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Newsletter for Audiometry Nurses Welcome to the issue of the ANAA Inc. newsletter 2023 Winter Issue



www.anaa.asn.au

Winter 2023

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Our Tamworth clinicians "Living the Life"

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President's Report



Dear Members,

I hope everyone is having a great year?

Our conference is coming around quickly & we would love all our members to attend if possible. This invitation is extended to our Life Members also. If anyone requires any extra information, please contact Kate or myself.

The cost of running a conference in the city area is high so we need all of your support.

We are doing several workshops as members have asked for hands on training in feedback from other conferences. You will get most of your yearly CPD hours by attending the whole 3 days. The venue is central in the city of Parramatta with lots to do! As suggested, the apartment type accommodation is affordable & especially if you have a group booking.

The draft program sent out may change but will still have many informative speakers & topics.

Check out www.atparramatta.com for more information.

We are in dire straits retaining clinical advisors! Please consider doing this valuable role for future students in audiometry that may boost your workforce. Contact Kate to see if you meet the criteria.

If you don't like to do public speaking & case studies in front of peers, but are great one on one, please consider our other options for presentations. It is a rewarding role working with your peers.

We have been lucky to have a regular flow of audiometry nurse students doing the course.

Some have been funded by a scholarship, LHD's or paid themselves. Once they have completed the course & working in the clinics it is important to continue the support & guidance in their practice. Often new nurses are working in an isolated community and need a mentor.

If anyone requires information on equipment calibration at the conference please contact us asap.

I have provided a "committee snipit" update of what we are up to in the Newsletter.

Please contact the committee if you have any concerns.

Take care,

Tracy





ANAA Inc Website

THE AUDIOMETRY NURSES ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA INC.

ANAA Inc. represents the professional interests of Audiometry Nurses. The Association offers a forum for discussion of hearing health issues, provides support and facilitates ongoing professional development. The Association is constantly reviewing standards for professional practice in Audiometry Nursing for the maintenance of professional standards.

ANAA Inc. produces a quarterly newsletter for members who are encouraged to contribute interesting and relevant articles, information or queries regarding professional practice to the newsletter by contacting the Editor.

The annual audiometry conference is held around October each year along with the Annual General Meeting. This attracts CPD points awarded by the Australian College of Nursing. ANAA Inc. provides education and support of Audiometry Nursing students and Clinical Advisors. Full membership is available and encouraged for all qualified Audiometry Nurses.

Associate membership can be obtained for other interested hearing health professionals

Audiometry Nurses are working mostly in Community Health Centres offering a range of hearing health assessments:

- Assessments (Otoscopy, tympanometry & pure tone audiometry)
- Pre-employment checks
- Industry testing
- Aboriginal Hearing Health programs
- New Born Hearing Screening
- Hearing Health promotion
- Education and consultation with other hearing health professionals & Allied Health workers.

ANAA Inc. is involved in the education and support of students in Audiometry Nursing and of Clinical Advisors. Registered or Enrolled Nurses can undertake studies in Audiometry Nursing through the Australian College of Nursing. Interested hearing health professionals are encouraged to join the ANAA Inc. as Associate Members. Full membership is open to qualified Audiometry Nurses. Membership Application form can now be downloaded from the Forms section.



Members News



Memberships being due as of the 1st Of July.

Please keep an eye on your email for renewal invoice.

Kate has Big pond emails are bouncing back and not being delivered. If you or a colleague don't receive an invoice early July please contact Kate our treasurer. Work e-mail addresses are usually a safer bet

Welcome to our Newest Members

Full members

Liana Toohey from Maitland & Gabrielle Noun from Sydney.

Both completed the Audiometry course at the end of 2022.

Associate member

Mary Petrie from Western Australia.

And congratulations to our latest ANAA Inc scholarship recipient

Melissa Dorman from the Singleton area.

2023 ANAA Inc Conference 2023 Draft Programme





AUDIOMETRY NURSES ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA Inc. 39th ANNUAL CONFERENCE PARRAMATTTA PARKROYAL HOTEL 18TH-20TH OCTOBER 2023

Day 2- Thursday 19th October

0830- Registration & coffee

- 0900- Central Auditory Processing Disorder-(CAPD)-Audiologist from Hearing Australia
- 1000- Otoacoustic emissions- OAE's- Kate Newall Audiology Nurse ACT
- 1030- Behavioural issues, ASD- Nicole Cuneen- Clinical Psychologist -WSLHD

1100- Morning tea

- 1115- SWISH update- Judy McCloskey SWISH Coordinator WSLHD (virtual with SWISH co-ordinators)
- 11:30- Otoscopy presentation- Ear Train- TAFE, Jo O'Malley & Jean Tsembis (audiologist)
- 12:30- Otoscopy- workshop /hands on with ear models- Wendy Porter (Baxter)
- 1300- Lunch
- 1345- AGM
- 1500- Afternoon tea
- 1515- Clinical Advisors presentations- case studies
- 1600- Report writing/ Audiometry forms- Kate & Tracy
- 1700- New committee handover



AUDIOMETRY NURSES ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA Inc. 39th ANNUAL CONFERENCE PARRAMATTTA PARKROYAL HOTEL 18TH-20TH OCTOBER 2023

Day 3- Friday 20th October

0830- Registration & coffee

0900- Otitis Media Update -ENT - Kelvin Kong's registrar (? Virtual presentation)

1000- LOCHI study outcomes-? NAL or Otitis media research?

1100-Morning tea

1115- Hearing loss/autoimmune disease- personal story- Brenda Armstrong RN

1145- Eustachian tube dysfunction & ET inflation surgery- Personal story- Sarah Radburn RN

1215- Next Sense Audiology Update

1300- Lunch

1330- OOHC- Testing children from a trauma background- Kat Deveney RN (OOHC Co-ordinator WSLHD)

1400- Lions Hearing Assistance Dogs- Faye Yarroll, Robert & Sydney (doggie)



1500- afternoon tea

1515- Evaluations & finish

TRADE DISPLAYS- Thank you to the following companies for their support.

- Natus
- Hearing Australia
- Sonic
- Baxter/Hillrom



Clinical Advisors in Audiometry Nursing 2023

A Teams workshop will be provided to those who wish to maintain or become an accredited Clinical Advisor for Audiometry Nursing students studying with the Australian College of Nursing.

Clinical advisors are essential to assist Audiometry nursing students in their clinical placement and to deem them competent to practice as an Audiometry Nurse.

Accreditation should be renewed every three years.

Criteria for accreditation as Clinical Advisor in Audiometry Nursing

- Evidence of Audiometry nursing qualification <u>attach copy for new application</u>
- Preferable (not compulsory) to hold Certificate IV Workplace Training and Assessment or equivalent (current enrolment if recently applied) – <u>attach copy</u>.
- Recent audiometry nursing experience.
- Experience testing all age groups where current job description does not include assessment of all age groups, please arrange student to gain this experience with another experienced/competent Audiometry Nurse.
- Current financial member of ANAA Inc.
- Endorsed by ANAA Inc if you are an audiologist.

Applicants will be required to:

- Complete a case study in which I will send the criteria on receipt of your application.
- Attend a 2-hour workshops via Teams, Thursday 12th October 2pm to 4pm.

 Present your case study to ANAA Inc. members at the ANAA Inc. Conference 19th October 2023 (negotiable)

Please send in application ASAP, but before the 1st September to: -

Kate Norton via email Kate.Norton@health.nsw.gov.au

Committee Snippets



May meeting held via Teams.

- The ANAA Inc Scholarship for 2023 has been accepted by Melissa Dorman
- Our ANAA Inc. Logo has been updated to a high definition
 & new letter head designed
- The Australian College of Children's & Young People's Nurses made contact regarding the upcoming Otitis Media conference in Northern Territory – 13-15th September.
- Deafness Forum to publish a special edition of One in Six magazine with a feature on ANAA Inc.
- The Hearing Health Sector Alliance steering committee sees ongoing monthly attendance by Tracy (our president) looking at Hearing Health workforce & Aboriginal health workers.
- Our consumer handouts are currently being updated & will be added to website when completed.
- Our constitution is currently being reviewed and amended to meet Fair Trading requirements for the new model.
- Tracy continues to attend CoNNMO meetings online (Melbourne).
- Annual audiometry conference discussion- planning ongoing- 3 days. Draft program out soon.
- Discussed need to have more Clinical Supervisors to cover ongoing student placements for 242 clinical part of course.

Letter from our Life Member

Ms Kirstie Biddle Secretary ANAA Inc. PO Box 701 INVERELL NSW 2360 9th December 2022



Dear ANAA Inc. Committee

On behalf of the Life Members of ANAA Inc., I wish to thank the current Executive Committee of ANAA Inc., for having the foresight to approve a suggestion to allow the Life Members to attend Annual Conferences of ANAA Inc., without fees apart from Conference Dinners, in acknowledgment of their contribution to the professional growth of Audiometry Nursing throughout Australia.

It is most unlikely that all eight (8) current Life Members would attend the same conference, or even all of it, however that would depend on the program and the location. I firmly believe that current Audiometry Nurses can still learn from Life Member's experiences which I know all would be happy to share with any nurse that would be interested.

I would like to personally congratulate the organisation for it's resilience despite the difficulties many faced over the past few years and for ensuring that Audiometry Nursing does not disappear or get swallowed up in mainstream health.

Thank you for your dedication to Audiometry Nursing and guiding it through those difficult times.

Best wishes for a successful year and many more to come.

Yours Sincerely

1 Schallord

Kathy Challinor OAM On behalf of Life Members ANAA Inc

Tamworth Clinical Skills Workshop

This is our dinner night at our clinical skills workshop in

Tamworth 14 and 15th March

Hopefully there are other photos of the days as not all could make it to dinner. Lucy and Purna did a wonderful effort with organisation.

Please send in your photos for publication. We love to see our members feature.



Exciting News!

Join Us on the Nurses Collective Platform

The Nurse Break Website

Dear Members,

We are thrilled to announce that the Audiometry Nurses Association of Australia (ANAA Inc.) is joining the Nurses Collective platform, connecting our vibrant community of hearing health professionals with nurses across Australia. As an association dedicated to advancing audiometry nursing, we believe that joining Nurses Collective will provide us with a unique opportunity to connect, collaborate, and grow as professionals in the healthcare industry.

We aim to create a dynamic and inclusive space where audiometry nurses can network, share knowledge, and engage with a wider nursing community. We are excited to share that the ANAA Inc. will have its own private forum, group, resources, and guides within the platform. However, being a member of our private community on Nurses Collective means you can still explore and join other groups of your interest around Australia, participate in discussions, and access exclusive content and discounts—all for free! It's a fantastic chance to broaden your professional horizons and connect with nursing peers from various specialties.

To join ANAA on the Nurses Collective platform, simply follow these steps:

1. Visit the Nurses Collective website at http://secure-web.cisco.com/1Prg5eqZl6aXfHIVNtr2HuuzAokTzK9qi1ou-N4P9Y-oLqRvsHVNgpPNOh2ARvC8kXYVsUsZrW2Bo50UGXCQo6xjZMyR7sCoH6NRJGkoQCbG4v-E22dKC-0qpIWaCgAZZREIJdpuKs4XpaHpsNchO5qgsJZacfZfmMJZzAjDYYkRL-ZA_oKrDSyx5XYTi6aYjxBj5UZE35Y1jiaswuFbzOsnf24UnlpfMM1o2xq69ZoZuebNSejbdpnGAEaGBDwJO69aFOiHPyIMISE NCanvtxhxoVRAxhUtfR23GIJ0dOb23d_FXWuuEf2e0gEOeP01z891Wk5_g6wIIYsMzgcELKawo5OKL5U5YTjDq0gFKRWp UFHI4hD97cmzbCqcoeSSeuY51sNn_5HA25Op2f7zyZNcOmQVdVAs7v_tgKaQOIzjUkYBQzh5oC_Ol6bTETevYWE2lyn21j duiqeVItkoLTw7XmVdPqBoBknEw8nR1z4LU/http%3A%2F%2Fwww.nursescollective.org

2. Register using your email address and complete the quick registration process. (It takes just 30 seconds!)

3. Check your email (including spam/junk folders) for a registration confirmation.

- 4. Click the confirmation link in the email to approve your registration.
- 5. Create your profile to showcase your professional background and interests.

6. Navigate to the "Groups" tab --> "Colleges & Associations" tab and join the private ANAA group to connect with fellow audiometry nurses.

That's it! In just a few simple steps, you'll become part of our new community, where you can explore resources, engage in discussions, and access exclusive content. We believe that this collaboration will foster growth, professional development, and new opportunities within the audiometry nursing field. Should you have any questions or need further assistance, please feel free to reach out to the ANAA Inc. team directly.

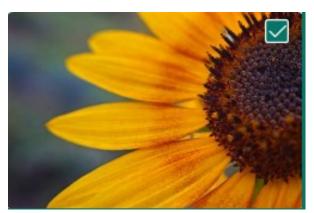
Thank you for your continued support and dedication to advancing audiometry nursing. We look forward to welcoming you on the Nurses Collective platform and witnessing the exciting connections and collaborations that will unfold.

Warm regards,

Tracy Hawes

President

Audiometry Nurses Association of Australia Inc.







CoNNMO Member Meeting- Friday 5th May 2023

Acknowledgement of the International Day of the Midwife 2023 by Dr Margaret Gatling-ANMAC

The First Nations women were amongst the first Midwives in Australia. The theme for the upcoming Midwifery conference in Bali is "Evidence to Reality".

ANMAC are developing accreditation standards to support students to graduate.

Commonwealth Chief Nursing & Midwifery Officer update from Alison McMillan.

Theme for International Nurses day will be "Our Nurses, Our Future"

Alison stated that there are many changes to come in the Federal budget for nurses & feels very positive about the future.

They are working on the National Workforce Strategy & pushing evidence based practice in nursing & midwifery.

There has been a 3.8% growth in nursing & ANMAC have at the same time recognised the impact of burn out, flexibility & adaptability for the future.

Alison has been working with the health minister through consultation on supply & demand.

NMB- Nursing & Midwifery Board of Australia- Tanya Vogt (Executive Officer)

Updating the Safety & Quality guidelines, midwifery workforce review & registration standardsscheduled medicines endorsements for midwives.

Looking at Cultural safety- educating nurses & midwives on scope of practice of Aboriginal & TSI health practitioners.

Also setting up "Notification Navigator" to support nurses who have had a notification about them through APHRA.

1800 667 877- support line

nmsupport.org.au

ANMAC- Australian Nursing & Midwifery Accreditation Council. Dr Margaret Gatling

There are 170 accredited programs for Nurse Practitioners, RN's & midwives.

ANMAC is assessing migrant workforce- supporting skilled migration.

The Government will be supporting 500 nurses to return to practice.

ANMF update- Annie Butler



Annie spoke about the changes to Aged Care with RN's in place 24/7 now.

Changes to Medicare for nurse practitioners.

Health reforms to be announced in next weeks budget.

ANMF working well with the new Labor government.

National Voice to Parliament- Dr Ali Drummond – CEO of CATSINaM.

Spoke about evidence based referendum coming up.

Throwing money at Aboriginal programs hasn't always worked.

They want governance & self determination & to run own programs which will cost less.

Check out CATSINaM website for more information.

PANDDA- Prof Nathan Wilson

Nathan spoke about the disability sector & Autism spectrum disorder.

They run a program that provides education regarding Intellectual disability & ASD which provides delivery of services in the hospital & community setting for this group.

Nurses & alcohol consumption- Dr Adam Searby- DANA

Adam spoke about long term impact of Covid-19 on nurses alcohol consumption.

16% of nurses drink more than the standard allowance.

37% are in a high risk category.

This was influenced by workforce, deployment, overtime, staff shortages, uncertainty, isolation, lockdowns & home schooling.

National Workforce strategy- Fran Rice- senior advisor CCNMO with Alison McMillan.

Consultation with Specialty nursing groups on workforce strategy. Currently working on the Nurse Practitioner workforce plan.

Supply & demand study & strengthening the Medicare Taskforce.

Health.gov.au/nnws





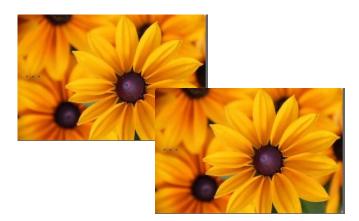
Common insecticides may affect hearing.

Pyrethroids are commonly-used but we know little about their effect on the auditory system.

Although previous studies have reported the relationship between pyrethroids and neurotoxicity, little is known about the effect of pyrethroid exposure on the auditory system among the general population. A recent study in the U.S. shows a possible link to changes to hearing among younger people.

The study found that pyrethroid insecticides were prone to be more toxic to auditory systems in younger adults than in older ones. <u>Plos One</u>





Almost everyone has experienced the challenge of understanding someone talk in a noisy situation like a crowded restaurant, but there are many people who struggle far more than most to understand speech in noisy environments.

Having significant difficulty with speech in a noisy place is one of the earliest indications of a hearing loss and a good reason to get a hearing test.

Unfortunately, there are many people who do get their hearing tested at a hearing healthcare clinic hoping to receive help for their difficulty with speech in noise only to be told by the clinician that they have "normal" hearing because the standard hearing test didn't reveal any hearing loss.

This condition is termed "hidden hearing loss", coined by Macquarie University <u>Professor David</u> <u>McAlpine</u>, and refers to the condition where someone has speech-understanding difficulties similar to someone with hearing loss but without any clinical evidence that they have an actual hearing loss — their hearing problems are "hidden".

Australia's National Acoustic Laboratories has conducted research into this issue, which is believed to affect millions of Australians.

NAL researchers have investigated the cause of hidden hearing loss, tested methods to "unhide" it, and developed innovative technology solutions to improve understanding speech in noise.

Apple AirPods Pro, for example, have been shown by NAL researchers to help people with hidden hearing loss, although many people are uncomfortable wearing these devices in social situations.

Technology developed at NAL was also licensed by a California tech company for use in an iPhone accessory to help with speech in noise understanding.

NAL Director Dr Brent Edwards said, "The number of people in Australia with hidden hearing loss quite likely rivals the number of Australians who have an actual hearing loss, yet there are few if any solutions provided for this population."

"We are working with clinicians at Hearing Australia to help "unhide" this problem and develop solutions to improve their speech understanding in noisy situations, with the potential to improve the lives of millions of people who are being challenged to fully engage in noisy social situations."

Other researchers are investigating potential treatments for hidden hearing loss, such as drugs that can promote the growth of new synapses or enhance the function of existing ones. Some studies have also looked at whether certain types of auditory training or brain stimulation techniques can improve the ability of people with hidden hearing loss to better understand speech in noisy environments.

Hearing loss is also called an invisible disability because you can't tell someone has hearing loss by looking at them.







Review Role of Biofilms in Children with Chronic Adenoiditis and Middle Ear Disease

Sara Torretta ^{1,2,*}, Lorenzo Drago ^{3,4}, Paola Marchisio ^{1,5}, Tullio Ibba ¹ and Lorenzo Pignataro ^{1,2}

Received: 21 March 2019; Accepted: 10 May 2019; Published: 13 May 2019

Conclusions:-

Taken together, **the current evidence documents the large prevalence of bacterial biofilms in adenoidal and middle ear samples taken from children with chronic adenoiditis** with or without middle ear disease.

This finding could suggest that otopathogenic nasopharyngeal biofilm is involved in the development and perpetuation of chronic adenoiditis.

Subsequently, chronic biofilm-sustained adenoiditis may act as a possible risk factor to exacerbate adenoiditis-associated middle ear infections by predisposing some patients to developing independent and recalcitrant recurrent or chronic middle ear diseases such as RAOM, CSOM, and chronic otitis media associated with cholesteatoma.

The involvement of bacterial nasopharyngeal/adenoidal biofilm in OME is questionable.

In addition, in most studies, it is unclear whether biofilm producers are indeed highly and potentially virulent due to as over-producing toxins, having high biological fitness and/or being highly adhesive, or whether biofilm is solely generated as a result of repeated or chronic infections, when then act as dormant cells.

Therefore, no definitive conclusions about the pathogenic role of nasopharyngeal/adenoidal biofilm in the development of middle ear disease can be drawn.

Surgical debridement is still the treatment of choice for eradicating nasopharyngeal biofilms, but scientific efforts should be made to test alternative non-surgical treatment strategies Remember we have an education fund to support our Members to attend these events.

Please apply to our treasurer.



2023 CONFERENCE

13-15 September Hilton Darwin, Northern Territory, Australia

The New Age of Children and Young People's Healthcare

Images courtesy of Tourism NT/Tourism Australia, Jourism NT/Johan Lolos, Mindil Beach Markets/Charlie Bits

The Australian College of Children & Young People's Nurses (ACCYPN) is hosting their 2023 Conference at the Hilton Darwin, Northern Territory, Australia 13 - 15 September 2023.

We've designed the program, so you get the most out of your NT experience by either arriving early or staying following the Conference to explore Darwin and the surrounds.

The aim of the Conference is for us to reflect on how we adapted to the global pandemic in providing care to the children and families that we work with, as well as ourselves. We will focus on what worked, what did not, how have our services changed and how can we look at shaping the future of health care for children and young people. We will also address; how did we look after ourselves during this time and what have we learnt about self-care and adapting to a fast-moving situation and information overload.

Conference Outline

Wednesday 13 September 2023 Masterclasses and Welcome Waterfront Reception

Thursday 14 September 2023 Conference Sessions & ACCYPN AGM A free evening to watch the sunset and have dinner at own expense at the Beachside Iconic Mindil Markets

Friday 15 September 2023 Conference Sessions Optional Conference Dinner

Key Dates

16 December 2022 - Call for Abstracts Open 1 March 2023 - Registration Opens 20 June 2023 - Super Early Bird Registration Closes 20 June 2023 - Abstract Submissions Close 10 July 2023 - Abstract Authors Notified

The Conference theme is **The New Age of Children and Young People's Health** Care.

The Conference Committee invites you to submit an Abstract. We are looking for Abstracts that reflect the diversity of areas that nurses and midwives work in with children, young people and their families.



Visit the website for registration fees.

Broad subthemes for the Conference (not limited to):

- Post Pandemic Health Care Concerns
- Rural and Remote Health
- Indigenous Health
- Creative Ways to Care / Models of Care
- Technology & Innovation
- Strengthening Workforce and Self Care
- Patient Experiences / Consumer Voices
- Preventative and Primary Health
- Mental Health
- Acute and Clinical Health Care
- Other Tell us your theme

Keywords (not limited to):

Perinatal | Neonatal | Infant | Paediatric | Child Health | Young People | Adolescent | Virtual Care | Digital Literacy | CALD

| Immigrant & Refugee | Family | Diversity | Newborn | Education | Telehealth | Community | Climate Change |

Environment | Infection Control | Disease Prevention | Immunisation

Three (3) types of Abstracts will be considered for the Conference:

- Oral Presentations
- Poster Presentations
- Rapid Fire Oral Presentations

The College is very excited to welcome everyone back to a face-to-face format. The past two years has been challenging and stressful for many health care workers and the population worldwide. With our last Conference a fully virtual due to the pandemic, we missed the opportunities to meet with old friends and colleagues so why not bring your partner along for the social functions? Join us in Darwin to reconnect – we can't wait to see you there!

Make sure you are connected to the ACCYPN on our social networking sites.

Darwin - Northern Territory

Whether you're on the road or off, hiking, sailing or in the air, there's something for everyone in Darwin. Get out there and see it for yourself. Darwin offers a raft of guided tour options, exploring the area's cultural, adventure and nature-based highlights. Choose from adventure, safari and fishing tours, camping and eco-tours, Aboriginal culture, heritage and walking tours, and let Darwin's local experts give you the lowdown on this spectacular region.







Arial view of Darwin Tourism NT/Rachel Stewart



Crocodile at Yellow Water Tourism NT Mindil Beach Sunset Markets Mindil Beach Markets/Charlie Bliss







Golden Sunset at Mindil Beach Tourism NT/Aude Mavans

Edith Cavell Trust Scholarship



Applications for the Edith Cavell Trust Scholarship open annually on 1 May. Only Members of the NSW Nurses and Midwives' Association (NSWNMA) are eligible to apply.

Applications close annually at 5pm, 31 July.

Applications made between 1 May 2023 and 31 July 2023 will be for studies being undertaken in the academic year <u>2024</u>.

The scholarship is open to Australian citizens and permanent residents only.



ANAA Inc. Committee 2022/2023

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