

**Australian Association of
Audiologists
in
Private Practice
Inc**

Annual Report

1 July 2011 to 30 June 2012



Quality. Integrity. Independence.

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Mission Statement

The mission of the Australian Association of Audiologists in Private Practice (AAAPP) is to promote and support clinical practices owned by Audiologists.

About AAAPP Inc

AAAPP Executive Members during 2011 – 2012

President:	Dr Ross Dineen
Vice President:	Dr Celene McNeill
Past President:	Mr Peter Altidis
Treasurer:	Ms Robin Laing
Secretary:	Ms Rachel Deane
Councillors:	Mr Steven Grayson-Riley Ms Myriam Westcott
Executive Officer:	Dr Louise Collingridge

AAAPP Details

Website:	www.aaapp.org.au
Email:	exec@aaapp.org.au
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AAAPP is a not for profit professional association incorporated in the State of Victoria.

AAAPP has national membership and holds activities across Australia.



President's Message

Dr Ross Dineen

The Australian Association of Audiologists in Private Practice (AAAPP) is a not for profit professional association with voluntary membership. We support Audiologists in independent private practice. Our association has been in operation since 1987. We have seen changes to private practice since the earliest days when very few Audiologists in Australia ventured into this field, to the situation today whereby more than half of all Audiologists in Australia are employed in the private sector. AAAPP supports members through education, networking, information sharing and advocacy.

AAAPP has, over the course of the past decade, addressed the question of devices vs service, bundling vs unbundling fees, the inter dependence of diagnostic and rehabilitative audiology, and third party funding of Audiology, as independent private practitioners have sought to differentiate their practice from growing number of hearing clinics focussed on device sales. In the past year, AAAPP Executive members have attended meetings with representative of the Office of Hearing Services and Medicare, presenting the case for service offered by independent private practitioners. The audiologist's role in diagnostic audiology and the distinction between the audiological diagnosis and the medical diagnosis have been raised with Medicare. Subsequent to our meetings, Medicare announced a change to be introduced from November 2012, allocating funding for diagnostic audiology undertaken by audiologists when conducted for the purpose of medical diagnosis.

The hard work of the Executive team, who offer their time voluntarily, enables us to offer support for those in new, as well as established, private practices. Our support includes both our Excellence in Education programme that offer both content and networking opportunities, as well as advocacy of independent private practice to funding and policy organizations and government departments.

We are grateful to our industry partners for their support which enables us to undertake an ambitious and in depth Excellence in Education programme.

Our part time Executive Officer, Dr Louise Collingridge, manages the day to day running of the Association, and can be contacted to provide any further detail on the operations of AAAPP.

It has been my privilege to serve as President over the past financial year, and to continue on in this role into the next.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ross Dineen".

Dr Ross Dineen
AAAPP President, 2011 - 2012



Treasurer's Report

Robin Laing, Treasurer

Income to AAAPP is derived from:

- Membership Subscriptions
- Seminar fees
- Industry partnerships.

AAAPP's income in the year ending 30 June 2012 was \$182 302.00.

Fixed expenses that AAAPP is liable for are:

- Executive Officer (salary, IT allowance and Superannuation)
- Secretarial Service (to March 2012)
- Insurances (Public Liability, Business and WorkCover)
- Subscriptions (BHA and SHHH)
- Website
- Banking / Merchant Fees

Additional variable expenses relate to:

- Seminar expenses
- Travel
- Postage and stationary
- Telephone

AAAPP's expenses for the year ending 30 June 2012 was \$122 676.00

The surplus for the year was \$59 626.00.

AAAPP is a not for profit association, so all surplus funds are used for association purposes, and income tax is not payable. AAAPP is registered for GST.

Professional Association Management Services (held a contract with AAAPP until March 2012. Financial systems were introduced using Cashflow Manager and internet banking, in association with accountant, Mr Bruce Tanner from Accounting Business and Taxation Services. The association finances are audited annually by the appointed auditor, Mr John Watty, from ProAcct, in Victoria.

Two signatories are required to authorise any payment from AAAPP's accounts. Bank reconciliation is done weekly by the Executive Officer, and reported on monthly.

The audited financial statement of income and expenditure is presented below.

Income and Expenditure Statement for the Year Ended 30 June 2012	
REVENUE FROM ORDINARY ACTIVITIES	\$

Operating Activities	
Subscriptions from members	26,294
Conference and seminar income	113,925
Sponsorship	39,136
Non Operating Activities	
Interest Received	2,947
TOTAL REVENUE FROM ORDINARY ACTIVITIES	182,302
EXPENDITURE FROM ORDINARY ACTIVITIES	
Administration expenses	114
Advertising	1,440
Amortisation	1,050
Audit Fees	2,351
Bank Charges	328
Seminar expenses	74,408
Insurance	1,244
Merchant fees	717
Postage, stationary and office supplies	3,414
Secretariat expenses	8,962
Subscriptions	150
Sundry expenses	1,318
Superannuation	1,275
Telephone	604
Travel expenses	5,534
Wages and IT allowance	19,676
Website expenses and depreciation	82
TOTAL EXPENDITURE FROM ORDINARY ACTIVITIES	122,676
SURPLUS FOR THE YEAR	59,626

Assets and Liabilities Statement as at 30 June 2012	
CURRENT ASSETS	\$
Cash and Cash Equivalents	122,901
NONCURRENT ASSETS	
Website at written down value	1,575
CURRENT LIABILITIES	
Trade and other payables	5,451
Unearned income	19,136
NET ASSETS / RETAINED EARNINGS	99,889



Membership

Dr Louise Collingridge, Executive Officer

To be eligible for membership of AAAPP, tertiary qualifications in Audiology and ownership or part ownership of an audiology business that is at least 50 % owned by Audiologists, is required. Members are also required to be of good reputation. Applicants are nominated and seconded by existing members, and applications meeting the basic criteria are circulated to the membership, whose objections may be raised for a period of 7 days, after which the membership is processed and finalised upon receipt of the membership fee.

Membership applications require evidence of meeting eligibility criteria and supporting documentation is required to demonstrate business ownership. Membership is renewable on 1 July each year, for the duration of the following financial year.

AAAPP has five life members who were awarded for their contribution to the establishment of the association in its earliest years. Life members are: Mr Neil Clutterbuck, Ms Sue Clutterbuck, Ms Marie-Louise Hekel, Dr Janice Milhinch and Dr Will Tonisson.

Membership of AAAPP, at 30 June 2011, comprised of 50 audiologists. During the period July 2011 to June 2012, ten new members joined, representing 25 % increase from the previous year's membership. Four members resigned due to loss of eligibility or failure to renew, resulting in a total of 56 members by the end of the financial year.

Some members own and operate from a single location, and others are owners of larger groups that operate from a number of sites, employing additional audiologists. At the end of this financial year, a total of 96 clinics were operated by our membership of 56 audiologists.



Excellence in Education Programme

Dr Ross Dineen, President & Chair of Education

AAAPP's Excellence in Education Programme provides high quality and in depth examination of both business and clinical topics of relevance to independent private practice.

The Excellence in Education programme offers one business seminar, one clinical seminar, and one master class in each financial year.

Business seminars are open to members or their appointed representatives only. Topics are addressed that prepare those new to independent practice to assist with structuring their clinics, and to assist those with established clinics to review their policies and practices. During financial year ended June 2012, 29 members attended a business seminar in Hobart, from 10 to 12 February. The seminar was convened by local member, Tricia Sharples. The topic was Private Practice in the 21st Century. Invited international speakers from the USA, Dr Dennis Van Vliet and Dr Alison Grimes, explored issues related to the future of the audiology profession and the role of professional associations. Medicare representative, Mr Shane Porter, attended the seminar and his presentation provided the impetus to discuss the need for Medicare funding of diagnostic audiology undertaken by independent audiologists. Mr Rob MacDougall provided continuity from previous business seminar in February 2010, and discussed the challenges in contemporary independent private practice.

Clinical seminars are open to both members and non-members. Two large clinical seminars were held during this financial year.

Seventy Four delegates attended the Music To Your Ears: Investigating the Relationship between Music and Audiology was held over two days at the Conservatorium of Music, at the University of Queensland. The seminar was convened by Steve Grayson-Riley, who invited a range of experts on this topic, including Mr Andy Schiach, Dr Alan Cody, Dr Warwick Williams, and Dr Valerie Looi. AAAPP members who contributed were Dr Ross Dineen and Ms Myriam Westcott.

A second large clinical seminar, attended by 140 delegates, was held during this financial year. Auditory Processing Disorders: Contemporary Theory and Practice was held at La Trobe University, Melbourne, from 9 – 11 June 2012. The seminar was convened by Mr Peter Altidis, who brought together Professor Frank Musiek, as well as local experts including Dr Mridula Sharma, Dr Wayne Wilson, Dr Harvey Dillon, Ms Leanne Rose-Munro, Ms Amanda Robinson and Ms Jennifer Finemore, plus those from further afield in New Zealand – Dr Bill Keith and Prof Suzanne Purdy. The seminar also provided the opportunity for PhD students Ms Pia Gyldenkaerne and Ms Dani Tomlin to showcase their work.

Comments from delegates on the Excellence in Education Programme

Auditory Processing Disorders, June 2012:

“3 days provided fabulous insight into CAPD practices already in place and future directions”.

“Some of the best minds in Aus/NZ featured in disentangling the clinical dilemma of APD. Most comprehensive examination of APD to date in Australia”.

“Excellent overall look a global research and clinical work on AP”.

Private Practice in the 21st Century, February 2012

“Being a sole clinical [it] can be a daunting prospect, but I leave with hope. Thank you”.

“Meeting fellow audiologists in private practice and getting some great ideas – great networking”.

“As ever, the collegiate interactions and support, information sharing, especially very open pricing structures in relation to the bundling issue”.

“Thank you for the sponsorship. I would not have been able to afford everything if this had not been available”.

“Information I couldn’t get elsewhere or didn’t dare ask.”

Music to Your Ears, September 2011

“Very informative and filled in gaps in my knowledge”.

“Fantastic conference – all speakers gave excellent talks and the order / range of speakers was really well thought out”.

“I found the conference highly beneficial, very interesting topics and also motivated me to do further reading”.

“The convenor is to be congratulated on the depth of the programme’s subject and quality of the speakers”.

“Some fantastic lectures were presented. It was more than worthwhile”.



Governance

Rachel Dean, Secretary and Public Officer

AAAPP is incorporated as a not for profit in the State of Victoria. This means that the rules of the association are lodged with Consumer Affairs, in Victoria. The rules of Association are updated as changes are voted in by the membership.

The most recent changes were lodged in March 2012.

Association rules cover the following:

- Mission of AAAPP
- Membership Criteria
- Subscriptions
- Database of members and associates
- Resignation from the association
- Complaints against members
- Election of the Executive
- Rules for meetings of the Executive, Special General Meetings, and Annual General Meetings
- Office bearers – duties
- Employees – duties
- Industry Partnerships
- Excellence in Education Programme
- Communication with members
- Disputes and mediation within the association
- Record keeping
- Winding up and cancellation

Being incorporated in the state of Victoria, but with national membership, requires AAAPP to have a physical address in Victoria, and a contact officer / secretary, who is resident in Victoria.

The incorporation in the state of Victoria is on the understanding that AAAPP undertakes events and has members from across Australia.

The 2011 AGM was held in Brisbane on Sunday 4 September 2011. The AGM included the election of the incoming Executive.

	2010 – 2011	2011 – 2012
President	Mr Peter Altidis	Dr Ross Dineen
Vice President	Dr Ross Dineen	Dr Celene McNeill
Treasurer	Dirk de Moore	Robin Laing
Secretary	Rachel Deane	Rachel Deane
Councillors	Steve Grayson-Riley Dr Celene McNeill	Peter Altidis, Steve Grayson-Riley Myriam Westcott



Industry Partnerships

Dr Celene McNeill, Vice President

Industry partnerships were introduced in 2010, for the purpose of gaining support for the Excellence in Education programme. Expressions of interest were sought from across the industry, and the following four industry partners agreed to participate:

- Cochlear Ltd
- Phonak
- Starkey Laboratories
- Unitron Phonak

Partnership agreements were drawn up for a fixed period of one financial year which set the same sponsorship level for all industry partners. In exchange for sponsorship, each industry partner sends one representative to each of our seminars, displays documents or links from the AAAPP website.

All industry partners renewed their agreements for the financial year ending 30 June 2012.

The relationship with our partners has been productive in sharing resources, knowledge and industry experience.

The funds obtained from industry partners were specifically dedicated to support the Excellence in Education programme. Funds were used to ensure new members could attend the business seminar, with their registration fees covered by the association.

Industry partnership funds also enabled guest speakers to present at AAAPP seminars including international speakers at the Music to your Ears seminar (Brisbane, September 2011), Private Practice in the 21st Century (Hobart, February 2012) and Auditory Processing Disorder: Contemporary Theory and Practice (Melbourne, June 2012).





Plans for 2012 – 2013

Steve Grayson-Riley, Incoming Vice President

The next financial year presents challenges to AAAPP to continue to offer a programme of education, advocacy and support for independent private practice that is relevant to our membership.

The Excellence in Education programme is committed to offering the following:

- Vestibular Function: Order and Disorder. A workshop / master class open to members and invited delegates. Sydney, 29 – 30 September 2012.
- Public and Private Funding of Audiology in Australia. A business seminar open to members and their representatives. Kingston, ACT, 15 – 16 February 2012.
- Hearing and Cognition. A clinical seminar open to members and non-members. Sydney, September 2013.

To begin the financial year, AAAPP will be surveying the membership to obtain an updated profile of members and their clinics, as well as to obtain direction for the association from members.

At the 2012 AGM, held on 28 September 2012, a new Executive Committee was formed, which will take AAAPP through the next financial year.

The Executive for the 2012 – 2013 period is as follows:

President:	Dr Ross Dineen
Vice President:	Mr Steve Grayson-Riley
Past President:	Mr Peter Altidis
Treasurer:	Ms Robin Laing
Secretary:	Ms Barbara Cooper / Ms Rachel Deane
Councillors:	Mr Peter Cichello Dr Celene McNeill Ms Myriam Westcott

