

AANSA AGM 2015

President's Report

It is pleasing to announce that 2015 has been another successful year for the Australian Association of Nurse Surgical Assistants. A highlight of 2015 will be the inaugural conference for AANSA.

Membership

AANSA has seen a steady increase in membership over the past 12 months. Our association is now some 80+ strong and is growing at a rapid rate. We are gaining both new members and changes in membership status as PNSAs progress through their study to gain formal qualifications. We are also seeing new members join who have formal qualifications but were not aware of the association. It is heartening to see that more people are becoming aware of AANSA and hence the growing membership.

Member Services

A lot of effort has been expended this year to create a more user friendly website. There has been a major focus on gathering data and membership renewal. We have been working successfully toward making it easier for members to pay membership dues online and to access pertinent information regarding their membership.

Education

A lot of work has been done on holding the AANSA inaugural conference. This will culminate on 29th August in Brisbane in conjunction with the AGM. This has been a major project and it is expected that this will set the platform for more conferences and education days in the future. AANSA has also been active in providing education to the wider healthcare community. The executive is fielding multiple enquiries regarding the role and scope of practice of the PNSA. These enquiries provide an opportunity to educate healthcare workers and administrators on the opportunities and services that PNSAs can provide in the healthcare setting.

AANSA has been actively involved in promoting the didactic component of the PNSA's training. The executive is currently in discussions with a number of universities to ensure the progression of the PNSA training program should the program at Southern Cross University (SCU) not recommence. The executive are also working with SCU to formulate a way forward with the current program.

Clinical Practice

AANSA has been actively involved in promoting the breadth of the PNSA's clinical practice. The end result of this is new hospitals approaching AANSA to discuss the provision of surgical assistant services within their institution.

AANSA has also been involved in arguing for recognition of qualifications for accreditation of PNSAs. This is especially pertinent when individuals are seeking accreditation as a nurse surgical assistant. This is to ensure that individuals with relevant qualifications are recognised. It is also to ensure that patient safety and standard of care are not compromised by accrediting individuals who lack formal training as a PNSA.

Remuneration

2015 has been both a challenging and exciting year for AANSA. We are continuing to work with the Medical Services Advisory Committee and the HTA to address the issue of remuneration and access to the MBS. This is an interesting project and will hopefully provide some resolution to AANSA's ongoing concerns regarding lack of role recognition and protection of title.

I am extremely pleased with the development of AANSA. We are slowly but surely gaining recognition as a professional body. I believe that as we progress into 2016 AANSA will continue to grow in stature and become more widely recognised as a strong professional body that (most importantly) provides support and education to its growing cohort of members

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lloyd Dodds', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Lloyd Dodds RN MClinSc(PNSA)
President AANSA
August 2015