



'Ear 'Tis

2026 Volume 37 Edition 1

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 March 2026

Dear Members,

What a start to the year. Audiometry services across the state appear to be extremely busy. Alongside supporting our clients, we are also supervising nine student audiometry nurses this semester. Thank you to everyone involved in mentoring our students. We appreciate that it requires additional time and effort, but your contribution is invaluable in supporting the future of our profession.

Thank you as well to those who completed the recent conference survey. At this stage, we have not received any nominations to host this year's conference. As a result, the committee will proceed with organising an **online Education Day** on **22 September**. We are currently sourcing potential presenters and webinars, and we plan to include case studies and discussion sessions. A draft program will not be available for some time, but please **save the date**.

We will share the survey results once the consultation period closes and the data has been collated.

I have also followed up with the Ministry of Health regarding the progress of our updated report and history forms. Last year, the documents were circulated to LHDs for review, and feedback received has been incorporated. We are currently awaiting further communication, after which the forms will proceed to printing.

The ANAA Inc. has now implemented new accounting software, which will significantly streamline treasury processes. The system will manage income and expenditure records, reconcile invoices, and automate receipt distribution.

We are pleased to offer one scholarship for the upcoming ACN Audiometry course intake. Details are now available on the website.

- **Applications close:** 29 May
- **Course commencement:** 6 July
- **Course fee:** \$4,506

The Australian College of Audiology, including HAASA, has approached us to explore opportunities for closer collaboration. We will participate in a short working group to determine potential benefits. They have also generously provided two tickets to their April congress, which will be attended by Kirsty Biddle and Lucy Rindo.

The **OMOZ 2026 Conference**—a national event held every two years—will take place from **4–7 August** at the Brisbane Convention Centre. This conference provides an important forum for researchers, clinicians, and health professionals involved in the investigation and management of chronic ear disease in Australia. Early bird registrations are now open.

The **STORM project** is scheduled to conclude at the end of June. The racism-identification matrix developed through this project has been applied to publicly accessible Association information. Several recommendations have been made, and we will work towards implementing these over time.

Lee Lewis and Belinda Wilson are busy updating the 2021 Clinical Practice Standards. If there is anything you feel needs amending, please let Lee Lewis or any of the committee know.

Please note that I will be on leave from **28 March for nine weeks**. During my absence, please contact our Secretary, **Kirsten Biddle**, at Kirsten.Biddle@health.nsw.gov.au for any matters requiring attention.

Kind regards,

Kate



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Editor Note:

With World Hearing Day on March 3rd, we would love to see if you did any health promotions in your area. Please send in some photos to inspire your colleagues.

Don't forget to click on the links in this newsletter to see more at the various websites. Due to space, it can't all be included in the newsletter directly but the link will take you to view some great information.

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

ENT guidelines

A reminder that the Statewide Criteria for ENT paediatric guidelines are available . If you haven't had a look yet, here's a link.

[Paediatric Ear, Nose & Throat outpatient referral services](#)



"EAR, NOSE and THROAT!"

Do you have a great case study?

Have you had an interesting client through your clinic lately? We are looking for people willing to share this with your audiometry colleagues at an online session. Please let me know at

Lee.Lewis@health.nsw.gov.au



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.

ENT fees

From The Hearing Practitioner Newsletter:



Most ENT specialists' fees 2-3x higher than schedule fees

The Grattan Institute report of all specialities calls for creation of a specialist fee consumer watchdog, and a review of Medicare rebates to better reflect care costs.

[READ MORE](#)

WORLD HEARING DAY MARCH 3RD 2026

<https://www.who.int/campaigns/world-hearing-day/2026>

This year's theme was :

[From Communities to Classrooms: Hearing care for every child.](#)

(Very appropriate for most of us.)

Resource materials available on the website.

From the website:

“Why focus on children’s hearing?”

Globally, school-age children with hearing loss often remain undiagnosed and without access to needed services (World report on hearing, 2021). Hearing loss affects around 90 million children and adolescents aged 5-19 years, across all parts of the world (Global burden of disease study, 2021). However, it commonly remains undetected, especially in low-resource settings.

Common, preventable and treatable causes of hearing loss—such as otitis media with effusion (OME), chronic suppurative otitis media (CSOM), and impacted ear wax—remain widely prevalent in children. At time, hearing loss begins insidiously but progresses and worsens over time.

Left unaddressed, this not only affects a child’s ability to hear but significantly impacts speech, language, cognitive and social development, commonly leading to poorer educational outcomes, reduced employment prospects and long-term economic disadvantages.

The campaign focuses on two imperatives:

- **Preventing** avoidable childhood hearing loss
- Ensuring **early identification of and care** for children with ear or hearing problems “

.



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 :



Learning modules at hearing Australia [Ear Health and Hearing | Free Online Learning for Education and Health Care Professionals - Hearing Australia](#)

<https://www.health.gov.au/resources/publications/national-framework-for-newborn-hearing-screening?language=en>

Helen Gee sent in this useful tool.

From the Multicultural Health website:

[Appointment reminder tool | Multicultural Health Communication Service](#)



Have you seen the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Plan?

https://www.health.gov.au/sites/default/files/2025-01/national-aboriginal-and-torres-strait-islander-health-plan-2021-2031_0.pdf

[The National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Plan Brochure 2021–2031](#)

Research.

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

[Deaf Children Australia launches free short course to make classrooms deaf-friendly - Hearing Practitioner Australia](#)

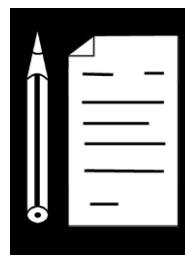
All members especially associate members doing the audiometry nursing course:

please share any research that you find interesting with our newsletter.

School screening?

Are you doing school screening or other screening. The committee were thinking about creating a screening report for us all to use.

Can you please send a copy of what report you give out now to Helen.Gee@health.nsw.gov.au





What is an Itinerant Support Teacher in Hearing within NSW Department of Education Schools?

From website: <https://education.nsw.gov.au/schooling/parents-and-carers/inclusive-learning-support/primary-school/how-your-child-can-be-supported-in-primary-school/itinerant-support-teachers>

Itinerant support teachers visit schools and other approved educational centres to help support students and young children with confirmed disability.

Itinerant support teachers visit schools and other approved educational centres to help support students and young children with confirmed disability.

Itinerant support teachers will work directly with your child, and in partnership with you, classroom teachers, the school's learning and support team and other support agencies to plan your child's personalised learning and support.

All itinerant support teachers specialise in particular areas. You can learn more about these areas below.

Itinerant support teachers (hearing and vision)

These teachers, led by an Assistant principal hearing or vision, will work in NSW public schools with your child if they have a confirmed hearing and/or vision loss. They could visit your child at specific times throughout the week, and work in partnership with your child's class teacher.

They can provide advice on reasonable adjustments for your child from the age of diagnosis through to Year 12.

The adjustments will address your child's teaching and learning needs in their classroom and school environment.

These adjustments are directly associated with hearing or vision loss and:

- respect your child's choice
- recognise your child's ability and access needs
- respond to access needs by providing high quality learning.

Itinerant support teachers (hearing or vision) work in a multi-disciplinary team with you and your child, school learning and support teams and other professionals.

They may carry out student assessments, take part in review meetings, support school staff in making teaching and learning adjustments, provide students with targeted learning opportunities and provide professional learning for school staff.

Itinerant support teachers (conductive hearing loss)

Itinerant support teachers (conductive hearing loss) provide support and advice to schools for students who have a conductive hearing loss. Conductive hearing loss is often called glue ear or Otitis Media. Itinerant support teachers (conductive hearing loss) are located in public schools across NSW.

They focus on providing professional learning to school communities on Otitis Media and other fluctuating middle ear infections. They develop and implement educational programs for groups of identified students in collaboration with school learning and support teams.

Itinerant support teacher (early intervention)

These teachers work with your child throughout the year prior to them starting school, and continue to provide support into your child's first year of school.

Itinerant support teachers (early intervention) help by:

- supporting the staff of early childhood classes to provide personalised learning and support
- developing individual, coordinated transition plans to support children moving from early education into school
- establishing and maintaining links with a range of local services in the community.

Assistant principals (hearing or vision)

Assistant principals (hearing or vision) support schools to meet the personalised learning and support of students who are Deaf or hard of hearing and/or Blind or have low vision.

This includes:

- participating in assessments by working collaboratively with parents and carers, the school learning and support team, and other professionals as required
- liaising with government departments and other agencies
- providing professional learning to school and itinerant support teachers (hearing or vision)
- coordinating a team of itinerant support teachers (hearing or vision).

To find your nearest AP in Hearing, contact your nearest Education Office. https://education.nsw.gov.au/content/dam/main-education/your-feedback/Local_education_office_contact_details.pdf



"You're listening to what you hear. I like that in a teacher."

Deadly Ears.

Some great resources on ear health at this website.

[Ear Health - Health Topics - Australian Indigenous HealthInfoNet](#)

And this great program in Queensland

[Deadly Ears | Children's Health Queensland](#)



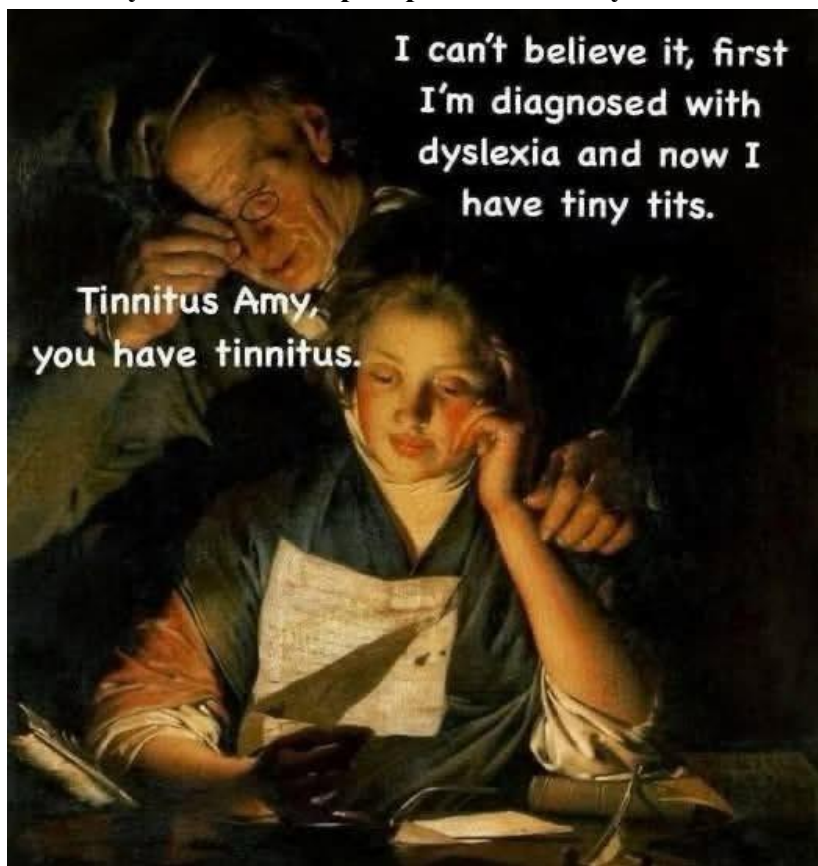
Free online training <https://www.tafensw.edu.au/programs/eartrain>

[EarTrain Program](#) | [Free Ear Health Training](#) | [TAFE NSW](#)

World Hearing Day :SWSLHD Narellan CHC audiometry staff at their information stall:
Vanessa, Dawn, Joanne and Noel.



Sent in by our esteemed past president Kathy Challinor. 😊



[World Hearing Day MNCLHD-](#) Helen (audiometry) and Julie (WHIN nurse)

at South Kempsey P.S





Retirement for Anna Dyer

Anna Dyer

RN training at RPAH (1980)

Midwifery at St George (1986)

CFHN Tresillian Petersham (1989)

Toward the end of 2025 we bid farewell to our dear colleague and friend as she commenced her well-earned retirement. Anna Dyer has been contributing to the nursing profession in various roles for the past 45 years commencing her RN training in 1980 at RPAH, Midwifery at St George in 1986 and CFHN Tresillian Petersham in 1989.

Anna commenced her Nurse Audiometry course OTEN Ultimo (1992) under Kathy Challinor (Tutor) and Maggie Thompson (Clinical Supervisor) then working at Drummoyne and Five Dock as a CFHN providing weekly Audiometry clinics for Under 3 years at Five Dock ECHC with Denise Newton and Maggie Thompson, in the days before SWISH.

From 1994 – 2002 Anna took up a position at Harden-Murrumburrah as CNS in CFH and Audiometry eventually taking over Audiometry clinics in Young when a position became available.

In that role Anna helped to establish Aboriginal Otitis Media screening at Young, Boorowa, Harden and Yass with support from the local Aboriginal communities. Children identified with screening were referred to Dr Ted Beckenham (Westmead) at an ENT clinic in Goulburn coordinated by Alena Ward, Audiometry Nurse. In this role Anna attended to assessments for all ages from 7 months and did Workplace assessments for some of the local industry workers as well as hearing screening and education at local agricultural shows.

From 2003 – 2006 Anna worked at Canberra Hearing clinic three days per week, mainly seeing children and assisting Therese Nash with Under 3 years clinics. commuting from

Young. During this time Anna did a term as Secretary on the executive of CNAA. Anna was also involved in clinical supervision of students on clinical placement.

From 2006 to 2009 Anna commuted from Young to work 3 days/week at Wagga Wagga CHC as Nurse Audiometrist. Under 3 years clinics were with assistance of Aboriginal Health workers, Lee Williams and Shonda Packer.

2009 – 2019 Anna worked in various jobs including at TAFE and an Early Childhood education centre as a Hearing support worker for children/students with hearing impairment and as CFHN (and Murrumbidgee LHDs). Employed casually as an Audiometry Nurse in Murrumbidgee and also relieved staff at an ENT clinic in Wagga Wagga. Anna also provided hearing screening for the RFW Healthy Kids Bus Stop program on visits to Narrandera, Hay, Hillston, Lake Cargelligo, Tumut and Tumbarumba.

From 2019 to 2025 Anna was employed part-time by Murrumbidgee LHD as Audiometry Nurse providing clinics in Young, West Wyalong, Cootamundra, Junee, Tumut, Griffith and Wagga Wagga. Anna feels fortunate to have provided Clinical Supervision to two of our two current Audiometry Nurses, Carmen Hogan and Kathy Weckert. They continue to provide Audiometry service to the children of Murrumbidgee LHD. After passing on her wealth of knowledge in the field of Audiometry Nursing to ensure the continuation of the service in the Murrumbidgee, Anna describes herself as a happy and relieved Audiometry Nurse as she commenced her retirement in November last year.

Anna's colleagues wish her all the very best as she begins this next chapter in her life and while she is no longer providing clinical services as a Nurse Audiometrist, she continues to act as a valued mentor to her colleagues due to her passion for providing hearing services to children.



Best wishes Anna for a happy and healthy retirement from us all at ANAA.



Winner.

Our lucky raffle winner from the conference raffle. Sarah Addinall from HNELHD. Scrubs donated by Gorman. Looking good Sarah!

More photos from South Kempsey Public School during World Hearing Day



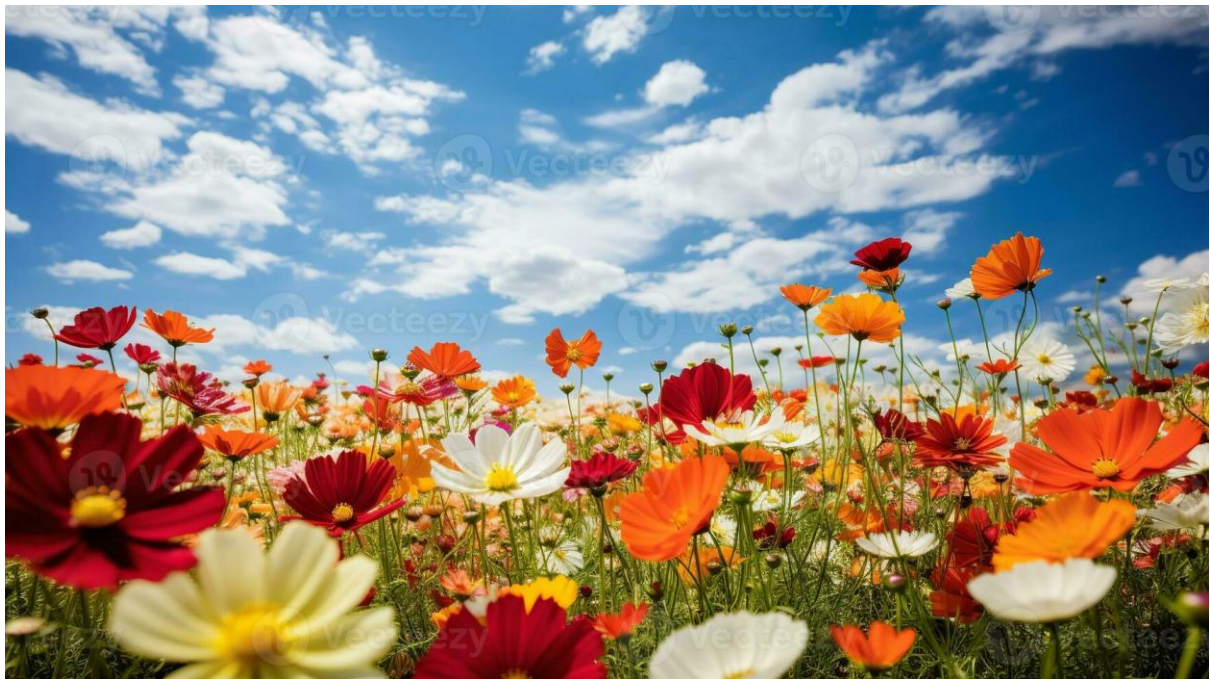
Audiometry Nurses from Northern NSW LHD



The

Audiometry nurses got together for a lovely catch up at the Shaws Bay Hotel Ballina on the 14th February.

From Left we have Kate Norton, Jo Martin. Pam Walmsley & Lyn Delaney (both retired, but still doing casual shifts in Audiometry), Heather Whyte (completed course in 2025), Shirley Howitt and Angie Hart (finished course in 2025).



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