

national allergy council



Annual Report 2022/23

nationalallergycouncil.org.au

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About the National Allergy Council

The National Allergy Council is a progression of the National Allergy Strategy and remains a partnership between the Australasian Society of Clinical Immunology and Allergy (ASCIA) and Allergy & Anaphylaxis Australia (A&AA), working in consultation with key stakeholder organisations.

The National Allergy Council is responsible for implementing the National Allergy Strategy, a document which provides guidance on what work needs to be undertaken to improve the health and wellbeing of Australians living with allergic diseases including reducing the burden on carers, healthcare services and the community.

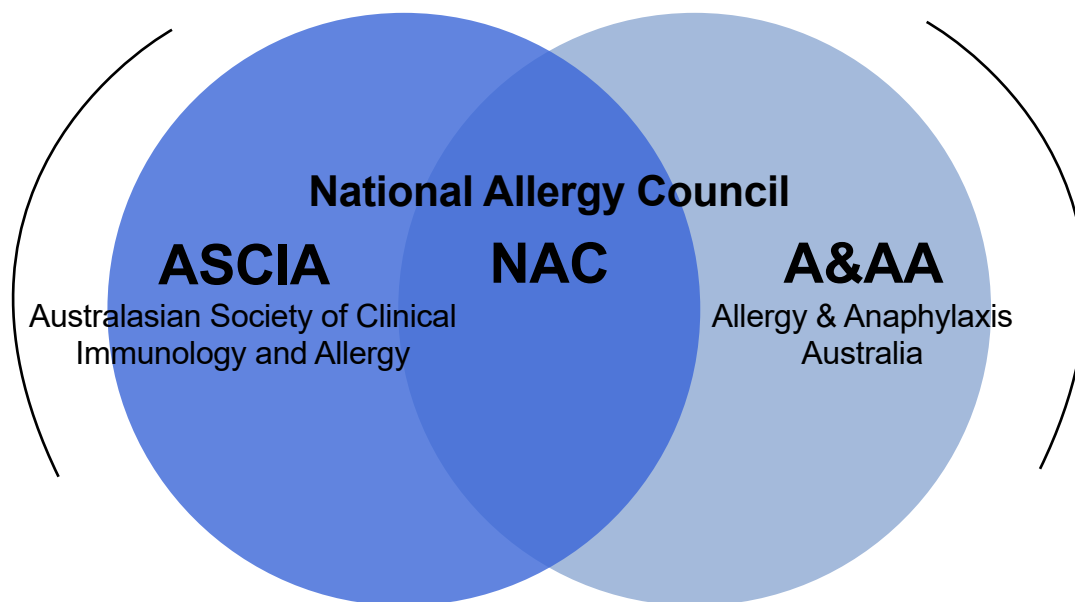
This National Allergy Strategy aims to improve the health and quality of life of Australians with allergic diseases, and minimise the burden of allergic diseases on individuals, their carers, healthcare services and the community.



Our people and structure

Partnering to improve the lives of Australians living with allergic disease.

The National Allergy Council is a formalisation of the partnership between the Australasian Society of Clinical Immunology and Allergy (ASCIA) and Allergy & Anaphylaxis Australia (A&AA).



The National Allergy Council works in consultation with key stakeholder organisations and consumers, to progress all our programs.

The **National Allergy Council Board of Directors** comprises two directors nominated by ASCIA and two directors nominated by A&AA.

The **National Allergy Council Advisory Committee Co-chairs** are Dr Michaela Lucas (representing ASCIA) and Maria Said (representing A&AA).

The **National Allergy Council Advisory Committee** comprises ASCIA and A&AA Project Co-leads comprising of representation from ASCIA, A&AA and the National Allergy Centre of Excellence (NACE).

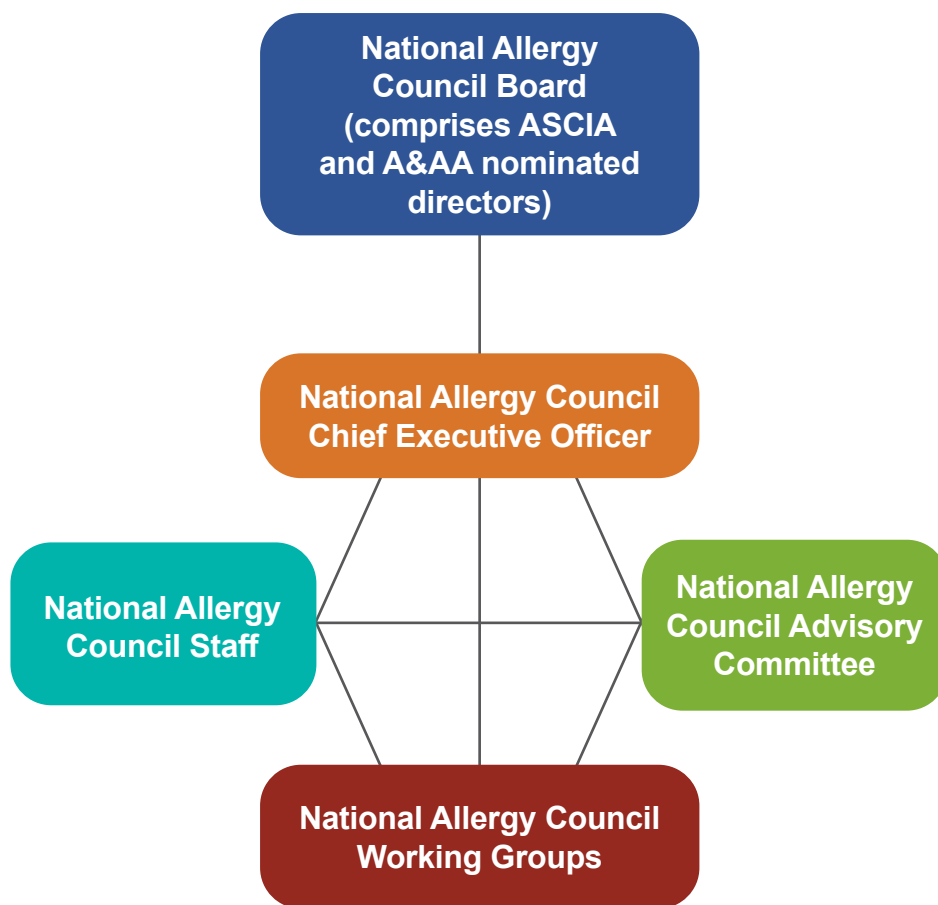
In addition to our Co-chairs, our other Advisory Committee members are Dr William Smith, Dr Kiely Kim, Dr Vicki McWilliam, Ms Sally Voukelatos, Dr Melanie Wong, Dr Preeti Joshi, Ms Jody Aiken, Ms Briony Tyquin, Dr Wendy Freeman, Dr Brynn Wainstein, Dr Katie Frith and Dr Kirsten Perrett (representing the NACE).

We have a representative from NACE on the NAC Advisory Committee to support our collaborative work with the NACE.



Our Staff



Dr Sandra Vale (CEO), Krista Wood (Operations & Finance Officer), Heather Roberts (Principal Project Officer), Dr Merryn Netting (Senior Project Officer), Ingrid Roche (Senior Project Officer), Erin Gilmore (Project Officer), Jillian Head (Project Officer), Samantha Stiles (Project Officer), Angela Linhart (Social Media & Communications Officer).



National Allergy Council Structure



Our projects and impacts

Project	Overview	Impacts
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Managing food allergens is everyone's responsibility. The Food Service project aims to support the sector to cater for individuals with food allergies, understanding that both the consumer and food service staff have responsibilities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All about Allergens for general food service is the top performing course, with 16,905 enrolments from 1 July 2022 to 30 June 2023. Course feedback: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 90% of respondents indicated that the course met their needs 'extremely well' or 'very well'. - 74% of respondents indicated that the course was 'extremely easy' or 'very easy' to understand. Total enrolments across all courses was 44,660 from 1 July 2022 to 30 June 2023. From 1 July 2022 to 30 June 2023, 41 social media posts have been posted across Facebook, LinkedIn, Instagram and Twitter. 6,320 Food Service project bookmarks have been distributed between 1 July 2022 and 30 June 2023.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The National Allergy Council <i>Best practice guidelines for anaphylaxis prevention and management in schools and children's education and care (CEC) services</i> were developed to provide consistent, evidence-based, best-practice guidance for staff in school and CEC services, and parents. To help schools and CEC services to meet the recommendations of the Best Practice Guidelines, several supporting resources have been created. An Allergy Aware Resource Hub was developed to house these resources and others from ASCIA and A&AA. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> From 1 July 2022 to 30 June 2023, a total of 30,738 visits to the Allergy Aware website. This is an average of 2,562 visits per month which is a 19% increase on the previous year. From 1 July 2022 to 30 June 2023, the Best Practice Guidelines for Schools was downloaded 1,553 times and the Best Practice Guidelines for CEC was downloaded 1,316 times. From 1 July 2022 to 30 June 2023, 29 social media posts have been posted across Facebook, LinkedIn, Instagram and Twitter. 3,520 Allergy Aware project bookmarks have been distributed between 1 July 2022 and 30 June 2023.

 <p>NATIONAL ALLERGY COUNCIL Drug (Medication) Allergy Project</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The National Allergy Council is working with the Australian Digital Health Agency to improve allergy information in people's My Health Record. • In addition, the National Allergy Council Drug Allergy Project aims to standardise drug allergy terminology and develop guidelines and protocols to improve drug allergy management. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The National Allergy Council information sheets relating to My Health Record have been reviewed and updated. • A drug allergy working group has been established. • A Delphi panel has been established to achieve consensus on drug allergy terminology.
<p>NATIONAL ALLERGY COUNCIL DIGITAL HEALTH PROJECT</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The project addresses two key components for food allergy prevention: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Introducing the common allergy causing foods in the first year of life. - Optimising eczema management to prevent sensitisation to foods through the skin. • The Nip allergies in the Bub website, a key component of this project, contains practical information for parents about how to introduce the common food allergens and how to optimise eczema management. • The website also contains a section for health professionals including education resources. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • From 1 July 2022 to 30 June 2023, there has been a total of 110,461 visits to the Nip allergies in the Bub website. This is an average of 9,205 visits per month, which is a 9.5% increase on the previous year. • We have translated our eczema infographics into 15 languages. • We have translated the food ideas infant feeding information into 15 languages. • The Nip allergies in the Bub website is undergoing a restructure to make the information easier to find. • From 1 July 2022 to 30 June 2023, 23 social media posts have been posted across Facebook, LinkedIn, Instagram and Twitter. • 101,970 Nip allergies in the Bub project bookmarks have been distributed between 1 July 2022 and 30 June 2023.
<p>NIP ALLERGIES IN THE <i>Bub</i></p>		

 <p>SHARED CARE FOR ALLERGY</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The shared care project aims to improve access to care for people with an allergy, especially for people who live in rural and remote Australia. • Shared care puts the person with an allergy at the centre of their care. They are supported by healthcare professionals, patient support organisations and the community to receive the right care, at the right time, from the right healthcare professional(s), in the right place. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A nationwide consultation has been conducted and included: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In-person consultation sessions in Cairns, Brisbane, Orange, Sydney, Melbourne, Hobart, Adelaide and Perth. • Online consultation sessions for regional Western Australia, Victoria, the Australian Capital Territory and the Northern Territory. • Three national online consultation sessions. • Almost 300 people registered for a consultation session. 177 people actually attended. This included people with allergic disease, health professionals, governments, peak professional bodies and government organisations. • 246 people have subscribed to the Shared Care for Allergy Bulletin, a regular update on the project.
 <p>ALLERGY 250K FOR TEENS AND YOUNG ADULTS</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 'Allergy 250K' is a project to support the 250,000 young Australians living with severe allergies. • The Allergy 250K website aims to provide age-appropriate information and resources to assist young people who are living with severe allergies. • The annual Allergy 250K Youth Camp aims to bring together school-aged teens living with severe allergy. • The Allergy 250K peer mentors participate in the Youth Camps to support the younger teens. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Our first Allergy 250K young adult camp was held in Sydney. • We held three Allergy 250K school-aged teen camps to catch up camps that were unable to be conducted due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Camps were held in Adelaide, Perth and the Sunshine Coast. • Allergy 250K peer mentors participated in the school-aged teen camps as a major component of the success of the camps. • The Allergy 250K school-aged teen website underwent a major redesign and review. • The Allergy 250k young adult website had a minor homepage refresh. • Monthly video chats were conducted with young adults. • From 1 July 2022 to 30 June 2023, we have posted 140 Facebook posts and 168 Instagram posts. • 3,260 Allergy 250K project bookmarks have been distributed between 1 July 2022 and 30 June 2023.

As part of the launch of the National Allergy Council and to help promote the National Allergy Council projects, we created a National Allergy Council bookmark. This bookmark highlights the partnership between ASCIA and A&AA on one side and lists all the projects on the other side, including QR codes to help people access the project websites easily. 16,520 National Allergy Council bookmarks have been distributed between 1 July 2022 and 30 June 2023.

Co-chair's Report

Thank you for attending the National Allergy Council Annual General Meeting. A special thank you to our staff and Board members.

The National Allergy Council was established in May 2022 as a formalisation of the partnership between the Australasian Society of Clinical Immunology and Allergy (ASCIA) and Allergy & Anaphylaxis Australia (A&AA). The National Allergy Council was established to continue the implementation of the National Allergy Strategy.

The National Allergy Council continues to progress the work formerly undertaken under ASCIA's governance as the National Allergy Strategy. The 2019-2023 funding received from the Australian Government Department of Health and all non-government funding along with all liabilities were transferred from ASCIA to the National Allergy Council on 30 September 2022. The National Allergy Strategy as a partnership between ASCIA and A&AA secured four years of funding from the Australian Government Department of Health, in response to many years of advocacy and the Government's response the Parliamentary Inquiry into Allergies and Anaphylaxis. The National Allergy Council was established as a legal entity in May 2022, to receive this funding and distribute some of the funds to ASCIA and A&AA as partner organisations assisting with the implementation of the National Allergy Strategy. This funding grant provides funding support for the National Allergy Council, ASCIA and A&AA. A key component of this funding grant is the National Allergy Council's collaboration with the newly established National Allergy Centre of Excellence, an organisation established to centralise allergic disease research in Australia and translation of evidence into practice.

In the past year, the National Allergy Council has been established as a company limited by guarantee and registered as a charity, employing staff to progress the implementation of the National Allergy Strategy. The National Allergy Council continues to formalise governance of the National Allergy Council with development of policies and procedures to enhance the operation of the organisation.

The inaugural members of the Board include Dr Preeti Joshi, Ms Maria Said AM, Dr Melanie Wong and Ms Kezia Adams. Ms Adams and Dr Joshi resigned from the National Allergy Council Board in November 2022 and February 2023 respectively. We would like to acknowledge the tremendous contribution of both Dr Joshi and Ms Adams in the transition of the National Allergy Strategy to the National Allergy Council. We also thank Dr Joshi for her time as Co-chair of the National Allergy Strategy (since 2019). In February 2023, we welcomed Dr Michaela Lucas and Ms Madeleine Young as Directors and Dr Lucas as Co-chair alongside Ms Said AM.

Our Board comprises passionate and dedicated people who willingly give their time and expertise to the National Allergy Council. We are also fortunate to have a dedicated team of staff under the leadership of our CEO. Together, and working with our partner organisations (ASCIA and A&AA) and key stakeholders, we are progressing important work that will ultimately improve the health and wellbeing of people with allergic disease.

Dr Michaela Lucas and Ms Maria Said AM
National Allergy Council Co-chairs and Directors

Chief Executive Officer's Report

It has been an extremely busy but exciting first year for the National Allergy Council. The funding grant from the Australian Government Department of Health, has enabled expansion of our team. This has broadened the skill set of the team and also allowed us to progress more work and new projects.

We continue to progress our initial projects – Allergy 250K; Nip allergies in the Pub; Schools and Children's Education and Care; and Food Service. We are also progressing exciting new projects – Drug Allergy and Shared Care for Allergy, and scoping the development of an Anaphylaxis Reporting System.

A key strength of the National Allergy Council is the partnership between ASCIA and A&AA and each of our projects has a co-lead representing each of the partner organisations. This means that every project is guided by a healthcare professional and a consumer with the National Allergy Council staff to ensure our projects undertake appropriate consultation and implementation processes.

Over the past year, the National Allergy Council staff have worked extremely well as a team, to ensure we progress our project work and meet some challenging time frames. A highlight of the year has been the conducting of a large scale national consultation, in every state and territory of Australia, for the Shared Care for Allergy project.

We have established new project working groups to help guide our work and we are extremely grateful to the many healthcare professionals and consumers who volunteer their time to support our work.

The National Allergy Council staff are a united team, working well together and supporting each other. While we each have different skills and experience, all staff are quick to offer assistance with any task as required. I would like to thank the National Allergy Council staff for their passion and dedication to our work. The past year has presented many tight timelines and the staff have embraced the challenges and worked hard to achieve and exceed the intended outcomes.

We are looking forward to continuing our work in the next year and beyond and we look forward to continuing to work with the many volunteers and stakeholders that support our work.

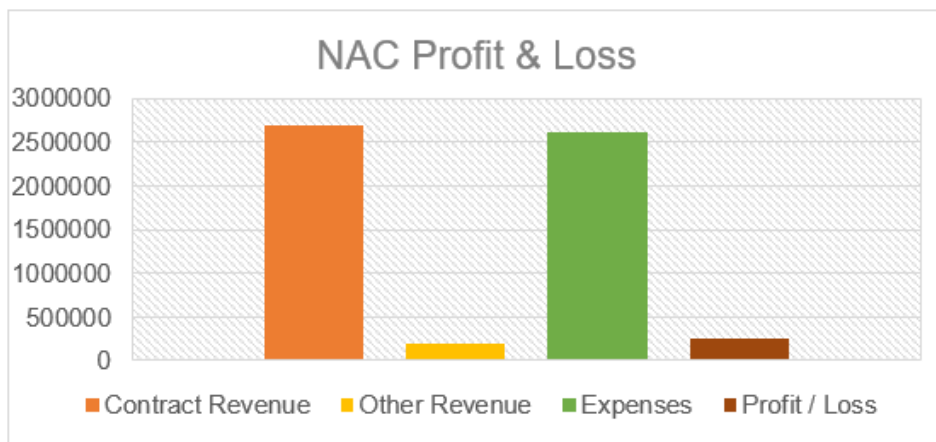
Dr Sandra Vale
National Allergy Council Chief Executive Officer

Finance Report

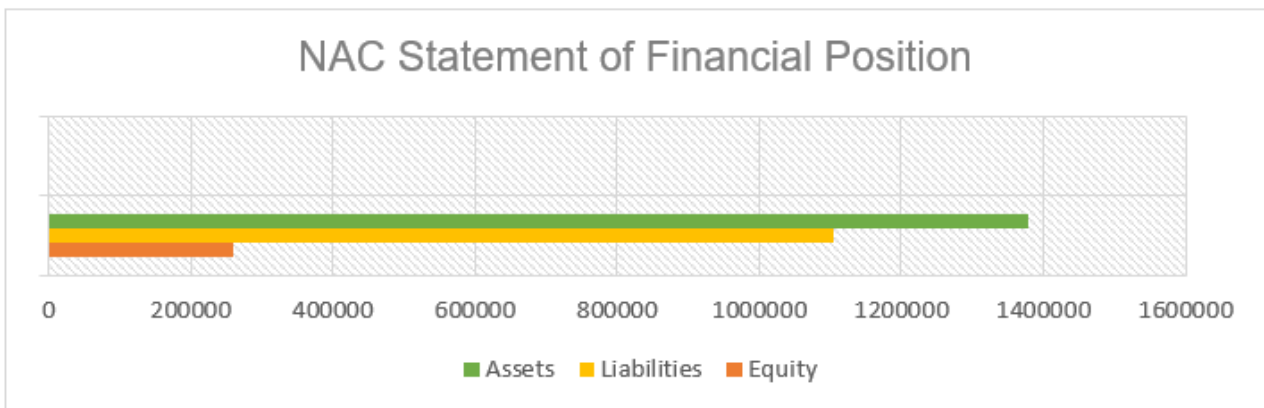
This report is based on the audited National Allergy Council Ltd financial report which covers the period ended 30th June 2023.

The National Allergy Council received funds from ASCIA this period (other revenue) in the commencement of the National Allergy Council and the transfer from the National Allergy Strategy (operating under ASCIA's governance) to the National Allergy Council, in addition to the new funding received by the National Allergy Council from the Department of Health under Year 1 of its contract.

The National Allergy Council has seen a profit of \$259,415 for the period largely due to the delay in receiving the new government funding and having the ability to progress all the Year 1 goals. The National Allergy Council is excited to progress these in Year 2 with the approval to rollover all unspent funds, already granted.



For the period ended 30th June 2023 the National Allergy Council holds a cash at bank position of \$1,287,120 along with equity of \$259,415, heading into FY24 in a positive position.



The financial outlook for the National Allergy Council in 2023-2024 is positive, due to the National Allergy Council's current financial position, which reflects:

- Strategic planning including pre budgeted work outcomes
- A four-year contract with the Australian Government Department of Health
- Internal management of finances

Krista Wood
National Allergy Council Operations & Finance Officer

Contact Information

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