

AONA PRESIDENT ANNUAL REPORT 2022

Welcome to the 2021-2022 AONA President's Report for the Annual General Meeting.

2021-2022 has already challenged us as Nurses and as citizens, with COVID-19 still impacting on our professional and personal lives. Needless to say, our passion for Ophthalmology Nursing continues as we continue to provide specialised care to our patients and their families in addition to our ever-important work colleagues.

2022 Planning Day for the Committee occurred on February 19, 2022 via a Zoom meeting facility, as the planned face-to-face meeting in Sydney post the planned February Conference was cancelled due to COVID-19 restrictions. Nine of the sixteen Committee Members participated in a, just over, three-hour session. The meeting was fruitful on several levels and produced an action plan for the Committee to facilitate to strengthen our organisation for now and into the future and provide education services to our members.

Governance: The historic amalgamation of AONA to include Victoria, South Australia, Northern Territory and Tasmania occurred successfully, and as a consequence, the AONA Constitution has been reviewed, updated and will be presented to the membership at the June 2022 AGM for ratification.

AONA's financial position shall be outlined and presented in the Financial Report. It is of note that to grow our financial position the reality of face-to face conferences are vitally important and this has not been possible in the last 12 months.

Education/Events: throughout the last 12 months, due to COVID-19 restrictions, face-to-face education sessions have been limited to one in South Australia. Zoom education sessions have continued to be available to all of our members throughout this period. For details refer to the Education Report.

Conference 2022: As a result of COVID-19 Australian State Borders being under tight restrictions and then high-rates of ongoing COVID-19 infections in the community the 2021 and February 2022 planned Conferences were postponed until June 2022. Ongoing information was provided to our members through updates on our website and information in Newsletters.

Facebook: We continue to contribute to our FB Page and would encourage more members to sign up for access to information and discussions.

Website and Information and Technology: AONA has had ongoing challenges regarding the ability for members to access Membership Renewals and registration for events. Diligent work on behalf of the membership has been occurring behind the scenes for many months now to resolve our IT difficulties. At the Planning Day the Committee unanimously decided to allocate funding to update and provide AONA with a contemporary and integrated IT system. A working party is being set up to action this important communication provision. Further details shall be provided in the Webpage/Facebook report.

Sponsorship: Sponsorship is a major financial and professional support for AONA. We thank our sponsors for their support and ongoing encouragement over the last difficult 12 months.

Membership: AONAVIC subsidised the cost of AONAVIC membership for its members for the last two years due to the distraction of the amalgamation. As a united group, AONA is looking forward to all members rejoining to ensure we have a representative embodiment of ophthalmic nurses. Details of AONA membership will be outlined in the Membership Report.

National Council:

The National Council (NC) met once during this period due to restrictions. The amalgamation also meant that for the first time, NSW, ACT, VIC, TAS, SA and NT were presented as one united group. The NC outcomes for this period related to the continuation of the union during the pandemic period.

Newsletter

AONA has contributed to the editing and article provision as required along with other States. AONA sees the publications as a valuable communication tool for members across Australia.

International:

AONA continues to promote and support nurses through the International Association of Ophthalmic Nurses (IONA) and during this period worked to help establish IONA's foundation as a legal entity. Additionally, IONA supported AONA to host an International Nurses Day Zoom Session in May.

Involvement with other bodies:

During this period, AONA and NC partners joined Vision2020 – the peak eye care sector organisation in Australia. This allowed the nursing community to actively participate and engage in national conversation alongside other eye care professionals to direct and help support global targets towards blindness prevention and treatment across the nation.

Collectively the Committee has navigated the last 12 months with distinction given the ongoing challenges of COVID-19 and in some areas bush fires and floods. I wish to commend the Committee members one and all for their individual ongoing support given to me as President and the dedication and unity that each of you displayed to ensure AONA came through to the other side, providing stability and progressive, contemporary ongoing education to our members. For that I am very proud.

In conclusion, I wish the new Committee the very best for the next 12 months and vision for the future. Please continue to stay safe and take care.

Robyn M. Johnston - AONA President

RN, ex-Midwife, Bachelor of Nursing Post Reg (Monash Univ), Bachelor of Health Services Management (UNSW), Post Grad Cert in Eye, Ear Nose and Throat Nursing (RVEEH), Post Grad Cert in Critical Care Nursing (PANCH), GDHSM (RMIT University), GD Ophthalmic Nursing (ACU).