



'Ear 'Tis

2025 Volume 36 Edition 4

Newsletter for Audiometry Nurses

www.anaa.asn.au

Audiometry Nurses Association of Australia Inc.

'The professional association for Audiometry Nurses'

Welcome to this issue of the ANAA Inc newsletter

Presidents Report November 2025

Dear Members,

Wow—another year is already drawing to a close. Our annual conference went exceptionally well this year. A sincere thank you to **Gisella Laughton of Springwood** and her small team for securing such a beautiful venue for us all to meet. We are also grateful to our generous speakers, who provided valuable insights across many aspects of Audiometry. Their presentations were both relevant and engaging. Our trade displays were kept busy throughout the conference, showcasing equipment and sharing important information with delegates.

We also held a successful AGM this year, with all positions filled by the same dedicated members as last year. Thank you for entrusting us to continue being the voice for Audiometry Nursing.

I want to extend my sincere thanks to our clinical advisors for the dedication you show to our students. Your role is not an easy one, but it is deeply meaningful. Most students begin their placement without ever having seen or handled audiometry equipment, yet with your guidance they gain competence in only 60 hours. Helping them achieve that transformation is a remarkable accomplishment.

At this stage, we have not yet had anyone volunteer to host next year's conference. If you are interested, please let a committee member know. We will also be sending out a survey shortly to gather your thoughts and feedback about this year's event.

We are pleased to share that quite a few people have completed the course this year. We hope they are now working in Audiometry and enjoying their work. In addition,

we awarded four partial scholarships, and we hope these have supported some of you as you plan for future succession within your services.

Our Audiometry Report and History Form review is also nearing completion. Significant consultation has taken place between ANAA Inc. and the Ministry of Health to reach this point, and your feedback from last year has been incorporated. The forms have now been forwarded by the Ministry of Health to each LHD's Health Information Manager and, hopefully, to you for comment by 8 December.

Please don't hesitate to reach out to any of our committee members if you need support. We are also always looking for information, articles, photos, and other material to share with our members. If you have anything you'd like to contribute, please forward it to our editor, **Lee Lewis**, for distribution.

As Peg Bracken reminds us, "*Gifts of time and love are surely the basic ingredients of a truly merry Christmas.*" I wish you all a very Merry Christmas. May you find time to relax, reflect, and enjoy the company of those you hold dear during this holiday season.

Warm regards,

Kate [President ANAA Inc.](#)

Merry Christmas to all our members



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Letters to the Editor

This column provides a forum for discussion and an exchange of ideas. The letters page gives members the opportunity to comment on newspaper and journal articles. You are invited to submit clinical case studies, questions or queries for discussion. Send any comments or concerns that you would like to go to the committee to this column. Have a go and tell us your news! – Editor

Education Fund

A reminder that the ANAA has an education fund to assist with costs of education to our members. We have also provided scholarships for the audiometry nursing course. The application is available on the ANAA website.

Membership for 2025/6

Membership of our association was due on the 1st July. Please renew your membership as soon as possible to remain current. Membership forms are available on the website or were Emailed out in July. If you are retiring then please let our membership officer know.
Helen.Gee@health.nsw.gov.au
Link to membership:
[Audiometry-Nurses-Association-of-Australia-Inc.pdf](#)
We welcome all new members to our friendly group.

Editor Note

Hi everyone,

Just a little story about one of my lovely little boys in audiometry. This week, I had to testing young “Joey” aged 4y. He conditioned well without headphones, then with headphones on, kept saying “I can’t hear that”. As I turned up the volume and tried to work out the issue, I realised he said “I can’t hear that” every time I presented a sound. So, while, he merrily put blocks in the bucket at random, he consistently yelled “I can’t hear that” with sounds presented and said nothing when the sounds got too quiet. His mum worried, Joey yelled and I got a hearing result that I’m happy was pretty accurate. Not what I’d recommend or teach someone but it worked.

Regards,

Lee Lewis.

P.S yes, he was being assessed for ADHD and ODD. 😊



Found these great dinosaur toys at Officeworks that I am using for play audiometry. 90 in a pack, lots of colours, easy to wash. Only \$9.99. I'm loving them. Lee

Joining the World Hearing Forum. (Copied from WHO Ear & Hearing Care News)

Membership applications for the **World Hearing Forum (WHF)** are now open!

The WHF is a WHO-hosted network that brings together governments, NGOs, professional bodies, the private sector, and other partners to advance global ear and hearing care. By joining, your organization can help shape advocacy, collaborate worldwide, and contribute to a future where hearing care is a reality for all.

If your organization works actively in the public health domain, including but not limited to healthy aging, child health, rehabilitation, disability, nursing, health workforce, or education, we encourage you to apply.

Why join?

- To contribute to the global advocacy initiative.
- For partnership with other members.
- To interact with local, national, regional, and international organizations working towards a common goal at all levels.
- Members will be listed on the WHO's World Hearing Forum website, and a certificate of membership will be provided.

The application window is open from **1 October to 15 November 2025. (Ed note: sorry too late but included FYI)**

👉 **Learn more.**

We look forward to receiving your application.

Kind regards,

World Hearing Forum Secretariat



[Earbus Foundation co-founder Dr Lara Shur an Australian of the Year Awards nominee - Hearing Practitioner Australia](#)
See this link to Dr Lara Shur article. It also mentions Dee Parker Audiometry Nurse from our Association. Well done Dee and all the team for all your work on the EarBus.

Don't forget to check out our wonderful Facebook site . There will be more conference photos there. Gisella is doing great work on that site so remember to Like it!



Research

A brief search of latest literature on hearing loss showed the following articles which may be of interest to you.:

<https://www.sciencealert.com/misophonia-linked-to-difficulty-in-switching-emotional-focus>

[Toddler born profoundly deaf can hear normally on her own after gene therapy - Hearing Practitioner Australia](#)

[Infants born with hearing loss show disruptions in brain design, study finds - Hearing Practitioner Australia](#)

All members especially associate members doing the audiometry nursing course: please share any research that you find interesting with our newsletter.



An article written about our past President Tracey (and Life member) when she retired:

“Celebrating Tracy Hawes: A legacy of compassion, innovation and advocacy in nursing.

By Rowena Urweiss (Western Sydney LHD) NUM Child & Family Health Nursing Blacktown/Mt Druitt ICH.

After an extraordinary 46-year career, **Tracy Hawes** is hanging up her otoscope - but her legacy will continue through the halls of community health for years to come.

Tracy’s nursing journey began in 1979 at the Royal Melbourne Hospital, where she trained as a young nurse not yet eighteen. Her early years involved firsthand experience, rigorous education, and a maturity beyond her years. “I was given so much responsibility at a young age,” she recalls, “but I embraced it.”

After moving to Sydney, Tracy joined Westmead Hospital in its early days before finding her true calling in community nursing. From the harbour-side suburbs of Kirribilli to the hills of rural communities, Tracy’s career has been defined by her adaptability, courage, and deep commitment to vulnerable populations, with a particular dedication to the Aboriginal community. She recalls navigating Sydney’s roads without GPS, checking in with 20-cent coins at payphones, and hiking to reach elderly clients - all without the modern conveniences we now take for granted.

Tracy’s work has spanned generalist community nursing, wound care, palliative care, baby health, and school health. She assisted in the setting up homeless health clinics in Parramatta. “Homeless people knew me in the area,” she said. “We did early reporting when babies and children were in unsafe situations with their homeless parents.”

It was in audiometry nursing that Tracy found her true niche. After completing her audiometry nursing training 25 years ago, she became a driving force in hearing health across Western Sydney. She worked in 3 clinics across the district, led the Aboriginal Otitis Media Screening Program - which achieved the highest KPIs in the state. She provided clinical skills supervision to countless Audiometry students and nurses across the district, and was a registered nurse and train the trainer of the initial StEPS vision screening program.

Tracy was also a founding member of the CRS team at Blacktown. Tracy together with nurse education developed a hearing screening education and competency package to train other nurses in hearing screening and otitis media care.

Tracy’s influence extended far beyond the clinic. As a long-standing member of the Audiometry Nurses Association of Australia (ANAA Inc.), she served as editor, vice president, and president for seven years. Under her leadership, the association grew in visibility and influence.

In 2017, Tracy represented ANAA Inc. at the Hearing Health & Wellbeing Inquiry at Parliament House, a defining moment in her career. She advocated for workforce development, better access to services, and recognition of audiometry nurses as distinct from audiologists and screeners. Her testimony is now permanently recorded in the Hansard.

She went on to serve on numerous federal committees, including the Hearing Health Sector Alliance and the Breaking the Sound Barrier research group. Her work helped shape national

policy, particularly around hearing screening for Aboriginal children and anti-racism in the hearing health workforce.

In recognition of her outstanding dedication, leadership, and advocacy, Tracy was recently awarded Life Membership to ANAA Inc. one of the highest honours in the profession.

“Tracy has been an incredible, passionate, knowledgeable Audiometry Nurse who always went above and beyond for the good of our profession,” wrote ANAA President Kate Norton in her nomination. “She built strong connections, raised our profile, and gave her time selflessly to mentor others and represent our organisation at the highest levels.”

This Life Membership entitles Tracy to all rights and privileges of the association for life, including complimentary access to future conferences, a fitting tribute to someone who has given so much.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, Tracy was redeployed to COVID In Touch Care team, where she led with resilience and compassion. “It was like being sent to a war zone without any weapons,” she said. “But I loved the challenge.”

Even as she considered stepping away to take on a role in another LHD at a higher grade, Tracy remained committed to mentoring students and advocating for succession planning. “I felt disappointed for the clients and particularly my manager, Rowena,” she shared. “I stayed with promises of things changing... I’d say I was very dedicated to my job.”

And dedicated she was - not just to her role, but to the people, communities, and causes she served with unwavering passion.

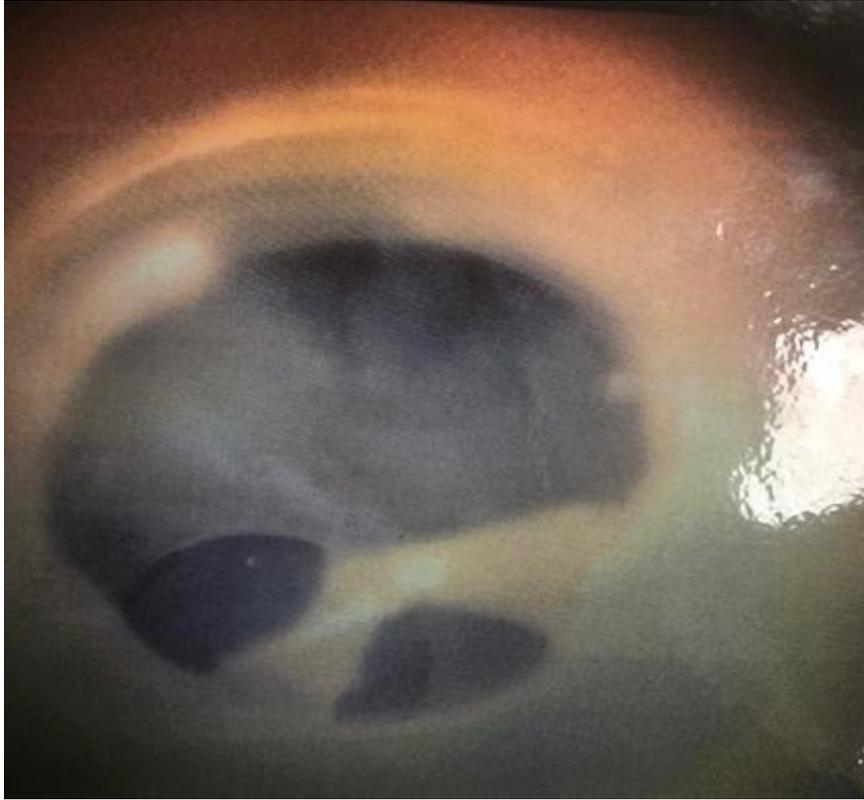
As Tracy enters retirement, she leaves behind a legacy of compassionate care, fearless advocacy, education, and trailblazing leadership. She may be stepping away from the day-to-day, but her influence will continue to shape the future of community and hearing health for generations to come. Tracy entered retirement on the 15 September 25.

Thank you, Tracy for the difference you have made in our community and in hearing health. “

We join her co-workers in congratulating Tracey on a wonderful career and wishing her a happy retirement.



MONOMERIC TYMPANIC MEMBRANE CASE STUDY by Trish Martin



Trish has sent in this interesting case study for us to see.

The client was an 8 year old who had had a grommet inserted into her left ear at age 3. After removing the ear canal wax (which was present on her first visit), the grommet came out in the wax.

The visual of the ear drum looked like a perforation but the Tympanogram findings did not support what I could see.

The tympanogram had a canal volume of 0.6 ml

The ear drum is called a monomeric eardrum in some literature and a monomeric in others.

This is a thinned, transparent area of the ear drum that forms after a perforation heals. It looks thin because the fibrous layer which is the dense layer does not reform, and the eardrum has only the skin layers of mucosal and squamous cells in its rebuild. It is essentially a two-layered membrane (mucosal and squamous) instead of the normal three-layered membrane.

(The Doctor also felt that she was visually observing a perforation.)

The eardrum that has healed in this fashion does not affect the audiogram or tympanogram.

Thanks for sharing your knowledge Trish.

Hunter New England – Northern Audiometry Nurses Update.

On Thursday 31st July we finally got our Audiometry catch up day with Jean Tsembis from TAFE NSW EARTRAIN.

We had planned to have Jean speak to us in March but feared flooding from Cyclone Alfred put a ban on all TAFE NSW staff travelling even though it hardly rained in Tamworth

Anyway a great day with 13 of the local area Audiometry Nurses getting together to update our Tympanometry, Otoscopy Skills & discuss a case study.

Jean is fantastic & we always learn so much & it is just great to get together to learn from Jean & from each other. Amazing what you find out over a cuppa at lunch.

Jean also gave us an important phone number & email

If anyone is having difficulties with payments for any Aboriginal clients, you can access First Nations Support Line 1300 253 655 firstnations@hearing.com.au

From the Northern Nurses,



CONFERENCE 2025 PENRITH



The Log Cabin early morning



Belinda, Sarah, Gisella and Kate from the committee- ready to start the conference



Opening of the conference

Conference Participants enjoying the day



Some of our sponsors



Some of our speakers







Lions Assistance Dogs Sidney with her owner Faye Yarroll and Faye's brother Robert. accepting our donation from the raffle.



With this view of the Nepean River, you can understand the smiles!



Conference Dinner : The Day at the Races theme was embraced by all.





Audiometry Nurses of Australia Conference 2025

Gisella Laughton RN Audiometry Nursing

The Audiometry Conference was held for 3 days 15th to 17th October 2025 at The Log Cabin, Penrith, aimed at fostering professional development, collaboration, and knowledge-sharing among Audiometry Nurses.



NSW Audiometry Nurses

The ANAA Inc. Conference does not pay speakers, we only charge delegates a rate that covers the venue and catering and is designed to break even, thus, making it financially attractive and achievable to as many Audiometry Nurses as possible. This initiative is designed to be cost-neutral to the LHD.

We ran 2 workshops from senior Audiometry Nurses and Audiologists from Ear Train TAFE NSW had speakers including 2x Ear, Nose and Throat specialists, Clinical Nurse Consultants from The Children's Hospital and Nepean Hospital, NBM LHD SWISH newborn hearing Coordinators, Hearing Australia Audiologists x2, Hearing itinerant support teachers, 2x Occupational Therapists from NBM LHD Primary Care and Community Health to present on relevant topics. These presentations provided valuable insights and updates relevant to the hearing health space, contributing to the continuous improvement of our practices as well as clinical professional development opportunities specific to Audiometry Nursing. Hearing Health companies were invited to showcase their equipment and use during the workshops. I believe this conference was a meaningful opportunity to strengthen professional networks and enhance the quality of care we provide. The conference was very well accepted and evaluated highly with positive feedback and an overall rating of 4.6 out 5 stars.



**Dr Alex Zhang ENT
Norton CNC**

Audiometry Nurse Gisella & Dr Siva (ENT)

Kate



The conference also raises money for our chosen charity the Lion's Assistance Dogs, specific the hearing dogs, which has been operating since 1982. Hearing Assistance Dogs are trained to support people who are deaf or very hard of hearing. Here is Faye and her dog Sydney , we managed to raise nearly \$800!!



Trade

Displays

Some great feedback was given from the delegates who attended to the conference

What an amazing exposure for a novice Audio nurse. Thankyou all so much for these wonderful networking and learning opportunities

- N/A
- Informative and passionate speakers, great venue with delicious food
- Very great conference
- Teams connect if conference can't occur
- Had a great 3 days. Thank you.
- More time for networking
- Thank you for a wonderful conference
- Yearly conferences are obviously costly but so beneficial for especially new audiometry nurses to meet people in the same role and consolidate knowledge
- May be 2 days conference
- Excellent conference and very worthwhile to attend. Met a lot of people I wouldn't have met otherwise.

Advertisement./ Job Opportunity

Improve Eyes Mobile Optometry is a mobile eye testing service for Sydney Metropolitan and we are expanding to multiple mobile allied health disciplines in 2026.

We are looking for an audiometry nurse to join our cause on a casual basis and work together with us to conduct hearing screenings at schools, aged care centres, communities and workplaces in 2026 for Sydney Metropolitan.

We are fully equipped with the appropriate hearing equipment and have a strong support team. All staff have a healthy work life balance with Mon-Fri 9am-5pm work hours. NO WEEKEND WORK AND NO LATE NIGHTS. At the moment we are looking to fill a casual role but for the right person, there is opportunity for part time/full time role in the future.

If there is anyone who is interested, email me on sarah@improveeyes.com.au or call/text me on 0413 002 493. For more information, find us on our website or socials: www.improveeyes.com.au.

Many thanks!

Kindest regards,

Dr Sarah Le Pham

CEO & Principal Optometrist

ANAA Inc. Committee 2025/2026

President

Kate Norton

Northern NSW LHD
Grafton Community Health Centre
Arthur Street, GRAFTON, NSW, 2460
Phone: 02 6641 8702 Fax: 02 6641
8703
kate.norton@health.nsw.gov.au

Vice President

Belinda Wilson

Nurse Audiometrist/ Community Based Nurse.
Forbes Community Health, 4-6 Elgin St,
FORBES.
Tel (02) 6850 7300- Thurs/ Fri
Nurse Audiometrist/ Parkinson's Movement
Disorder Nurse
Grenfell Community Health, 80 Cowra Road,
GRENFELL
Tel (02) 6349 1750- Tues/ Wed
Belinda.wilson@health.nsw.gov.au

Secretary

Kirsten Biddle

Hunter New England LHD
PO Box 701
Inverell NSW
Phone: 02 67219600
kirsten.biddle@health.nsw.gov.au

Treasurer

Sarah Austin

Western NSW Local Health District
Coolah.
P: 02 6377 9166
Mobile: 0431534337
sarah.kemp1@health.nsw.gov.au
sa.nursingservices@outlook.com

Committee Member/ Social Media

Gisella Laughton

Nepean Blue Mountains NSW LHD
Springwood, Lithgow & Penrith
Community Health Centres
Tel 02 4751 0100 |
gisella.laughton@health.nsw.gov.au

Committee Member/ Membership Secretary

Helen Gee

Mid North Coast Local Health District
Port Macquarie Community Health, 19-31
Morton Street, Port Macquarie
Tel (02) 6589 2100 | Mob 0427 517 314 |
helen.gee@health.nsw.gov.au

Committee Member/ Editor 'Ear 'Tis

Lee Lewis

Western NSW LHD
Bathurst Community Health Centre
Howick St Bathurst 2795
Blayney Community Health
3 Osman Street, Blayney 2799.
Phone: 02 63689314
Lee.Lewis@health.nsw.gov.au

