



AusACPDM

Annual Report 2020

Contents

From the President.....	3
Strategic Plan 2020-2025	2
Australia and New Zealand Cerebral Palsy Strategy	3
Conferences.....	4
10 th AusACPDm Biennial Conference: Perth 11-14 March 2020 “Visionaries”	4
11th AusACPDm / 3rd IAACD Conference: Melbourne 1-5 March 2022 – “Better Together”	5
Governance	6
Awards and Advocacy Committee.....	7
International Affairs and Strategic Alliance Committee.....	7
Membership and Finance Committee.....	7
Professional Development and Communications Committee	7
Scientific and Education Committee	8
DMCN invited Letter to the Editor:	8
International Alliance of Academies of Childhood Disability (IAACD) update.....	9
Financial Statement & Declaration	10

Acknowledgement of Country

The AusACPDm acknowledges Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the Traditional Custodians of the land and sea in which we live and work. We recognise their continuing connection to land, sea and culture and pay our respects to Elders past, present and future.

Photos

The AusACPDm and CP-Achieve joined forces to launch a lived experience photo exhibition in 2020. There were 32 fabulous photographs submitted and four winners were awarded. We would like to thank all of our entrants; we received over 30 talented entries. The top four images are featured throughout this report, including our beautiful cover image.

- Kiah Haysom – Spoonville Doppelganger
- Terese Clarke – Having a Wheelie Good Time
- Brenton Ponza – “Ponza Power” – Kicking Goals at my Home
- Nicole Tsourlenes – Enigmatic Escape

From the President

Welcome to our very first Australasian Academy of Cerebral palsy and Developmental Medicine (AusACPDM) Annual Report. The year 2020 was like no other we have experienced in recent times. Starting with devastating bushfires and drought followed by flooding rains then the global impact of COVID and the isolation of our nations' and cities' lockdowns. We managed to squeeze in our biennial conference in Perth with the looming threat of COVID-19 and we have now all learned to expertly navigate online platforms for almost every aspect of our working and social lives.

Like the rest of the world, all the activities of the AusACPDM have been virtual since our conference in Perth. We have moved ahead with our new five-year strategic

plan that includes a drive to expand and diversify our membership and increase our activity in lower resource communities with a firm commitment to address equity, diversity and inclusion. Opening the AusACPDM to community membership and those with lived experience is one positive step in the process of meeting our community on an equal footing and broadening the opportunity to share expertise.

I would like to acknowledge the ongoing dedication and work of the Board, the Committees and the membership for helping realise the vision of the AusACPDM.

Kirsty Stewart
President, AusACPDM



Kiah Haysom – Spoonville Doppelganger



Brenton Ponza – “Ponza Power” – Kicking Goals at my Home



STRATEGIC PLAN 2020 - 2025

OUR PURPOSE

To provide evidence-based multidisciplinary scientific education for health professionals, researchers and people with lived experience of child-onset disability; and to promote and advocate for excellence in research, knowledge translation and best practice clinical care for children and adults with cerebral palsy and developmental conditions.

OUR VALUES

- Innovation through discovery
- Impact through engagement
- Diversity and inclusion
- Empathy and respect
- Quality and evidence-based knowledge use
- Equity for people with child-onset conditions in health, education, research and participation

OUR AIMS

By 2025, AusACPDM will continue its role as an international leader in education and knowledge translation.

By 2025, we will have increased our visibility, reach and impact in the Australasian Region with a focus on low resourced communities.

OUR PRIORITIES

1. Grow the impact of our biennial conference as the leading source of scientific education and best practice clinical care in the Australasian region.
2. Grow our educational strategies by offering multiple learning options to members, through an expanded range of resources and opportunities.
3. Increase our impact as a peak body in the field of cerebral palsy and developmental medicine through education and advocacy, with increased visibility, reach and activity in low-resourced communities in our region.
4. Enable full participation of people with lived experience in the AusACPDM; value their voice, deep knowledge and experience; and promote the role of AusACPDM in advocating for and with people with lived experience.
5. As a co-founding member of the International Alliance of Academies of Childhood Disability (IAACD), actively work with the Alliance to advance its objectives.
6. Strengthen our strategic leadership, accountability and operational performance through the adoption of best practice governance, administration processes and financial management.
7. Strengthen financial sustainability through developing and implementing a robust financial plan.

OUR STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES



People: Expand and strengthen our membership to include and engage groups beyond researchers and practitioners.



Education: Diversify our educational offerings by delivering webinars, podcasts and online and written resources in ways that are accessible, relevant and translatable.



Sustainability: Ensure the sustainability of the Academy by implementing robust approaches to financial management and governance.



Reach & impact: Undertake activities that support achieving the Australia and New Zealand Cerebral Palsy Strategy; and increase our activity in at least three low resource communities.

CONTACT

INFO@AUSACPDM.ORG.AU

Australian and New Zealand Cerebral Palsy Strategy

The Australian and New Zealand Cerebral Palsy Strategy was developed by people with cerebral palsy, their families and professionals working in the field to “Improve the health, function, participation and quality of life of individuals with cerebral palsy and their families”

We were delighted to host the launch of the Strategy was at the AusACPDM Conference in Perth in March 2020.

Copies of the Strategy were distributed at the conference and via the collaborative group organisations and members.

ANZ CP Strategy Collaborative was established in late 2020 with two



representatives from each key organisation plus community representation. Congratulations to Ingrid Honan who was nominated Chair. The AusACPDM is pleased to be represented by Christine Imms and Kirsty Stewart.

The Strategy developed 28 success indicators. The collaborative organisations prioritised these and decided on seven key indicators to be the focus of the Strategy Collaborative moving forward in 2021.



2020



Conferences

10th AusACPDM Biennial Conference:
Perth 11-14 March 2020 “Visionaries”

Chairs: Siobhan Reid & Sarah Love

The “Visionaries” conference held in Perth, March 2020 was a huge success despite the impending threat of COVID-19. We had 536 onsite delegates, 12 consumer delegates and approximately 50 delegates who chose to attend virtually. The final program comprised of two PhD platform presentations, 115 papers, 37 posters, 21 workshops and 18 breakfasts.

The conference presentation themes were diverse and covered the traditional areas of orthopaedics, mobility and a wide variety of evidence-based assessment and intervention in cerebral palsy. This conference also featured an increase in papers around identification, assessment and intervention for infants, participation, brain imaging, epidemiology, communication and vision. Presentations covered a broader range of developmental disabilities, consumer engagement, mental health and social wellbeing.

Congratulations to the organising team, Si, Sarah, Christine and the Board for

managing the conference amidst the escalating COVID-19 situation.

A number of awards are presented at each biennial conference. Congratulations to the 2020 recipients:

- **Best paper:** Shona Goldsmith for her paper titled *Major congenital anomalies are common in children with cerebral palsy: The Comprehensive CA-CP Study*.
- **Best poster “the people’s choice award”:** Sarah Reedman for her poster *What’s in the Black Box of a Participation-Focused intervention?*
- **Cerebral Palsy Alliance Research Foundation – Best prevention or cure paper:** Israt Jahan
- **Promising career award:** Tan Martin for her contribution to the research paper *A birds-eye view of the landscape of cerebral palsy for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children in Australia*.
- **Transformative Practice award:** Dr James Rice
- **Person with lived experience – Outstanding contribution award:** Cain Beckett
- **Local Hero award:** Madison Heady

11th AusACPDM / 3rd IAACD Conference: Melbourne 1-5 March 2022 – “Better Together”

Planning for the joint AusACPDM and IAACD conference in Melbourne 2022 is underway. The Conference theme *Better Together* embodies the values and visions of our Academies to come together to ensure rapid dissemination and global impact through partnership. The conference is being planned as a hybrid event to cater for in person and virtual registrations.

Our scientific program is being developed in partnership with professionals from many disciplines, across all regions of the world, as well as community partners - including families and young people with child-onset disability.

Our experiences with COVID-19 this year have increased our awareness that we live with uncertainty and that the future of international travel is hoped, and planned for, but currently unknown. We want to assure all our potential speakers, sponsors and attendees that the Conference

Committee is planning for multiple contingencies to ensure a high-quality scientific program. At a minimum, this will be a hybrid conference so that anyone can attend on-line as well as in person. We are developing a range of activities and resources that aim to support high quality experiences for all.

A big thanks to everyone who is helping coordinate this conference, including:

- Professor Christine Imms (Chair)
- Dr James Rice, Professor Roslyn Boyd and Professor Darcy Fehlings (Co-Chairs)
- Professor Alicia Spittle (Chair of Scientific Committee)
- Professor Roslyn Boyd (Co-Chair, Scientific Committee)
- Associate Professor Adrienne Harvey (Chair, Local Committee)

And thanks to our professional conference organisers ICMS Australia.

Visit the dedicated website at bettertogether2022.org for more information.



HOSTED BY



International Alliance
of Academies of
Childhood Disability

Governance

We had a change in Board members at our 2020 Annual General Meeting held during the conference in Perth, with half of our Board members up for re-election or choosing to retire. The Board held an improved election process which provided profiles of the nominees to the Membership prior to the AGM, asking them to vote. Voting closed the day before the AGM and results were considered final.

A huge thank you to outgoing Board Directors Kathryn Edward and Meredith Wynter for your support, dedication and good humour.

Christine Imms, James Rice and Siobhan Reid were re-elected and we welcomed two new Board members Alicia Spittle and Sian Williams.

Legal representation

In 2020 we also undertook a process to seek a legal practitioner to join our Board of Directors, for advice and guidance on corporate governance and legal obligations. In December 2020 after an open recruitment process we were pleased to appoint Ann Jorgensen as our newest Director of the Board.

Membership

At the end of 2020 we had 205 members, which included 32 student members, 170 ordinary members and three lifetime members.

In November 2020 the Board approved a broadening of the Ordinary Membership category to include the following sub-categories: members with lived experience; health and human services workforce members; student members.

Image credit: Nicole Tsourlenes – Enigmatic Escape



Updates from our Committees

Awards and Advocacy Committee

We would like to thank the members of the Awards and Advocacy Committee in 2020 for their contribution to the Academy. This year they welcomed four new members, continued supporting the work on awards, however, placed a focus on advocacy by: (i) identifying key performance indicators, (ii) finding alignment between the AusACPDM Strategic Plan and the CP Strategy in their committee's advocacy objectives, as well as (iii) provided feedback to the IAACD Community Involvement working group report. Members of the committee also (iv) organised a photo exhibition, (v) sought funding to facilitate free registrations for people with lived experiences of disability and their carers, for the upcoming AusACPDM conference 2022, and (vi) contributed to AusACPDM's statement regarding the death of Ann Marie Smith for the Royal Commission.

International Affairs and Strategic Alliance Committee

The International Affairs committee coordinated the twenty scholarships that were awarded for attendance at the 2020 AusACPDM in Perth (\$29,500). The awardees comprised six from Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and Vietnam, two from New Zealand and 12 from Australia. Fifteen of the scholarship recipients presented papers, posters and or workshops and five gave short presentations at the international affairs lunch focussing on the work they do and how the AusACPDM meeting will assist them in their work. The Mentoring sub-committee coordinate the mentoring program, designed to support mentees to get the most out of their Conference experience. The AusACPDM mentoring program was successfully taken up at the Conference in Perth with positive feedback.

Membership and Finance Committee

Many thanks to the members of the Membership and Finance Committee in 2020 for their contribution to the Academy. This year we have continued our focus on (i) building and diversifying our membership base, (ii) reviewing membership categories, applications, needs and benefits, (iii) managing AusACPDM finances and ongoing financial stability, (iv) increasing the number and diversity of members and (v) actively contributing to the IAACD membership and finance committees including a financial contribution.

Professional Development and Communications Committee

The main aim of the Professional Development and Communications Committee is to develop, update and manage the AusACPDM website, engage with members via social media platforms, and communicate updates and current events. We also aim to facilitate professional development activities and opportunities for members with a focus on multimedia formats for delivery. In the last 12 months we have been very active. Our KPI's align with the Academy's new strategic plan refocusing our goals in some new directions. Part of the new focus is aimed at increasing our engagement with communities in the Pacific and our Maori, Aboriginals and Torres Strait Islander first nations people. We have been reaching out through the AusACPDM membership and other networks to find health professionals already working with these communities or with an active interest to do so. We have formed a small taskforce specially aimed at increasing engagement with these communities and aim to develop educational material appropriately.

The pandemic also helped us to look laterally at the delivery of educational events and generated step forward in the use of online

videoconferencing. We have recorded and uploaded to the website eight keynote podcasts from the Visionaries conference in Perth 2020. A series of 'Listening and Sharing' rooms are planned and will be held on the last Wednesday of each month with the first starting at the end of May 21. We commenced promoting a number of world special interest awareness days via Twitter. The website continues to be well maintained with spring cleaning annually to ensure all materials are still relevant.

Scientific and Education Committee

The members of the Scientific and Education Committee had a busy 2020 with the organisation of the scientific content for the 2020 "Visionaries" AusACPDM conference in Perth - a record number of abstracts were submitted: 309 full submissions including PhD's (n=7), papers (n=182), posters (n=44),

workshops (n=50) and breakfasts (n=26), 20% from international delegates and 24 late breaking submissions. Abstracts were scored by a scientific team of 20 allied health and medical reviewers. The final program comprised 2 PhD platform presentations, 115 papers, 37 posters, 21 workshops and 18 breakfasts.




The committee has been involved with: (i) a continued focus on reviewing research requests; (ii) finalising the process for the review of clinical practice guidelines; (iii) updating the AusACPDM Conference manual and (iv) planning for the scientific content of the joint AusACPDM/IAACD Melbourne conference in 2022. The Committee has continued its liaison with the IAACD conference committee and adapted our AusACPDM Conference manual to help guide future IAACD conferences.

DMCN invited Letter to the Editor:

In late 2020 the Editor of Developmental Medicine and Child Neurology journal approached the Board to write a letter to the editor regarding the AusACPDM's views on equity and inclusion. You can read our letter at this link: [Letter to the Editor](#).

Stewart K, Imms C, McIntyre S, Kilgour G, Clayworth (2020). Better Together: the Australasian Academy of Cerebral Palsy and Developmental Medicine champions equity. Developmental Medicine and Child Neurology. doi: 10.1111/dmcn.14752

Better Together: the Australasian Academy of Cerebral Palsy and Developmental Medicine champions equity

Kirsty Stewart , Christine Imms , Sarah McIntyre , Gaela Kilgour, Kim Clayworth

Australasian Academy of Cerebral Palsy and Developmental Medicine



doi: 10.1111/dmcn.14752

Editor—Martin Smith, in his eloquent editorial,¹ discusses the turbulence of the past 12 months: the global COVID-19 pandemic that has changed the way we work and play,

International Alliance of Academies of Childhood Disability (IAACD) COVID-19 Task Force World Cerebral Palsy Day 24-hour Listening sessions (<https://iaacd.net/iaacd-covid-19-task-force/>) provided the opportunity for global online engagement and demonstrated that we can effectively connect, share, learn, and support each other in meeting the challenge to achieve equity. COVID-19 has unfortunately not only highlighted the vulnerabilities and poorer access to culturally safe services for many of our Indigenous population, but has also been the impetus for many Indigenous-led community responses across Australasia. These were quick, decisive, and extremely effective, providing us with an opportunity to learn from Māori and Aboriginal led health prevention services.²⁻⁴

International Alliance of Academies of Childhood Disability (IAACD) update

The AusACPDM has been actively involved in the progression of the IAACD during 2020.

The following are the AusACPDM representatives on the various IAACD committees:

- Steering Committee: Christine Imms, Kirsty Stewart
- Transition Task Force: Kirsty Stewart
- IAACD Nominations committee: Sarah Love
- Membership Committee: Christine Imms (Chair) and Hayley Smithers-Sheedy
- Global Professional Education Committee: Kath Benfer and Alicia Spittle
- Conference Planning Committee: Ros Boyd (Chair) and Kirsty Stewart
- Financial Committee: Kim Clayworth and Sarah McIntyre
- Communications Committee: Rachel Toovey and Sian Williams
- Best clinical practice: Megan Auld and Brooke Adair
- Research Committee: Ghulam Khandakar, Jenny Downs, Lauren Apokourastos, Jerusha Mather, Israt Jahan

IAACD / AusACPDM COVID-19 task force

The AusACPDM COVID-19 task force established May 2020 and led by Alicia Spittle, worked with the IAACD COVID-19 task force. The task force established a resources page on the AusACPDM website and made significant contributions to 2 international, online COVID Listening sessions: 3rd June 2020 and World CP day 6th October



3rd June 2020: IAACD COVID-19/AusACPDM COVID-19 Task Force webinar event: provided an opportunity for clinicians and researchers across Australasia to explore how best to help children, families, colleagues and services during the COVID-19 pandemic now and into the future. The aim was to share experiences, learn what has worked, what has not worked and what learnings we can take into the future. This listening session was facilitated by a panel of speakers representing the research community, and service delivery within the community and hospitals.

Speakers:

- Prof Alicia Spittle, University of Melbourne
- Amy Hogan, CP Society of New Zealand
- Nikki Whyte, Kalparrin, Western Australia
- Dr Catherine Mak, Psychologist, The University of Queensland
- A/ Professor Bernadette Gillick, IAACD COVID-19 Taskforce
- Dr Mary-Clare Waugh, The Children's Hospital at Westmead, Sydney
- Gaela Kilgour, Physiotherapist, PhD student, New Zealand

6th October: Global 24 hour virtual listening and sharing event where health workers shared their experiences, challenges and innovations, when providing services to children with disabilities during COVID-19. This international collaborative had 19 sessions in 6 different languages from over 45 countries and over 2000 registrants.



Financial Statement & Declaration

In 2019 the AusACPD Board made a commitment to financial sustainability and to even out the losses incurred in off-conference years. We are making progress towards this goal with the off-conference year loss significantly smaller than in 2018 (-\$27,520).

	2020	2019
Revenue from ordinary activities	\$ 29,472	\$ 138,706
Expenses from ordinary activities	\$ 43,133	\$ 47,104
Interest received	\$ 327	\$ 1,271
Profit / Loss from ordinary activities	-\$ 13,252	\$ 92,871
Net increase/decrease in cash held	-\$ 13,334	\$ 92,871
Cash at beginning of financial year	\$ 321,710	\$ 228,839
Cash at end of financial year	\$ 308,376	\$ 321,710

Australasian Academy of Cerebral Palsy and Developmental Medicine Ltd

Directors Declaration

The directors of the company declare that:

1. The financial statements and notes, as set out in the financial reports, are in accordance with the Australian Charities and Not-for-Profits Commission Act 2012 and:
 - a. comply with Australian Charities and Not-for-Profits Commission Regulations 2013; and
 - b. give a true and fair view of the financial position as at 30 June 2020 and of the performance for the year ended on that date of the company.
2. In the directors' opinion there are reasonable grounds to believe that the company will be able to pay its debts as and when they become due and payable.

Signed in accordance with a resolution of the Board of Directors:

Director



Accountants and Advisors

Dated this 9th day of December 2020

Auditor's Independence Declaration under Section 307C of the Corporations Act 2001 to the members of Australasian Academy of Cerebral Palsy and Developmental Medicine Limited

I declare that, to the best of my knowledge and belief, during the year ended 30 June 2020 there have been:

- (i) no contraventions of the auditor independence requirements as set out in the *Corporations Act 2001* in relation to the audit; and
- (ii) no contraventions of any applicable code of professional conduct in relation to the audit.

KIDMANS PARTNERS AUDIT PTY LTD



John Petridis
Director



AusACPD

Australasian Academy of Cerebral Palsy
and Developmental Medicine

Contact:

info@ausacpdm.org.au

www.ausacpdm.org.au

Annual Report 2020