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**Contact us**  
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P: 1300 941 480  
E: office@renalsociety.org  
www.renalsociety.org
Dear Members,

Welcome to the 2018-19 RSA Annual Report. We have had another successful year with much to celebrate.

During the last 12 months, our membership continued to grow. Our Membership numbers are now 2079 which is a huge achievement to all.

Our partnership with the University of Tasmania continued with the increased opportunity for our members to complete further courses at 50% HECS free from Semester 1, 2018.

We were excited to launch our new education platform with WCEA following last year’s conference. This has increased educational opportunities for all members, with access to all RSA content at no cost. There is also the opportunity for members to undertake other courses from other societies. The platform has been extremely easy to use, not only for members but for the administration team too. The content for this has been managed by the Education Committee and I would like to thank each and every one of them for their hard work in keeping the standard of our modules, webinars and all other content at such a high level.

The Vascular Access Roadshow sponsored by Medtronic has been an amazing success again this year. This year we also commenced an Anaemia workshop sponsored by Amgen which has also been well attended and successful, with a number more to happen for the second half of this year. Discussions have been had for further workshops in 2019/2020 with the possibility to further expand the workshop series into other areas relevant to advancing the care of patients with kidney disease.

The branch chairs have been working really hard to meet the needs of their local members by providing excellent education. The plan for this year was to focus on one Symposia per state which has made organising these events a lot easier for all involved. It has also allowed us to provide greater opportunities to our sponsors. I would like to commend them for all their hard work.

We also have volunteers participating on working groups such as CARI guidelines, ANZDATA and Green Nephrology Action Team and many more. Sincere thanks to all of them for their hard work on these groups. It is very important for the RSA to be part of these working groups as all of this work is part of why we do the work we do, to improve and advance the care of patients with kidney disease.

This year we also launched our new look CommuniquéPlus, with exciting opportunities for members to submit articles and have their work recognised and acknowledged as part of the RSA Top Achiever Award.

Over the past year we have also further developed a number of collaborations. These have included the Transplant Nurses Association (TNA), The Canadian Association of Nephrology Nurses and Technologists (CANNT) with a few more currently in progress. This will definitely increase opportunities for our members and the society. We have also further developed our collaboration and relationship with Kidney Health Australia (KHA) and have had active involvement in key pieces of work such as the National Strategic Action Plan for Kidney Disease.

Our other member benefits, such as the RSAJ which went online this year and our Annual Conference continue to provide members with great value.

In closing, I would like to say that the RSA would not be what it is today without the continued contribution of all our valued volunteers. Throughout this Annual Report, you will read about the contributions of many of them, who together contribute thousands of hours of work. I would like to thank all involved along with the support of the RSA office managed by Association Professionals.

Fiona Donnelly, RSA President
RSA Board of Directors, 2018-19

President: Fiona Donnelly
Vice President: Leanne Brown

In 2018-2019, we welcomed Monique Borlace and Edward Zimbudzi, and we farewelled Gillian Treloar.

Pictured left to right: Fiona Donnelly (RSA President), Kathy Hill, Debbie Fortnum, Debbie Pugh, Debbie Turner, Leanne Brown (RSA Vice President), Sarah Hain (EO)
Absent: Monique Borlace, Jon Hosking, Andrew Phillips & Edward Zimbudzi

RSA Mission
Advancing the care of people with kidney disease.

RSA Values
Following feedback from members, the RSA adopted the following values:
- Excellence
- Collaboration
- Leadership
- Innovation
- Diversity

These values provide us with a framework for achieving our mission to advance the care of people with kidney disease. They guide how we operate at all levels of the RSA and are living qualities that help define our organisation.

Strategic Plan 2018-21
The RSA Board continues to build on the wonderful work undertaken by everyone involved with RSA since its inception. In 2018 and 2019 the Board have updated and refreshed the Strategic Plan ensuring that the organisation is well placed to remain effective, relevant, and flexible in meeting the needs of members both for now and the future beyond.

The core objectives of the plan are:
1. Provide a variety of cost-effective professional development opportunities for RSA members and other interested parties.
2. Communicate knowledge and information about chronic kidney disease and associated treatments.
3. Advocate for the interests of members, the profession and consumers.
4. Support practice development, research, quality improvement and innovation.
5. Set standards for renal professionals.
6. Govern the association.
## Renal Society of Australasia Strategic Plan 2018–21

### GOALS

#### Deliver a Cost effective and multi-media education program of relevant CPD eligible education

- Provide online educational resources that meet the educational needs of members
- Conduct conferences, seminars and workshops that are fully subscribed and offer equal opportunities across the states
- Promote and develop Nephrology educators network
- Develop an income stream to support education costs
- Actively market education to members and non-members in Australia and overseas
- Promote and offer opportunity for formal training in the renal specialty

#### To become the face of renal nursing and a ‘must-join’ community

- Operate a communications strategy that considers the changing face of social media to engage all demographics of the renal workforce
- Maintain a dynamic website that engages members and drives website utilisation
- Deliver a regular communiqué that informs members, sells RSA and drives website visits
- Deliver a cost-effective peer reviewed research journal (RSAJ) that inspires renal nurses
- Facilitate networking opportunities for members
- Develop a clear and marketable ‘why’ the RSA operate, to engage government and community

#### Utilise advocacy to improve outcomes for patients with kidney disease

- Develop position statements on relevant issues
- Provide representatives to educational and professional bodies
- Increase profile of RSA and engage with other key bodies
- Support renal-related requests
- Promote and develop Clinical Special Interest Groups

#### Support/facilitate practice development, research and quality improvement

- Facilitate individuals or groups to gain sponsorship for undertaking relevant projects
- Provide clinical resources to support practice development, research and quality improvement
- Seek collaborative opportunities for research such as strengthened relationships with CARI, ANZSN, KHA & ANZDATA

#### Facilitate utilisation of clinical standard framework for renal professionals

- Lead the renal community in development and utilisation of clinical standards/framework
- Consider credentialing or accreditation

#### Govern the association with positive leadership that engages the branch committees and members to support delivery of the mission of the RSA

- Grow membership
- Deliver outcomes on all objectives utilising structured process
- Manage effective budget and financial model
- Maintain and operate a relevant constitution
- Utilise resources provided by contracted organisation(s) effectively

### OBJECTIVES

#### OUTCOMES

- Integrated Australasian calendar of education that is accessible and meets member needs.
- Integrated, branded communications throughout the RSA, aligned with strategy.
- Relevant position statements, representation and profile in place.
- Individuals and the profession supported by sponsorship and resources.
- Standards are in place and individuals are recognised.
- RSA is a well-governed, “must-join” association.
Membership

As of June 2019, the RSA has 2079 active members. Our members reside in all states and territories of Australia, throughout New Zealand and around the globe. The majority (95%) of our members are nurses, with a small yet important percentage of members from allied health disciplines, technicians, academics and industry representatives. Our members work in all areas of renal care, including haemodialysis, peritoneal dialysis, chronic kidney disease/predialysis, transplantation, vascular access, education, industry and academia.

Life Members

From time to time, the RSA confers life membership to people who have made an outstanding contribution to the vision and objectives of the RSA. The RSA’s life members as at June 2019, are:

- Paul Bennett
- Ann Bonner
- Adrian Buttimore
- Sue Evans
- Ted Farnsworth
- Kate North
- Kirsten Passaris
- Glenn Stewart

Figures are correct as at 23 May 2019
Industry Partners and Sponsors

The RSA is built around partnerships between members, industry and other key stakeholders, working together to advance the care of people with kidney disease. Valued partnership helps us to provide high quality services to our members, including local, national and online education, publications, and our flagship event, the RSA Annual Conference.

We would like to thank all of our industry partners and sponsors, without whom, we would not be able to deliver the high quality education that the RSA is renowned for.
Awards, Scholarship and Grant Recipients 2018

RSA Award
This prestigious award recognises those individuals who have made an outstanding contribution and commitment to the RSA and renal communities at a local and/or Australasian level. Selection criteria include continuous membership of the RSA, evidence of high standards of practice and outstanding commitment to the RSA. The RSA Award recipient is chosen from individual branch and federal nominations.

The RSA Award 2018 was conferred on Debbie Pugh (below).

Recipients of the Branch / Federal nominations were:
- NSW/ACT – Debbie Pugh
- NZ – Rachael Walker
- QLD – Karen Mills
- SA/NT – Monique Borlace
- TAS – Carol Chadwick
- VIC – Ignatius Abraham
- WA – Not awarded
- Federal nomination – Debbie Pugh

Birgit Munro Memorial Scholarship
The Birgit Munro Memorial Scholarship was established to honour the memory of Birgit Munro, a renal nurse who died in 1992, aged 36, after a sudden illness. The Memorial Scholarship Fund was established by Birgit’s family, friends, and renal groups with which she had been associated. The fund is administered through the Renal Society of Australasia and by three fund trustees and is open to all RSA members.


Larelle Bryce Memorial Prize
The Larelle Bryce Memorial Prize is presented each year at the Renal Society of Australasia Annual Conference to an RSA Member for an outstanding article submitted to and published in the RSA CommuniquéPlus. The prize was established by the RSA Board in memory of Ms Larelle Bryce, our Editorial Coordinator, who died from a chronic illness in July 2008 at 44 years of age.

The Larelle Bryce Memorial Prize is awarded to a current RSA member based on their contribution being well written, offering new ideas, making a significant contribution to the field, arousing interest or stimulating debate. It is valued at A$500 and is shared between authors if the winning article has more than one author.


International Travel Grant
Each calendar year, the RSA awards funding to individual RSA members to support their attendance at a renal-related international conference. Applicants must demonstrate both a previous and ongoing commitment to the RSA and associated activities, outline their objectives and aims of attending the conference including relevance to current nursing practice and potential benefit to the renal community. This year we received a large number of high quality applications and the sub-committee has decided to split the amount awarded across four recipients:

Recipients: Janice Kirkpatrick, Anna Lee, Debbie Pugh and Ulrich Steinwandel
Our Branches

Branch Chair: Debbie Pugh

The RSA has seven Branches, who continue to be the lifeblood of the RSA. Made up of local RSA members, the committees plan and deliver education and networking events, and are the local voice of the RSA.

Our Branches are in:
- New South Wales / Australian Capital Territory
- New Zealand
- Queensland
- South Australia / Northern Territory
- Tasmania
- Victoria
- Western Australia

We thank and commend all our members who have served on their local Branch committee. Without you, the RSA could not deliver such high-quality, relevant member education.

Following is a list of all members who have served on their Branch committee within the 2018-19 year (where there is more than one person listed in a position, there was a changeover during the year), and a list of education meetings that they held.

NSW/ACT Branch

Chair: Perambalam Pattabhiraman
Committee: Natividad Miles, Carmen Moroney, Angela Park & Khin Myint

Branch education evening: Wednesday, 15 August 2018
This training event showcased the work of the renal team of the Western Renal Service in supporting renal patients on their many journeys.
No. Delegates: 28
Sponsors: Alexion, Amgen, Roche & Sanofi

Vascular Access Workshops: Saturday, 20 October 2018
No. Delegates: 24
Sponsors: GE & Medtronic

Friday, 16 November 2018
No. Delegates: 14
Sponsor: Amgen

Branch education evening: Wednesday, 28 November 2018

2018–19 Annual Report 7
Sponsors: Amgen, Baxter, Fresenius Medical Care, Medtronic, Nipro, Roche & Sanofi

Saturday, 18 May 2019
No. Delegates: 25
Sponsor: Amgen

Branch Symposium: It’s all about the journey.
Saturday, 2 November 2019
Sponsors: Baxter & Sanofi

SA/NT Branch
Chair: Linda Thorburn/Position vacant – open to a volunteer
Committee: Monique Borlace, Dylan Carter, Penny Clough & Jane Maberley

Branch education evening: Quality of life for renal patients.
Thursday, 18 October 2018
No. Delegates: 17
Sponsors: Roche & Sanofi

Thursday, 14 March 2019
No. Delegates: 9
Sponsor: Amgen

Vascular Access Workshops Darwin:
Friday, 15 March 2019
No. Delegates: 15
Sponsors: GE & Medtronic

Thursday, 13 June 2019
Sponsor: Amgen

Branch Symposium: Promoting Health and Wellbeing in CKD and the Workforce.
Monday, 12 August 2019
Sponsor: Sanofi & BD

TAS Branch
Chair: Position vacant – open to a volunteer
Committee: Position vacant – open to volunteers

Branch education day: Emergency Procedures in Dialysis.
Saturday, 23 March 2019
No. Delegates: 24
Sponsors: Amgen, Roche & Sanofi

VIC Branch
Chair: Mechelle Seneviratne/Jane Crossett
Committee: Ignatius Abraham, Barbara Cottell, Jane Crossett, Genette Heslop & Kristen Schuck

Tuesday, 20 November 2018
No. Delegates: 31
Sponsor: Amgen

Vascular Access Workshops: Saturday, 9 March 2019
No. Delegates: 40
Sponsors: GE & Medtronic

Branch Regional Education Day: Renal Emergencies.
Thursday, 16 May 2019
No. Delegates: 67
Sponsor: Vifor Pharama

Branch Symposium: Spring Renal Carnival
Saturday, 7 September 2019

Branch Regional Meeting (Ballarat)
Tuesday, 3 December 2019

WA Branch
Chair: Jeff McMullen
Committee: Madelin Kenworthy, Fungai Mukusha, Jennifer Poblete & John Yung

Branch Symposium: Toolbox for success.
Saturday, 11 August 2018
No. Delegates: 96
Sponsors: Amgen, Fresenius Medical Care, Roche & Sanofi

Vascular Access Workshops: Wednesday, 20 March 2019
No. Delegates: 38
Sponsors: GE & Medtronic

Branch Symposium: Reigniting the Human Element in Renal Care.
Saturday, 24 August 2019
Sponsor: Sanofi
The 2018 RSA Annual Conference was an exciting event, and undoubtedly one of the highlights of a busy year. Held at the Adelaide Convention Centre, it attracted more than 430 delegates. The Annual Conference ran from 21-23 June, with 6 workshops being incorporated into the main program.

The Annual Conference theme was “Lighting the path to success”. The keynote speaker was Dr Gillian Hicks.

The 6 conference workshops were all well received and covered a wide range of topics:

- Workshop 1: Vascular Access – Sponsored by Medtronic
- Workshop 2: Nurse Practitioner – Sponsored by Amgen
- Workshop 3: A practical guide for conducting research
- Workshop 4: Supportive Care
- Workshop 5: Leadership for emerging managers
- Workshop 6: Green Nephrology

The Conference Dinner was held in the Panarama Ballroom at the Adelaide Convention Centre and was an amazing night.

Additionally, the RSA's Annual General Meeting, Awards Ceremony and President’s reception were held during the Annual Conference.

We would like to thank all sponsors and exhibitors, without whom we would not be able to run our Annual Conference:

**Gold Sponsor:**
Nipro Australia

**Silver Sponsors:**
Baxter Healthcare, Fresenius Medical Care & Sanofi

**Plenary Speaker Sponsor:**
Roche

**Breakfast Workshop Sponsor:**
Medibank

**Conference Dinner Sponsor:**
Kidney, Transplant & Diabetes Research Australia

**Workshop Sponsors:**
Amgen & Medtronic

**Award Sponsor (Best Paper Advanced & Best Paper Research):**
UniSA
Exhibitors:
Abbott Australia, Aspen Pharmacare, B.Braun Australia, Bard Australia, Baxter Healthcare, Charles River Microbial Solutions, Dialysis Australia, Fresenius Medical Care, HESTA, ITL BioMedical, Kidney Health Australia, Medtronic, Nikkiso, Nipro Australia, NxStage Medical, Sanofi, TekMed & University of Tasmania

We would also like to thank our conference organisers, Association Professionals, for organising such a highly successful Annual Conference.

Special thanks must go to our hard-working Conference Committee and Scientific Committee, all of whom worked tirelessly in a volunteer capacity:

2018 Annual Conference Organising Committee
Conference Convenor: Debbie Turner
Fiona Donnelly (RSA President), Monique Borlace, Debbie Fortnum, Bronwyn Hayes, Kathy Hill, Kirsten Passaris and Linda Thorburn.

2018 Annual Conference Scientific Committee
Chair: Dr Bronwyn Hayes
Karen Bennett, Associate Professor Paul Bennett, Professor Ann Bonner, Kristen Bull, Dr Deirdre Fetherstonhaugh, Dr Kathy Hill, Anna Lee, Kay McLaughlin, Monica Schoch, Rosie Simmons and Tanya Smolonogov
Each presentation and poster were judged by a team of content experts throughout the conference. The results were collated, and the following winners were announced just prior to the closing ceremony, and were presented with cash prizes:

**Best abstract** – Awarded to Amy Atkinson, ‘Overcoming barriers for Indigenous Australians gaining access to the kidney transplant waiting list’

**Best paper – novice** – Awarded to Aphrodite Stathis, ‘Haemodialysis access for needle phobic client: A case report’

**Best paper – advanced** – Awarded to Kathleen Hill, ‘Diabetes and low socioeconomic status – the next “tsunami” of chronic kidney disease?’

**Best paper – research** – Awarded to Ann Bonner, ‘Characteristics of Indigenous Australians who attend a kidney supportive care program’

**Best poster** – Awarded to Richard Knight, ‘Ergonomic improvements to manual handling when servicing and repairing haemodialysis machines’

**People’s choice award – paper** – Awarded to Scott Dobson, ‘Going Strong- Two Years into Implementation of a Taping Policy and Strength Testing’

**People’s choice award – poster** – Awarded to Wendi Bradshaw, ‘Waste for wildlife: Redirection of discarded materials’

**Environmental Research Prize** – Wendi Bradshaw, ‘Waste for wildlife: Redirection of discarded materials’
Editor-in-Chief: Melissa Arnold-Chamney

Journal – RSAJ

Three issues of the RSAJ were published, in addition to the Annual Conference Abstracts supplement. I would like to thank Cambridge Media for their ongoing support in publishing the RSAJ. This year also saw the first of our “special editions” which focused on indigenous healthcare.

We would like to thank our RSAJ Associate Editors and the Editorial Advisory Board:

Associate Editors
Dr Ann Bonner, Dr Deirdre Fetherstonhaugh

Editorial Advisory Board
Dr Abdelbasit Ayoub (UAE), Jennifer Beavis, Dr Paul Bennett, Monique Borlace, Dr Leanne Brown, Suzie Burford (SG), Dr Katrina Campbell, Dr Josephine Chow, Fredric Doss (NZ), Bettina Douglas, Leanne Evans, Barbara Harvie, Dr Bronwyn Hayes, Dr Tim Hewitson, Dr Kathy Hill, Jon Hosking (NZ), Dr Jacquelyne Hughes, Cheryl Hyde, Dr Julia Jones (UK), Kathy Kable, Dr Janet Kelly, Anna Lee, Casey Light, Amanda Lister, Dr Laura Lunardi, Deborah Rowe, Monica Schoch, John Sedgewick (KSA), Rosie Simmonds, Peter Sinclair, Melissa Stanley & Dr Charlotte Thomas-Hawkins (USA).

Biostatistician: Kylie Lange

RSAJ List of Articles

Volume 14, Number 1: March 2018
Arnold-Chamney, M., Editorial: Culturally safe and respectful care
Allen, G., Hakendorf, P., Kruger, A., Arnold, A. & Barbara, J., Comparison of ferric carboxymaltose and iron polymaltose efficacy in renal anaemia
Light, C. & Kulkarnia, H., Booster hepatitis B vaccination in haemodialysis patients: five-year prospective observational study
Beer, J., Mountford, E. & Boudville, N., Dietetic intervention in haemodialysis patients improves malnutrition
Turner, K., Burns, T. & Tranter, S., An evaluation of the nursing care of renal transplant recipients: a qualitative study

Stephenson, M.D. & Bradshaw, W., Continuing Professional Development Series – Shared decision making in chronic kidney disease

Volume 14, Number 2 – July 2018
Fang, A. & Wiechula, R., The effectiveness and safety of regional citrate anticoagulation in intermittent haemodialysis/haemodiafiltration— a systematic review
Chu, G., Szymanski, K., Tomlins, M., Yates, N. & McDonald, V., Nursing care considerations for dialysis patients with a sleep disorder
Chu, G., Adams, K., Fogarty, G. & Holliday, L., Does good hygiene compliance reduce catheter-related blood stream infection? A single centre experience
Buena, T., Tregaskis, P. & Elliott, M., Peritoneal dialysis home visits: A review of timing, frequency and assessment criteria

Volume 14, Number 3 – November 2018
Arnold-Chamney, M., Editorial: Improving Indigenous people’s Aboriginal health and well-being
Duff, D; Jesudason, S., Howell, M. & Hughes, J.T., A partnership approach to engage Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples with clinical guideline development for chronic kidney disease
Jugjali, R., Yodchai, K. & Thanivattanaporn, P., Factors influencing spiritual well-being in patients receiving haemodialysis: a literature review
Burns, T. & Turner, K., Continuing Professional Development Series – Kidney transplantation for Australian renal nurses
Brown, S., Remote possibilities: from a Pintupi dream to Medicare funding
2019 Annual Conference

Organising Committee

Conference Convenor: Carmel Gregan-Ford
Carmel Gregan-Ford, Conference Convenor
Bronwyn Hayes, Chairperson – Scientific Committee
Fiona Donnelly, President – Renal Society of Australasia
Debbie Fortnum
Angela Jackson
Janis Powell
Debbie Turner

Scientific Committee

Chair: Dr Bronwyn Hayes
Karen Bennett, Associate Professor Paul Bennett, Professor Ann Bonner, Kristen Bull, Dr Deirdre Fetherstonhaugh, Dr Kathy Hill, Anna Lee, Kay McLaughlin, Monica Schoch, Rosie Simmons and Tanya Smolnogov

Renal Society of Australasia
ANNUAL CONFERENCE
AUCKLAND
27 – 29 JUNE 2019

Asking the hard questions
**Education Committee**

**Chair:** Debbie Fortnum

**Members:** Wendi Bradshaw, Angela Henson, Joanne Kok, Perambalam Pattabhiraman, Monica Schoch, Beate Linckelmann (joined 2018), Kris Abeleda (joined 2018), Tanya Smolonogov (joined 2019).

Each member of our committee has a strong commitment to one specific portfolio; anaemia workshops, vascular access workshops, online education, webinars, podcasts, CPD articles, and leading the NEN group. For the committee it has been a year of consolidation with strong growth and great achievements in each portfolio.

**ONE e-Learning**

In light of ageing infrastructure it was decided to partner with the World Continuing Education Alliance (WCEA) to host the continuously growing library of online education.

WCEA is now the one-stop hosting platform for RSA members to access free, peer reviewed, online renal education. In addition to the 79 renal packages on offer members also have free access to around 2000 packages from other worldwide organisations. WCEA was launched in September 2018 and has already been accessed by nearly 30% of members, with over 1000 courses being completed. Anne in the RSA office was instrumental in the transition to WCEA, thank you.

To maintain relevancy five of the interactive online packages were updated in 2018, and six new webinars and 4 new journal clubs have been added to WCEA since it launched. A review of the remaining online packages is now underway by Kris and Tanya to determine any updates or new packages required for 2019/2020.

**Journal Club**

The journal club is now active with bimonthly articles being posted, courtesy of Joanne. The aim is to engage other RSA members to share their articles and develop suitable questions and the Nephrology Educators Network (NEN) have been supportive of this initiative, thank you.

**Podcasts**

Pera continues to manage the podcasts and for the first time there is a plan to record podcasts at the RSA conference. Thank you to any members who are now featured in our podcast collection.

**CPD series**

Wendi manages our CPD series and continues to publish an article regularly in the RSAJ. We continue to use this area to highlight new KHA-CARI guidelines and to discuss key areas of practice where evidence exists to guide practice.

**Workshop series – Vascular Access and Anaemia**

Monica has continued to coordinate, and usually present, our series of six workshops specialising in Vascular Access education, travelling around Australia and even going up to Darwin. The workshops are kindly sponsored by Medtronic with special support from GE who have supplied equipment for each workshop. The workshops are always rated highly, and have reached more than 150 attendees. Thank you to all speakers and supporters including the volunteer patients who support this practical access extravaganza. Look out for more dates near you in late 2019.

In October 2018, a new workshop series on anaemia started with an aim to deliver 16 half day workshops over two years. These are kindly sponsored by Amgen. Beate has done an amazing job in supporting the office to plan and coordinate this workshop series. We thank all of the members who have offered their time as speakers and have supported the organisation of these workshops. Every new workshop series is a learning curve and we are now fine-tuning the organisation and delivery. To date six have been delivered and feedback of the 100+ attendees is really positive. More workshops are in advance stage of planning.
Webinars

I have continued to coordinate the webinars and we have delivered 6 new webinars with 490 registrations over the last year. Webinars are now free and only available for members. The evaluations are always extremely positive. Thank you to all presenters who volunteer their time and have delivered world class webinars. Making the webinars available on the WCEA platform has added another opportunity for unit-based education. The webinars are always fully subscribed with about 50% of subscribers attending live on the day.

The Education Committee are always open to new ideas and rely on input from members, delegates, speakers and sponsors to continue to progress with the times. In 2019/2020 our goal is to engage and interact with more members and branch committees to enhance the national education opportunities for all of our members.

Sincere thanks to Baxter Healthcare Graham Charles Burnley scholarship fund for their sponsorship of 3 webinars.

NEN

NEN is still active and we’d love more to join us!

Building on the great work and networking of the original NEN team we have continued to “join” forces and phone link with 4 meetings this year. We have been averaging around 10 members from private centre, public hospitals and university sector, where we discuss current clinical challenges and strategies where we can support each other. Debbie Fortnum kindly provided updates to us and having a direct link with the RSA Education Board has enabled us to define some key plans and provide feedback and support.

We have been actively utilising the discussion forums encouraging education staff to actively participate. There are a range of topics being posted, which are creating interest and clarifying challenges where we often have limited evidence on which to base our practice. We will be starting to summarise some of these discussion points, these will remain on the site so this will be an easy reference for educators to discover some of the complex issues that are currently being discussed.

With the support of the board we are planning some national surveys to understand nephrology nursing practice. Currently we are seeking expressions of interest for nurses to be involved in Peritoneal Dialysis and Haemodialysis Working Parties to start defining some key questions that are topical and relevant to today’s clinical practice. Work has commenced on defining a survey regarding isolated Ultrafiltration – which is being piloted in Queensland, once ethics approval has been confirmed.

At this stage, the plan for 2019-2020 is to continue to lead discussions and surveys, promoting the use of journal club and e-learning in the hope that this network will remain viable.

Vascular Access Workshop Photographs
JBI Renal Node

The JBI Renal Node is a partnership between RSA and the Joanna Briggs Institute, whereby the body of knowledge in evidence-based renal care is developed. JBI reference group has been reformed as the RSA Research and Policy Advisory Group with the finalization of the policy to be completed by the end of June. Further work will then be undertaken with JBI to re-establish free access to resources for all RSA members and ensure a regular review of current resources and addition of new evidence-based resources.

RSA Research and Policy Advisory Group

The RSA remains committed to an organisational approach to incorporating research into our policies that has a strong focus on improving the lives of people with kidney disease. To this end the RSA Board have taken the decision to move in a strategic direction with the formulation of a Research and Policy Committee dedicated to evaluating current research and policy as it affects people with renal disease in Australia. The committee’s aim is to align the RSA interests with KHA and KHNZ whilst individually crafting the unique role that RSA members have. In addition, building on the success of the former Queensland Branch Research Grant, we have transitioned this grant into one that is open to all RSA members. We hope that over the years, the grant can assist some of our up and coming and seasoned researchers to advance the care of people with kidney disease.
Representatives on External Committees

The RSA Board would like to thank the following RSA members who represented the RSA on external committees:

**ANZDATA Steering Committee:** Kathy Hill

**Caring for Australians with Renal Impairment (CARI) Guidelines:** Debbie Fortnum

**Clinical Policy Advisory Committee – ANZSN:** Fiona Donnelly

**Coalition of National Nursing and Midwifery Organisations (CoNNMO):** Kathy Hill

**Dialysis Advisory Committee (DAC):** Maria Safe & Monique Borlace

**EDTNA Liaison for the RSA:** Debbie Fortnum/Lynn Brown

**Green Nephrology Action Team (ANZSN):** Anthea White & Jason Wei

**Home Dialysis Advisory Committee (HDAC):** Monique Borlace

**National Renal Advisory Board (NZ):** Kay McLaughlin

**Primary Care Education Advisory Committee for KHA (PEAK):** Barbara Harvie