



AAQHC Newsletter

A Voice for Safety and Quality

MARCH, 2020

Contact us at
aaqhc@aaqhc.org.au

President's Message

Dear Members

During this time of uncertainty and stress in our health care environment due to the coronavirus AAQHC has included in this newsletter links to sites that may assist in your day to day work.

As reported in the last newsletter, a planning day was held by Council in early February to review the AAQHC strategic plan and forward plan for the next 12 months. Some stimulating decisions were made to assist our members in their roles within the ever-changing healthcare environment.

We will continue to offer free webinars to members and will repeat some of the more popular webinars to ensure as many people as possible can access these valuable resources. These webinars will focus on areas to assist members who may be facing challenges in their daily work. A schedule of these will be sent in one of our regular newsletters once this is finalised. If you have a topic that you would like to see covered please contact us at AAQHC.

We will also continue to offer access to the Clinical Excellence Commission website to access their tools of interest. These can be sought using the *How to Access the Forum Page on the AAQHC Website* instructions below.

The College of Nursing free membership for one AAQHC member will again be available, as well as a free registration to the National Nursing Conference to be held in August. More on this later.

To ensure members are receiving news as it occurs, we have reintroduced the AAQHC Bulletin which will complement the second monthly Newsletter. You should expect to see the Newsletter the last week of the publication months (January, March, May, July, September and November). The Bulletin, though ad hoc, will be circulated as news is breaking.

I would like to encourage all members to provide feedback or enquire on any topic, in what will be a busy and difficult year for all healthcare personnel. Remember, the AAQHC Mentor Program is here to assist anyone who would like support during this stressful time. An easy application process can be found [here](#).

The Council wishes you to stay safe during this difficult time.

Cheers

Robyn Quinn
President

Coronavirus Information Links

Keeping up to date with the latest news on Coronavirus can be difficult, however, the following links may be useful:

Australian Government Department of Health

<https://www.health.gov.au/news/health-alerts/novel-coronavirus-2019-ncov-health-alert>

ACT

<https://health.act.gov.au/public-health-alert/updated-information-about-covid-19>

NSW

<https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/Infectious/diseases/Pages/coronavirus.aspx>

VIC

<https://www.dhhs.vic.gov.au/coronavirus>

TAS

https://www.dhhs.tas.gov.au/publichealth/communicable_diseases_prevention_unit/infectious_diseases/coronavirus

NT

<https://health.nt.gov.au/news/coronavirus>

SA

<https://health.nt.gov.au/news/coronavirus>

WA

<https://www.healthywa.wa.gov.au/coronavirus>

Antimicrobial Stewardship

The recently released 2018 [Hospital National Antimicrobial Prescribing Survey](#) (NAPS) provides an overview of antimicrobial prescribing in Australian public and private hospitals analysing 26,714 prescriptions submitted to the Hospital NAPS database by 324 hospitals (231 public and 93 private). The report outlines consistent themes continue to emerge in relation to the appropriateness of antimicrobial prescribing across Australia, in NAPS contributor hospitals. This report presents data during 2018, and identifies trends from 2013 to 2018.

The results from the Hospital NAPS can be used as evidence to support the antimicrobial stewardship criterion of the [National Safety and Quality Health Service \(NSQHS\) Standard Preventing and Controlling Healthcare-Associated Infection](#).

“Quality in a service or product is not what you put into it. It is what the client or customer gets out of it.”

~ Peter Drucker

AAQHC Strategic Planning Day Outcomes

The 2020 AAQHC Council has been convened with the following members. Each member brings varied skill and knowledge and together the Council has many years of experience to support members of the AAQHC.

Participating on the Council is voluntary, and we are very fortunate to have such high-profile members willing to support the functions of the AAQHC and more importantly, support its members. More information about each Council member can be found on the AAQHC [website](#).

Name	Position
Robyn Quinn	President
Kay Richards	Skills Based Member, Secretary
Sandy Thompson	PDAC Registrar
Rob Griffin	Treasurer
Amanda McMaster	Member
Nicole Grose	Member
Dr Karen Mardegan	Member
Kathleen Ryan	Skills Based Member
Christine Cullen	Skills Based Member

The first meeting of the Council for 2020 saw a great deal of internal organisation to assist Council in ensuring good governance is in place to conduct the business of the Association. A review of the following documents is underway:

- Strategic Plan to 2021
- Governing Body Manual
- Policies
 - Privacy
 - Website and Advertising
- Annual Report 2018/19
- Schedules outlining suggestions for auditing AAQHC documentation and publishing dates were developed for:
 - The Constitution
 - Policies
 - Governing Body Manual
 - Newsletters / Bulletins
 - Webinars.

Once these documents are final, they will be available on the AAQHC website.

The AAQHC Council is conscious of the significant work undertaken in the years since inception, and to ensure the history is not lost a short bio is being develop.

To assist in getting as many people as possible to attend annual general meetings the 2020 AGM will be conducted electronically. Much more information on how this will work will be provided later in the year.

To recognise Individual Life Members the Council agreed to waive the annual maintenance fee for credentialing as referred to in clause 5.2.3 of the current Constitution.

Membership growth is not only a strategic imperative for the AAQHC, but a focus for 2020, with a range of options discussed during the strategic planning day. More information will follow; however, you will have noticed initiatives are already underway with free registration on offer to [The International Forum in the Asia Pacific Region](#) scheduled for 30 September – 2 October 2020 in Sydney, Australia, and one complimentary Membership for nurses to the **Australian College of Nursing**. More detail on how to apply for these great opportunities is detailed below.

Clinical Care Standard Acute Coronary Syndrome 2019

The Commission has updated the Clinical Care Standard for Acute Coronary Syndrome December 2019; any associated policies procedures should reflect this current standard.

A focus on Aged Care

The Department of Health releases regular *Information for the Aged Care Sector* emails. To receive these important updates, you can subscribe [here](#).

The latest print version can be accessed [here](#).

The Australian Institute Company Directors is running workshops around Australia on Protecting Vulnerable People in Aged Care. Visit www.aicd.com.au/vulnerable.

A free tool is also available which is AICD Board Governance for Aged Care – this contains some useful and relevant questions which can be applied in a number of settings. Available at www.aicd.com.au/aged-care-tool.

Calling all Nurses

RN Refresher Program

This week the Australian College of Nursing announced the Australian Government Department of Health is offering 1,000 scholarships for the ACN [Refresher Program for Registered Nurses](#).

This training course will allow Registered Nurses who are currently practising in non-clinical roles to refresh their acute care knowledge, in order to provide support in response to COVID-19.

The program is targeted to Registered Nurses who currently hold general registration with the Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia and who meet the Recency of Practice Registration Standard of three (3) months practice in the last five years.

Scholarships will be allocated on a first-come, first-served basis to eligible applicants.

To apply for a scholarship please complete the [application form](#).

AAQHC Member Benefit

AAQHC's annual affiliation benefits with the Australian College of Nursing provides one complimentary membership to the ACN. We are offering this opportunity to our members and to be eligible to apply you need to be:

- A Registered Nurse, Enrolled Nurse or Midwife registered with the Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia (NMBA).

What you need to do:

Just follow the simple application requirements below for a chance to win the fully paid ACN membership.

Application Requirements:

1. Send 100 words or less to aaqhc@aaqhc.org.au outlining how this membership would be of benefit to you.

Applications must reach the AAQHC by **Thursday 31st May 2020**.

2. Within one month following the membership expiry, provide a short overview of the benefits gained by receiving the membership. This will be published in the July 2021 AAQHC Newsletters.

Note:

- The successful applicant will be notified via email from the AAQHC and announced in the July 2020 AAQHC newsletter.

- Applications will be judged by members of the AAQHC Council.
- No enquiries will be entered into, the decision of the judging panel will be final.
- For information on membership to the ACN visit <https://www.acn.edu.au/membership>.

As a reminder!

Would you like to attend the **International Forum on Quality and Safety in Healthcare?**

AAQHC are offering one registration to the Forum scheduled for 30 September – 2 October 2020 in Sydney, Australia.

[The International Forum in the Asia Pacific Region](#) showcases internationally recognised keynotes and addresses regional needs, bringing the best of international learning to the region.

The event aims to bring together healthcare professionals who share a concern and a passion for improving quality and safety in healthcare, to provide the opportunity for healthcare professionals to publish their work as a poster or to be a speaker, to share and learn best practices, meet peers and build international connections.

What you need to do:

Just follow the simple application requirements below for a chance to attend the Forum.

Who can apply?

- Members of the AAQHC, and
- Are **currently employed** in a position that has responsibilities for safety and quality and / or accreditation.

Application Requirements:

1. Send 100 words or less to aaghc@aaghc.org.au outlining why this Forum would be of benefit to you and your current role.

Applications must reach the AAQHC by **Thursday 30th April 2020**.

2. Within 14 days of attending the conference the successful applicant **will be required to submit a summary report** outlining the benefits gained from attending the Forum, including any new directions that would be of interest to members.

The report will be published in the November 2020 AAQHC newsletter.

Note:

- The successful applicant will be notified via email from the AAQHC and announced in the May 2020 AAQHC newsletter.
- The Forum registration is to the value of \$1,537 which the AAQHC will provide. Airfares, accommodation and any other costs for attending the Forum are not included.
- Applications will be judged by members of the AAQHC Council.
- No enquiries will be entered into, the decision of the judging panel will be final.
- Attendance will support eligibility for Associate Fellow of the AAQHC.
- If attendance at the Forum does not occur, or a report is not received for publication, a full refund will be required to be paid to the AAQHC.

Applying for Fellow or Associate Fellow Credentialing

**Applications are now being accepted for the program in 2020.
This is a great way to receive recognition for your role in quality.**

Have you considered how an Associate Fellowship or Fellowship could boost your career and professional development in safety and quality?

AAQHC's credentialing program is unique to professionals working in the Australasian health care, aged care, community, general practice and mental health sectors.

Our program supports quality managers and health professionals with an interest in or responsibility for safety and quality programs.

Visit our web site for application details including criteria for assessment.

Take the challenge and reap the rewards!

In recognition of the vital role of safety and quality professionals in health systems the AAQHC credentialing program which is *unique* and *Australian designed*, provides for personal recognition at Associate and Fellow levels. The objective of both awards is to increase the recognition and value of these safety and quality roles.

Current and new members are eligible to apply for credentialing as a Fellow or Associate Fellow.

Go to <https://www.aaqhc.org.au/> click on the Credentialing tab and you will find all that you need to know about becoming a Fellow or Associate Fellow.

If you would like more information, please contact aaqhc@aaqhc.org.au and one of the Credentialing committee members will contact you.

How to Access the Forum Page on the AAQHC Website

- Go to the Membership tab and click Member Log in,
- After logging in,
- You will then see the Forum tab in the upper left corner,
- Click on this tab you will be able to access the slides from webinars as well as the CEC access addresses.

Promoting Your Quality Initiatives – Publish in the AAQHC Newsletter

Publication of articles in the AAQHC Newsletter is a great way to promote quality initiatives that have made a difference to the patient/consumer and/or family and promote your/your team's great work to a wider audience.

The Newsletter is a mechanism to share ideas between staff involved in quality across Australasia, however it needs your input to be successful.

If you have a great idea, thoughts on patient safety/quality and or an example of a quality initiative, put pen to paper and send it through to the following address: newsletter@aaqhc.org.au

Australian College of Nursing Affiliation

AAQHC has established an affiliation with the Australian College of Nursing.

The benefits to AAQHC members through ACN Bronze Affiliation include:

- Discounted Affiliate membership rate for all nurse employees/members (a saving of \$78 per *General* membership).
- 5% discount on all CPD courses.
- Partner logo on ACN Affiliate webpage.

Disclaimer

The AAQHC endeavours to ensure all information in this newsletter is correct at the time of publication. Where information may not be current the AAQHC sincerely apologises.