conducted as an open forum to all members with an EOI for committee members being sent out prior to the AGM.

AGM to be held at the Annual ACNN Conference

One face-to-face or virtual planning meeting (February)

Annual NNP SIG Workshop – “Recharge & Reconnect” in conjunction with a Neonatal conference this year: PSANZ, Adelaide on 14<sup>th</sup> May 2022.

Virtual Presentations: 2-3 per year

NNP SIG members to present for LRC SIG and Taking Paediatrics Aboard.

Pursue and discuss with ACNN executive on AHPRA recognition of individual NP scope of practice

Pursue MOU with Australian College of Nurse Practitioners.