

## President's Report, November 2021



It has been my privilege to serve as PANDDA President over the last 12 months. Once again, PANDDA has been very active across a range of our strategic areas of activity, advocacy, and leadership. Our membership numbers are tracking at around the mid-70s which is a very slight increase on last year. Approximately 60% of our current members have either joined or re-joined in the last 2 years suggesting that we've lost a few older members over the last few years. Our goal is to achieve and sustain at least 100 members, so please continue to spread the word about PANDDA and the benefits of membership. Any ideas on how we can increase our membership and/or strategies to offer more to members are very welcome.

Below is a summary of our activities and achievements, listed in chronological order, over the last 12 months.

### ***23rd November 2020 – Launch of the PANDDA Standards for Nursing Practice***

The launch of these standards – grounded in research evidence funded by PANDDA - at the 2020 conference has been several years in the making. Hard copies were distributed at the 2020 conference, and they can be downloaded and printed for free from the PANDDA website. I urge everyone to make sure that these are shared as widely as possible. Across 2021, we have sent hard copies of the Standards with a cover letter to many nurse leaders, politicians, the CEOs of key disability services, and others to spread the word about PANDDA and what the public can expect from nurses who work with people with intellectual and developmental disability.

### ***December 2020 – Witness statements at Royal Commission***

Both Virginia Howie (16<sup>th</sup> December) and I (15<sup>th</sup> December) appeared on separate panels and gave verbal evidence at Public Hearing 10 of the Royal Commission. Virginia's evidence was based on her lived experience as a mother and as a PhD student studying this area in detail. My evidence was as PANDDA president and focussed on the education of nurses about the health needs and disparities faced by people with intellectual and developmental disability. All the content and video links for Public Hearing 10 can be found [HERE](#). The written report from Public Hearing 10 will, I understand, be available soon on the Royal Commission website.

### ***25<sup>th</sup> March 2021 – Council of Deans presentation***

Australian and New Zealand has a Council of Deans in Nursing and Midwifery – information about the Council can be found [HERE](#). I gave an invited presentation to the Council of Deans where I discussed the momentum that is building at both federal and state government levels as well as a possible recommendation from the Royal Commission for mandated content about the health needs of people with intellectual and developmental disability in undergraduate nursing curricula. Although the reception was very warm and the questions were interesting, the Council re-stated their position that they do not want any form of content mandated in the nursing curriculum. Time will tell how this plays out, but PANDDA is ready to step in and help fill the significant gap in the knowledge base of nurses across Australia.

### ***April 2021 – National Health Workforce Data Collection (AHPRA)***

In April 2020, PANDDA lobbied Canberra to add “disability nursing” to the annual health workforce survey that we complete when doing our AHPRA renewal. As a result of this lobbying, the changes have been made and for the first time since the inception of AHPRA, we will get a sense of how many nurses selected this option in May 2021. This is a huge win for PANDDA and its members. In addition, the sector item in the survey has also been expanded to include “non-government – for profit OR not for profit.”

### ***April 2021 – Australian College of Nursing (ACN)***

Sue Easton and I held a preliminary meeting with ACN about our desire to see post-graduate educational opportunities in the area of intellectual and developmental disability and health. A follow-up meeting was held on the 6<sup>th</sup> October to discuss this in more detail with a view to meeting again in early 2022 to develop the conversation.

### ***April 2021 – proposed changes to the Ageing and Disability Commissioner Act (NSW)***

Following PANDDA submission to the review of this Act, the Regulations now include nurses as a relevant health professional who can assist with the execution of search warrants in cases of suspected abuse/neglect of vulnerable adults living in care. This was an excellent outcome and PANDDA are thrilled that we contributed to this change in the Act. I have communicated with the Minister’s office and there are COVID-related delays to this being enacted, but as soon as this change has been made, I have asked to talk to them again to see how PANDDA members might get involved in such work.

### ***June 2021 – Parliamentary Friends of Nursing Breakfast***

PANDDA was invited and was represented by Bob Weaver AM (PANDDA past president and founding member) at the Australian College of Nursing’s Parliamentary Friends of Nursing on 17 June 2021 in Canberra. This provided an opportunity to engage and network with both parliamentarians and senior nursing leaders across Australia and to ensure that PANDDA retains a seat at the national nursing table.

### ***Council of Nursing and Midwifery Organisations (CONMO)***

Either myself, or Sue Easton (PANDDA Secretary), have been attending the CONMO meetings in 2021 and, to date, these have been informative. We continue this involvement as it is important for PANDDA to be a part of the national nursing conversation. Presentations at CONMO meetings in 2021 have included the Chief Nurse and the Department of Health. For more information, the CONMO website can be found [HERE](#).

### ***October 2021 – Letters to federal politicians***

With the next federal election due anytime between now and May 2022, PANDDA has written to key members of the government, opposition, and minor parties. This letter was to seek their commitment to continue to fund initiatives specific to health of people with intellectual disability and to push the point that nurses are a major part of the solution to better health outcomes. Of any PANDDA member wishes to view this letter, please email the PANDDA Secretary for a copy.

### ***October 2021 – PANDDA Strategic Plan***

The PANDDA Committee finalised and published the Strategic Plan which will take PANDDA forward over the next few years as we seek to widen and cement our influence nationally. This can be accessed on the PANDDA website, and I urge everyone to download this and to disseminate it among your networks. Naturally, the PANDDA committee does not claim to be the fountain of all wisdom about nurses who care and support people with intellectual and developmental disability and so the Committee welcomes any member input into how we can better achieve the various goals of the Plan. For instance, in terms of increasing membership PANDDA has not cracked Western Australia, South Australia or the Northern Territory – ideas about how this might be achieved are very welcomed.

### ***October 2021 – PANDDA Standards – one-page summary***

Virginia Howie led the development of a one-page of the PANDDA Standards which are for PANDDA members and others to use to place on noticeboards at work, to give to people with intellectual and developmental disabilities, to families and to NDIS planners as a framework to better understand what can be expected from nurses. Please download this and spread far and wide.

### ***October 2021 – The Australian College of Nursing (ACN) National Summit***

Bob weaver also attended this summit on behalf of PANDDA where Bob was part of a workshop that discussed violence against nurses. Greg Hunt attended the second part of the meeting and feedback was given to him in the form of 2 key points from each of the 5 morning workshops. Greg Hunt listened well and took on the points raised, he pushed the point about more recognition and more Nurse Practitioners. As far as we are aware, there are no Australian Nurse Practitioners working in the Intellectual and Developmental Disability space.

### ***Council for Intellectual Disability – advisory group***

PANDDA (Gail Tomsic, Vice President) is participating in CID Education Resources Development advisory group meetings. Resources currently being developed are for Primary Care and all health professionals which involve co-facilitation training with a person with ID that finishes in July 2022 across four states. There are several health projects that are linking together with this project.

### ***June 2021 to November 2021 - Membership renewal and new membership categories***

The PANDDA Committee agreed to offer a reduced membership renewal fee and we hope that this has been welcomed by existing members. At the AGM, we will also be voting on introducing some new member categories which includes a category for retired, but still active, members to enjoy being a member of PANDDA.

### ***November 2019 to October 2021 – partnership research project with WSU (School of Nursing and Midwifery) and Achieve Australia***

The completion of this research project has resulted in a published article titled: *The Financial Costs of Registered Nurse-Led Relationship-Centred Care: A Single-Case Australian Feasibility Study*. The paper breaks new ground and will hopefully be the first of many papers that will work towards evidence for models of care that are registered nurse led. The paper can be downloaded here: <https://www.mdpi.com/2673-7272/1/4/23/html>

### ***November 2020 onwards - CPD Webinars***

PANDDA members are continuing to be offered access to free CPD opportunities, in addition to the annual conferences. These are also available to PANDDA members to view via their member number on the PANDDA website. Jennifer Bur is doing a terrific job of coordinating and chairing these webinars and has chaired sessions as follows:

<b>Date</b>	<b>Attendance</b>	<b>Presenter</b>	<b>Topic</b>
February Thu 18 @ 7pm	<u>Booked: 19</u> Attend: 15 Online: 19 <b>Total: 34</b>	Natalie Duckworth	Medication administration and disability: it's place in legislation
April Thu 22 @ 7pm	<u>Booked: 12</u> Attend: 7 Online: 2 <b>Total: 9</b>	Michelle Kersten, OT.	Pressure Injury – Environments and Activities influencing outcomes
June Thu 24 @ 7pm	<u>Booked: 8</u> Attend: 4 Online: 4 <b>Total: 8</b>	Virginia Howe	Pain Assessment and management

August Thu 26 @ 7pm	<b>Booked:</b> <b>Attend:</b> <b>Online:</b> <b>Total:</b>	Sharon Paley	Reducing and Eliminating Restrictive Practices
October 21 Thu @ 1pm	<b>Booked:</b> <b>Attend:</b> <b>Online:</b> <b>Total:</b>	Trish Stedman & Karissa Freestone	Specialised Intellectual Disability Health Team - HNE and CC LHD
December Fri 3 @ 7pm	<b>Booked:</b> Attend: TBA Online: <b>Total:</b>	Rhonda Beggs	Nursing Navigator QLD  <i>In conjunction with the International Day of People with Disabilities.</i>

### ***Ongoing - NDIS mainstream health system capacity building project***

PANDDA is a strategic partner on the Every Nurses Business project and so far PANDDA members are leading the way with completing the CPD opportunities on offer. Led by Professor Andrew Cashin (Southern Cross Uni) and myself (Western Sydney Uni), this partnership also includes the Australian College of Critical Care Nurses, the College of Emergency Nurses, the Association of Primary Nurses, and the ANMF.

### ***Ongoing - National Roundtable on the Health of People with Intellectual Disability***

PANDDA remains a vital member of the Roundtable and it is now in the stage of recommending how to set up a national centre of research excellence in intellectual disability health. This has been a great initiative of the Hon Greg Hunt and we are excited about PANDDA's ongoing involvement in this work as well as anticipation about what will eventuate.

### **Acknowledgements:**

1. PANDDA committee, a team of volunteers who all make an individual contribution to ensure that PANDDA functions for its members. Particular acknowledgment to PANDDA secretary, Sue Easton for keeping everything on track, Bob Weaver who does an amazing job as conference convenor, John Ryan for his monthly financial reports and financial analysis around conference costs (e.g., profit/loss estimates), and Jennifer Bur for organising the PANDDA webinars and leading the newsletter team.
2. John Thrift Design – we are fortunate to have John who not only does all our website maintenance, but also our design work such as for the conferences and the design and printing of the PANDDA standards.

**Associate Professor Nathan Wilson, President**