

'EAR 'TIS



www.anaa.asn.au

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

Spring Season 2023

ANAA Inc Conference 2023

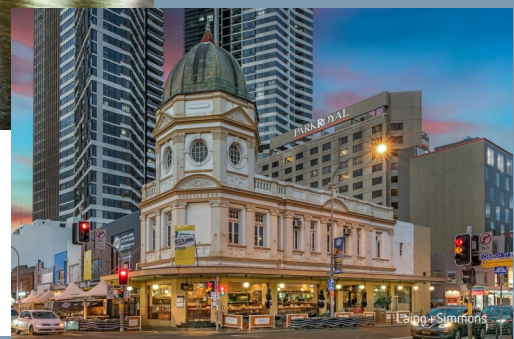
Don't forget there is a deadline!

Once again to make it profitable we need your attendance.

Please register your intent to attend.

In This Issue

- President's Report 2
- Conference 3
- Conference Programme 4
- Membership 7
- New Members 8
- Retirements 9
- AGM's 10
- Earflo 13
- Open plan class rooms 14
- Rural Nurses Conference 16
- Ear Train 17
- Lion's Scholarship 18
- Committee Members 19



This newsletter is published for the information of members of the ANAA Inc. Any person wishing to reproduce or use such information in any way must obtain permission from the Editor or the author. The views and opinions by contributors of this newsletter are not necessarily those of the ANAA Inc.

President's Report

Hi everyone,

It has certainly been a very busy year so far!

The audiometry conference program is now full & I encourage everyone to come along. We will be having world class presenters from Westmead Hospital, Macquarie Uni, audiology services & many more wonderful hearing health stakeholders.

You will get many CPD hours with presentations & workshops. Please support our association & also consider being on the Committee. Yes it's that time again!

We will give full support to anyone that is going to put their hand up & join the team. I will be stepping down as president this year as I would like to give others a turn & I have a busy year coming up with family commitments. I have thoroughly enjoyed my time as the president & it has certainly enhanced my career opportunities.

A big thank you to our wonderful devoted committee who have given up their time to advance our specialty nursing group.

We will be making a minor change in the Constitution that is due for updating. Please read correspondence carefully as to how we need to vote for this.

We are looking also at rewriting the audiometry course for the Australian College of Nursing. This will be explained at conference & will bring it in line with other specialty courses & also reducing the cost.

It has been great to see the new audiometry nurse students coming through & doing so well in their course. Welcome to you all & we hope you enjoy our audiometry family.

Please send any articles & photos to our editor Sharyn of what your area is up to. It's a great way of updating our services.

If anyone has any questions about the conference, please let me know. Don't forget there is a deadline! Once again to make it profitable we need your attendance.

Look forward to catching up with everyone.

Warm regards

Tracy



Audiometry Nurses Association of Australia Inc.

Conference 2023

October 18th, 19th and 20th October



Park Royal
Parramatta -Sydney



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



Day 1- Wednesday 18th October

0830- Registration & coffee

0900- Welcome to Country- Aunty Julie Webb (Aboriginal elder)

0910- President's welcome- Tracy Hawes

0915- Aussie Deaf Kids- Ann Porter

1000- Masking/Under 3 yrs. testing workshops- Jan Pollard & Michelle Wallace (Sonic- audiologists)

1100- Morning tea

1115-Cochlear implants- ENT (Dr Joanna Walton) Westmead Children's Hospital

1200- Deafness Centre-Westmead Hospital- Dr Elizabeth Peadon (Senior paed) + social worker

1300- Lunch

1400- Masking/ Under 3 yrs testing workshops - Jan Pollard & Michelle Wallace (Sonic audiologists)

1500- Audiometry course update-Australian College of Nursing (ACN) - Linlin Ho & Kate Norton CNC

1530- Afternoon tea

1545- HAPEE program/ Plums & Hats- Sherilee McManus (Hearing Australia)

1630- Q & A information session- all members to discuss any audiometry concerns.

1800- Pre-dinner drinks Park Royal Hotel

1830- Dinner- Baba Ghanouj Lebanese restaurant across the road.





AUDIOMETRY NURSES ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA Inc.
39th ANNUAL CONFERENCE
PARRAMATTA 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- Sound Scouts Update & APD tool/equipment- Lisa Teager & Carolyn Mee

1030- Behavioural issues, ASD- Nicole Cuneen- Clinical Psychologist -WSLHD

1100- Morning tea

1115- Otoacoustic emissions- OAE's- Jean Tsembis (audiologist-TAFE)

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
PARRAMATTA PARKROYAL HOTEL
18TH-20TH OCTOBER 2023

Day 3- Friday 20th October

0830- Registration & coffee

0900- Otitis Media Update -ENT – Dr Jessica Sandilands ([Virtual](#) presentation- Newcastle)

1000- Aboriginal Hearing Workforce project- HHSAC- Prof Luke Halvorsen (Macquarie University)

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- Rebecca Kim

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)

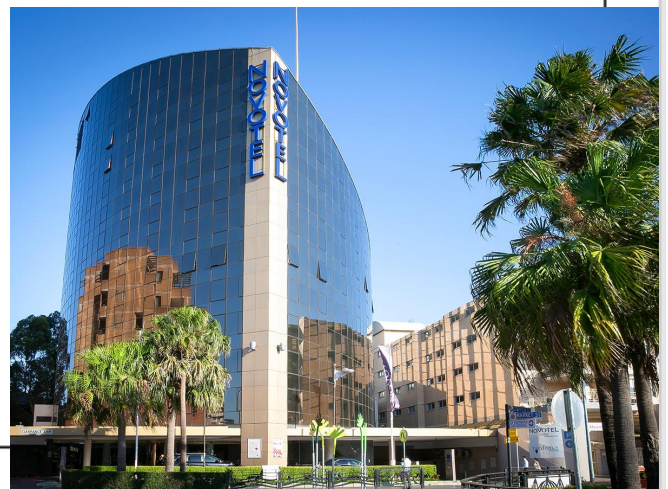


1500- afternoon tea

1515- Evaluations & finish

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

- **Natus**
- **Hearing Australia**
- **Sonic**
- **Baxter/Hillrom**
- **Interacoustics**
- **Sound Scouts**



Membership

Thank you to all our members who have renewed their membership this year.

All receipts for those who have paid have been emailed.

As of the 30th of September those who have not renewed we will be saying farewell to.

After this date you will need to reapply for membership if you wish to re-join.

Any questions don't hesitate to contact our treasurer Kate Norton at

kate.norton@health.nsw.gov.au





New Members

On behalf of the ANAA Inc. we would like to

welcome to our association

Katie Mason from Springwood

and

Lee-Anna Gatward from Queanbeyan.



They are full members having completed the Audiometry course this year.

Rachel Kirsop from Gilgandra and Melanie Loudon from Tomaree have both also joined as full members.

Sarah Addinall from Newcastle, Deb Pont from Muswellbrook and Samara Williams from Warners Bay.

They are all new associate members and are currently undertaking the Audiometry course.

A huge welcome to you all.



Retirements



On behalf of the ANAA Inc. we congratulate some of our members on a well-deserved retirement



Lorraine Everest from Forbes Community Health.

Lorraine wrote a lovely letter as below

Thank you for your reminder re- new Membership to the ANAA.

I wish to advise I will not be renewing my membership.

I retired in 2019 and then returned to work in an RN role in Community Nursing/Theatre, this contract expired in Dec 2022.

I then commenced another contract in Theatre and will be retiring mid-September.

I would like to thank the ANAA for their leadership over the years that I was associated with Nurse Audiometry 1986 – 2019 within Forbes Community Health.

The Association has certainly grown during this time, this has been courtesy of very dedicated leaders of the Association.

I congratulate all those leaders of the Association over the years of my association and wish the ANAA ongoing growth in the coming years.

Thanking you for your personal input and dedication to the ANAA.

Cate Horsburgh has also retired this year and sent in a lovely message

Hi Kate, just wanted to let you know I will not be renewing my membership to ANAA Inc. as I have not renewed my Nurses registration and have decided that this new phase of my life is to be enjoyed without the additional distractions.

Please give my regards to all the gang and wish you and the executives

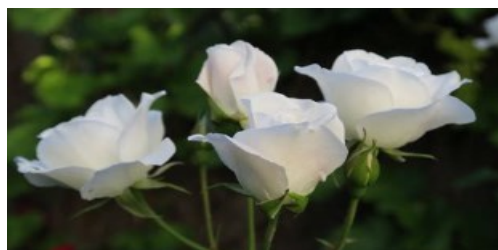


Pamela Clare from Walcha has also decided to make retirement official.

Congratulations to you all.

Wishing you all a fabulous time in your retirement.

We truly valued your membership and contributions over the years with the ANAA Inc.



Why do we have an Annual General Meeting (AGM)?



We are an Incorporated Association and have to follow certain guidelines.

An association's committee must ensure that an annual general meeting is held within 6 months after the association's financial year end. An association's constitution must specify its financial year. Ours is the 30th June

Calling and purpose of an AGM

An association's constitution must specify the manner of calling an AGM and the manner in which notice of the AGM is given.

If the Model constitution applies, members must be given at least 14 days' notice of an AGM or 21 days' notice if a special resolution is to be proposed.

The statutory purpose of the AGM is the submission of the association's financial statements (and if required the auditor's report) to the meeting.

If the Model constitution applies the business of the AGM is to:

- confirm the minutes of the last AGM and of any special general meeting held since that meeting
- receive committee reports on activities of the association during the previous financial year
- elect or appoint office bearers and ordinary committee members

receive and consider the association's financial statements or reports required to be submitted to members under the Act. In addition, the AGM should conduct any other business of which notice has been given to the members.

The requirements for the preparation of financial statements or reports to be submitted to the AGM and the documents to be lodged with Fair Trading after the AGM depends on whether the association is classified as Tier 1 (large) or Tier 2 (small). We are a Tier 2.

What is a quorum?

The quorum is the minimum number of members required to be present in order for a meeting to proceed. No business is to be transacted at any meeting unless a quorum of members entitled to vote is present when the item is being considered at the meeting.

The association's constitution should specify the required quorum to conduct a meeting and also the procedure to be followed if a quorum is not present at a meeting. Our says 5 members with voting entitlements constitutes a quorum.

Who can vote at general meetings?

The association's constitution is required to specify the eligibility of members to vote. ANAA Inc. constitution states only full members only may vote at a general meeting. Associate members may attend as observers.

What is a proxy?

A proxy is a person authorised to vote on behalf of another person.

The constitution must state if members are entitled to vote by proxy at a general meeting. The constitution should also set out any requirements, restrictions and procedures to be followed, including any requirements regarding the form to be used.

ANAA Inc constitution states proxies are allowed. Each Life or Full member may appoint another member as proxy by notice given to secretary no later than 24 hours prior to the meeting. A member can hold no more than 5 proxies.

What is a special resolution?

When is a special resolution required?

A special resolution is required for:

- changing the association's name
- changing the association's objects
- changing the association's constitution
- applying for registration by an unincorporated group
- amalgamating with another registered association
- an existing corporation seeking to register as an association
- an existing registered association applying to transfer incorporation
- voluntarily winding up or cancelling the registered association and distributing property.



The association's constitution may indicate other situations that require a special resolution.

An application to register a change of name, objects or constitution must be lodged with NSW Fair Trading within 28 days of the special resolution being passed.

A special resolution may be passed:

- at a general meeting of the association
- in a postal ballot or an electronic ballot
- in another manner as directed by NSW Fair Trading.



Special resolutions cont.

Members must be given at least 21 days' notice of the proposed special resolution, which sets out details of the meeting, postal ballot or electronic ballot in which the special resolution is to be put to members. The notice must also:

- state the intention to propose the resolution as a special resolution; and

set out the proposed resolution in full.

A special resolution will be passed if:

- the conditions imposed by Fair Trading, if any, are met
- a quorum* of members required by the constitution is present, if the special resolution is put to members at a meeting, and it is supported by at least three-quarters of the valid votes cast in person or by proxy, if proxy votes are allowed by the constitution.



The results of the vote can be announced by the chairperson of the meeting and entered into the minute book of the association.

*A quorum is the minimum number of members who are required for the meeting to proceed.

Unless the constitution provides otherwise, a resolution put to the vote of the meeting will be decided by a show of hands.

This year we have updated our constitution.

It has been 10 years since our constitution has been revised.

The Department of Fair Trading has updated their model constitution, and as our constitution is based on this, thus we needed to update ours to that current model.

The committee is proposing one change to the constitution and thus has to have a special resolution. This change will be outlined in an email to you all.

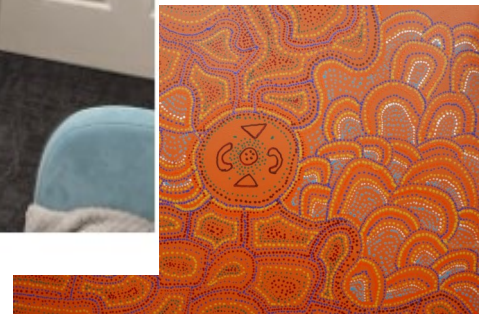
The current ANAA Inc. constitution gets emailed to all new members. It is also available in the members only section of the website.



EARFLO THE GO IN THE PILBARA



Earbus CEO Dr Lana Shur with EarFlo co-founders Dr Mafi Oldakowski & Ma Irben Oldakowska



Earflo in the Pilbara.

A new invention that looks like a sippy cup helps clear out the fluid in the ear causing Glue Ear.

Glue ear causes hearing, balance and sleep problems. It is highly prevalent in Aboriginal children. The EarFlo delivers air through a child's nose while drinking, helping to clear out the fluid in the ear.

With the support of the Pilbara Aboriginal Health Alliance, Earbus Foundation* will expand the successful clinical trial to WA's Pilbara region. Aboriginal children will now have access to this non-invasive treatment which has the potential to change the way we treat middle ear disease in children.

EarFlo co-founder, Intan Oldakowska, said the next stage of the trial would see parents take the device home for daily use with their children.

"It looks very familiar to the child and can fit easily within the morning and evening routine during mealtimes," she said. "Over a period of two to four weeks of daily treatment what we would like to see is the fluid in the middle ear can be drained and the hearing can be restored to the child so they can get earlier treatment to avoid developmental delay and avoid surgery."





What's Next for Classroom Architecture?

Open-plan Classrooms Can Leave Children Adrift.

Middle years primary-school students are at risk of academic delay when learning in an open-plan classroom.

By Professor Gary Rance, the University of Melbourne.

We all know that talking and listening in large, noisy spaces (like restaurants, shopping centres or concert venues) is tough. Trying to piece together snippets of conversation with background noise is frustrating, exhausting and a definite barrier to communication.

Hearing and understanding speech in background noise is especially difficult for children under 10 years whose auditory systems are still developing and who don't yet have the language skills to 'fill-the-gaps' when they only hear part of what's said.

Why then, do we so often force children to learn in what is potentially the most hostile of school listening environments – the open-plan classroom?

A 40 year 'experiment'.

Open-plan classrooms, where two or more classes are located in one physical space, have been in vogue in Australia and worldwide for around 40 years and are considered [conducive to a broad range of teaching](#) practices.

However, teachers and student have consistently identified [high levels of noise and lack of acoustic privacy](#) created by large numbers of students doing multiple activities as undesirable aspects of these settings.

Between 2016 and 2019, we carried [out a study](#) looking at academic progress in open versus enclosed classrooms.

Our initial objective was to explore how students with hearing difficulties – temporary or permanent hearing loss or auditory processing deficits – were coping in these challenging learning spaces.

What we instead found was that all primary-school students in our study group of 7-10 year olds are at risk of academic delay in an open-plan setting.

Our study was supported by the Department of Education's Victorian Deaf Education Institute and involved data collection by Master of Clinical Audiology students in metropolitan and regional Primary Schools around Victoria.

Open versus Closed.

We investigated the effect of classroom architecture on academic progress in 196 students in Grades Three and Four, comparing their rate of reading development in open-plan and enclosed-plan classrooms.

The classroom was changed term-by-term from open to enclosed-plan using a portable, sound-treated wall. We measured the noise levels at each school in each configuration and found background noise levels were significantly higher, by around 5.4 decibels, in open-plan classrooms.

In normally developing school-aged children a noise-level increase of this magnitude represents a decline in speech understanding of around 10 to 15 per cent. This suggests that students would need a much higher degree of listening effort to follow what is being said in the open-plan classroom.

We also measured various cognitive abilities (non-verbal IQ, memory, reading fluency, speech perception and attention) in each of the students to investigate why some children might be more affected by the classroom environment than others.

Hard to Hear, Hard to Read.

Our findings, published in the [Nature Partner Journal: Science of Learning](#), show that simply closing the acoustic partition resulted in a doubling of the rate of reading fluency development across the whole study cohort. Reading fluency is the number of words that a student can confidently and accurately read within a given time period.

For the school terms when the wall was in place (creating two enclosed classrooms), the mean fluency increase was 14.0 words per minute, whereas the mean increase with no wall in place (open-plan) was only 7.2 words per minute.

Importantly, not all students were adversely affected by the open-plan environment and there was no relationship between the non-

verbal IQ and working memory of the participants and their academic progress through the two classroom conditions.

However, children with poorest speech perception in noise and or weakest attention skills were highly impacted during the open-plan study phases.

These results highlight the potential challenges posed by open-plan learning. Firstly, increased noise levels make classroom speech understanding more challenging. This, in turn, diverts cognitive resources (which are finite) away from academic learning. For children with low speech perception, the cognitive load is even higher. This results in greater academic impacts in the noisy, open-plan classroom.

Secondly, those students who are least able to achieve and maintain attention are likely to be the most challenged by the many distractions (both auditory and visual) created by having a second class group in the same physical space. And this means the risk that these children will become disengaged from classroom activity is higher in the open-plan environment.

What's Next for Classroom Architecture?

There are signs that the days of super-sized open spaces may be numbered.

The Victorian Department of Education is considering the implications of our study.

In a recent letter to the NSW Teachers Federation, the department stated that "current and future new and upgraded school projects will not include the construction of open-plan classrooms that cannot function as an individual space for a single class group".

So we may be on the cusp of a new era in school classroom design. Hopefully one that will optimise learning flexibility while minimising acoustic (and visual) distraction to ensure that vulnerable students remain engaged and don't end up lost in space.

First published in [Health & Wellbeing](#).



RURAL NURSES CONFERENCE

23-24 November 2023 Crowne Plaza Coogee Beach

Nov
23

Rural Nurses Conference Start Date

23-Nov-2023 5:00 pm

End Date

24-Nov-2023 5:00 pm

Event Location

Crowne Plaza Coogee Beach

242 Arden St

Coogee New South Wales 2034

Contact Details

Rural Health Pro Events Team

events@ruralhealthpro.org

Rural Health Pro invite Rural Nurses to the highly anticipated Rural Nurses Conference which will be held at the Crowne Plaza Coogee Beach on Thursday 23 - Friday 24 November, where you will be able to build your knowledge in areas that are crucial to supporting your practice.

Nursing in a rural setting is unlike any other experience. In smaller teams, you are the front line of care, often serving as the first point of contact for patients with diverse needs. To succeed in this role, you must be a multi-skilled generalist, utilising the full range of your expertise. However, we understand that maintaining skills and confidence can be challenging due to the geographical constraints and the sporadic nature of health presentations.

That's where the Rural Nurses Conference comes in. Covering everything from primary care to emergency, women's health, chronic care, virtual health and more, it will leave you with a deeper knowledge of key areas of practice so you're ready to handle whatever comes your way.

But that's not all! This conference offers an invaluable chance to connect with the rural nursing community and, as part of Rural Health Month, the broader rural health community via an optional pre-conference networking event and workshop on the future of rural health. Build meaningful connections, share experiences, and create a support network that will last far beyond the event itself.



Be skilled to improve ear health in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Communities

About the EarTrain program

EarTrain is a fully funded* online training program for primary health care professionals to identify and manage otitis media and other hearing conditions in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.

The program is delivered across Australia by TAFE NSW and is funded by the Australian Government. EarTrain is a Closing the Gap initiative available until 30 June 2024.

Program Eligibility

If you are a primary health care professional or worker providing care to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, you are eligible to participate in the EarTrain program.

Workshop 1: Practical Skills – Screening in your Community

This **2-day** workshop provides practical skills in:

- * Otoscopy
- * Tympanometry
- * Screening Otoacoustic Emissions
- * Introduction to Audiometry (adults and children)
- * Referral Pathways.

This workshop is ideal for those requiring an introduction or refresh in these practical skills.

Our workshop will give you the opportunity to learn how to carry out the skills and techniques you have learnt in your online training topics. You will gain practical experience and confidence in carrying out these skills under the guidance of experienced audiologists, with ongoing support after you've completed the workshop.

Participants who attend this workshop and complete logbooks will receive a Certificate of Participation.

*While the online training and the practical skills workshops are free, participants may incur travel, accommodation and other costs associated with attending a practical skills workshop.

RTO 90003. Terms and conditions may apply. Information is correct at time of printing: July 2022.

Workshop Dates

Orange Aboriginal Medical Service

Dates:

11 & 12 September 2023

or

13 & 14 September 2023

Next Steps

To attend either of these workshops:

1. [Register to EarTrain](#) to access the online learning
2. [Click here to attend the workshop](#)

tafensw.edu.au/eartrain



Australian Government
Department of Health



delivered by
TAFE NSW
NSW

Colleagues Looking for Funding to Audiology Nurse?

Applications for the [Lions Nurses' Scholarship](#) are being accepted for the 2024 academic year from 1 August 2023.

All nurses who meet these criteria are eligible to apply:

1. Are currently registered with the Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia and working within the nursing profession in NSW or the ACT.
2. Have a minimum of three years' experience within the nursing profession since initial registration and prior to making application, the last 12 months of which must have been spent in employment in NSW or the ACT.
3. The scholarship is open to Australian citizens and permanent residents.

Lions Nurses' Foundation Scholarships are available under the following categories:

- **Category A:** Scholarships for a short course, study tour or conference, either in Australia or overseas, not necessarily leading to an award or an additional formal qualification.
- **Category B:** Scholarships for extended study leading to the award of a formal qualification at a recognised tertiary institution in Australia or overseas.

Applications close 31 October 2023. Late applications will not be accepted in any circumstance.



The advertisement features three healthcare professionals (two women and one man) smiling. The background is white. At the top left is the NSMF logo, and at the top right is the Lions International logo. The main text reads 'LIONS NURSES' SCHOLARSHIP' in large blue letters. Below this is the question 'Looking for funding to further your studies in 2024?' in a yellow script font. At the bottom, three red banners with white text state: 'THE LIONS NURSES' SCHOLARSHIPS', 'OPEN ON 1 AUGUST AND', and 'CLOSE ON 31 OCTOBER EACH YEAR'. On the right side, a blue box contains white text providing details about the scholarship, including eligibility criteria and contact information.

LIONS NURSES' SCHOLARSHIP

Looking for funding to further your studies in 2024?

THE LIONS NURSES' SCHOLARSHIPS
OPEN ON 1 AUGUST AND
CLOSE ON 31 OCTOBER EACH YEAR

The trustees of the Lions Nurses' Scholarship Foundation invite applications for scholarships. Nurses eligible for these scholarships must be resident and employed within the State of NSW or ACT.

You must currently be registered with the Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia and working within the nursing profession in NSW or the ACT, and must have a minimum of three years' experience in the nursing profession – the last 12 months of which must have been spent in NSW or the ACT.

Details of eligibility and the scholarships available (which include study projects either within Australia or overseas), and application forms are available from: www.nswnma.asn.au/education

Administration Liaison, Lions Nurses' Scholarship Foundation
50 O'Dea Avenue Waterloo NSW 2017

or contact Matt West on 1300 367 962
or education@nswnma.asn.au

COMPLETED APPLICATIONS MUST BE IN THE HANDS OF THE SECRETARY **NO LATER THAN 31 OCTOBER**

ANAA Inc. Committee 2022/2023

Secretary

Kirsten Biddle

Hunter New England LHD

PO Box 701

Inverell NSW

Phone: 02 67219600

kirsten.biddle@health.nsw.gov.au

President

Tracy HAWES

Western Sydney LHD

Parramatta Community Health
Centre

Mt Druitt Community Health Cen-
tre

Phone: 02 9881 1200

tracy.hawes@health.nsw.gov.au

Treasurer

Kate NORTON

Northern NSW LHD

Grafton Community Health Centre

Arthur Street, GRAFTON, NSW,
2460

Phone: 02 6641 8702

kate.norton@health.nsw.gov.au

Vice President

Helen GEE

Mid North Coast

Kempsey Primary and Community
Care

Phone: 02 65612790

helen.gee@health.nsw.gov.au



Committee Member

Sandy CORBETT

Gunnedah Community Health Centre

02 67418000.

Marquis Street Gunnedah 2380

sandy.corbett@health.nsw.gov.au

Committee Member

Lucy RHINDO

Tamworth Community Health
Centre

Dean Street

Tamworth 2340

02 67678100

lucy.rhindo@health.nsw.gov.au

Committee Member

Editor 'Ear 'Tis

Sharyn WILKINSON

ACT Health Children's Hearing
Services

Level 256 Laithlain Street

Belconnen 2617

Phone: 0261052346

sharyn.wilkinson@act.gov.au