

President's Report, November 2022



Once again it was an honour to be elected PANDDA President at the 2021 AGM and to serve as President over the last year. Over the last year, PANDDA has continued its advocacy, leadership and strategic activity, as outlined in the Strategic Plan. Our membership pattern remains similar to the previous two years in that we are losing some old members, but gaining new members, and our membership remains in the mid-70s.

Below is a summary of our activities and achievements over the last 12 months.

Royal Commission

Hearing 10 report (Virginia Howie and myself gave invited evidence at this hearing) has been published online.

National Health Workforce Data Collection (AHPRA)

As I reported last year, “disability nursing” was added to the AHPRA annual health workforce survey for the first time after some targeted advocacy by PANDDA. I will give an overview of the data from Department of Health website during my President’s update, but as an overview there were 2337 Australian nurses (RNs, ENs and midwives) listed as “disability nurses” and 17.4% of these were male.

Australian College of Nursing (ACN)

The ACN has entered into a partnership with PANDDA to develop a post-graduate elective unit of study about intellectual disability health, that will be available for any nurse undertaking post-graduate coursework with the ACN. We welcome representatives from ACN to the PANDDA conference who will talk more about the detail and timing of these activities.

Council of Nursing and Midwifery Organisations (CONMO)

Either myself, or Sue Easton (PANDDA Secretary), continue to attend CONMO meetings and provide written reports across the year about PANDDA’s activities. With the change in government and the need for a new contract, the terms of CONMO have had to be renegotiated with the ANMF and so there was a hiatus in meetings and activity in early 2022. For more information, the CONMO website can be found [HERE](#). Being a part of CONMO is important as we get information shared with us (that Sue sends to you all in regular email updates) and it also enables us to send info out to all other Australian professional nursing colleges/associations.

Lobbying federal politicians

In addition to writing to key members of the government, opposition and minor parties prior to the last federal election, I have met with the Hon Ged Kearney to talk about the work that PANDDA does, as well as the body of research that is being developed in the area of health and intellectual disability. Ged is a kindred spirit who “gets” what it is that we do and so hopefully these conversations will continue into the future.

Letters to Presidents of Australian Professional Colleges/Associations

The Hearing 10 report from the Royal commission was released and PANDDA wrote to all of the professional nursing colleges/associations to inform them of the hearing report and also the content that they should be aware of in terms of promoting knowledge about intellectual disability health to their members.

Council for Intellectual Disability – advisory group

PANDDA (Gail Tomsic, Vice President) has been participating in CID Education Resources Development advisory group meetings. The content for all resources being developed have been agreed on and 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 a number of health projects that are linking together with this project.

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 has been a dedicated webinar organiser and facilitator, and has passed the baton onto Rhonda Beggs for 2023.

Below is a list of PANDDA’s 15 webinars since 2021, their attendance as well as online views from the PANDDA website:

PANDDA Webinars				
Webinar # and date	Title and presenter	Online views	Booked to attend	Attended
Webinar 15: 27 October 2022	Restrictive Practice and Clinical Holding, Sharon Paley	0	8	7
Webinar 14: 18 August 2022	Primary Care Health and the Role of the GP, Heather Miller	1	8	5
Webinar 13: 16 June 2022	Inclusive Communication: Improving health outcomes for people with Down syndrome, Naomi Lake and Kylie Preston	1	11	7

Webinar 12: 28 April 2022	Palliative Care Capacity Building for the Disability Sector, Sally Brown and Kathleen Menzies	4	14	11
Webinar 11: 16 February 2022	Keys to Bowel Success, Andrea Barber	28	16	8
Webinar 10: 2 December 2021	Disability Nurse Navigator, Rhonda Beggs	1		8
Webinar 09: 26 August 2021	Reducing and Eliminating Restrictive Practices, Sharon Paley	12		
Webinar 08: 24 June 2021	Pain Assessment and Management, Virginia Howie	6	8	4
Webinar 07: 22 April 2021	Pressure Injury - Environments and Activities Influencing Outcomes, Michelle Kersten	9	12	7
Webinar 06: 18 February 2021	Medication administration and disability: It's place in legislation, Natalie Duckworth	29	19	15

Every Nurses' Business - NDIS mainstream health system capacity building project

PANDDA remains a leading strategic partner on the “Every Nurses Business” project, which was just awarded an 18-month extension through to July 2024. 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. PANDDA committee members have been supporting the online synchronous learning sessions over the last 2 years and this has earned PANDDA some much-needed money. Recent data shows that registered nurses who finished the CPD training self-reported knowledge, comfort, and confidence increased significantly when compared to the baseline survey in 2020.

National Roadmap on the Health of People with Intellectual Disability

PANDDA remains a vital member of the Roadmap Implementation Governance Group (RIGG) and the Education Advisory Group, where I am a member of both. The new federal government has not only committed to all of the initiatives, but also added extra funding and also longevity. Key outcome moving forward is that PANDDA is somehow involved in a meaningful capacity with the proposed National Centre of Excellence. The proposed capabilities framework for undergraduate education in nursing, medicine, allied health and oral health has been released with public consultations underway until late January, 2023.

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. PANDDA Committee volunteers for the Every Nurses' Business project who attended monthly online synchronous sessions on behalf of PANDDA.
3. John Thrift Design – we are fortunate to have John who not only does all of our website maintenance, but also our design work.

Associate Professor Nathan Wilson, PANDDA sPresident