



AONA CONFERENCE

ALONGSIDE RANZCO

 ADELAIDE CONVENTION
CENTRE

SATURDAY 2 NOVEMBER 2024



PROGRAM

WWW.AONA.AU



Welcome



To all the delegates who join us from near and far, we welcome you to Adelaide and to our first semi-integrated RANZCO conference (and also our first conference in Adelaide since the pandemic). We trust that the conference will provide you with new knowledge, opportunities and networks. We encourage you to take this back to your workplace and share it forward with your colleagues who are unable to join us.

Today, we have an incredible line-up of speakers and topics, lead by our Keynote Speaker from New Zealand, Olga Brochner. With topics from, community, to clinic, to operating theatre and environmental management and research, our conference has it all and is guaranteed to inspire and invigorate you and propel you forward with your career in ophthalmic nursing.

Our program speakers are joined by our incredible sponsors, who help support AONA and the ophthalmic nursing community year after year. We are thrilled to welcome Device Technologies as our Premium Sponsor who bring to us an internationally renowned speaker—Jessica Raab. We are also excited to announce our general sponsors are Alcon, Glaukos, Johnson & Johnson, Vision Hospital Group and Zeiss.

This year, through collaborating with RANZCO we also host our first ever AONA table within the main Exhibit Hall (2nd November only). We encourage you to visit and support our team of volunteers who are manning the table.

Lastly, we send a huge thank you to our volunteer committee members who have travelled from across Australia to help make today what it is. For that I thank Colleen Flanders, Bernie Hanratty, Gabriela Kalofonos, Joanna McCulloch, Lesley McDowell, Peter Mitchell, Rhea Ortega, and Sandie Smithers. Lastly, I would like to thank our local Committee Member, and co-Convenor, Rose Knowles, who brought together an amazing group of local speakers, and spearhead the new AONA exhibit table. Please join me in thanking this amazing group of volunteers.

With that, take loads of notes and photos, exchange contact details and have a ball. Thank you.

Heather Machin RN, MBA, PHD

AONA President and co-Conference Convenor



The Program — Session 1

Time	Minutes	Presenter	Topic
Session 1: Chair - Lesley McDowell (NSW)			
08:30 - 08:40	10	Welcome	President Heather Machin and Local Rep Rose Knowles
08:40 - 09:00	20	Keynote Speaker: Olga Brochner (NZ)	Ophthalmic Clinical Nurse Specialists in Auckland
09:00 - 09:15	15	Carmen Newman (QLD)	Establishing a nurse led interventional service for treatment of macular disease'
09:15-09:30	15	Thuan Nguyen (QLD)	Trained ROP Nurses accurately detect referral wanted ROP
09:30-09:50	20	Damien Papps (SA)	Seeing Differently Programs
09:50-10:05	15	Premium Sponsor Device Technologies: Jessica Raab (USA)	The Impact of Instrument Quality on Ophthalmic Surgical Outcomes
10:05 - 10:15	10	General Sponsor Glaukos: Sean Hutchings	Introducing iStent infinite
10:15 - 10:30	15	Q & A	
	110		
10:30 - 10:50		Morning Tea	



The Program — Session 2

Session 2: Chair - Colleen Flanders (NSW)			
10:50 - 11:10	20	Zali O'Dea (VIC)	Living with Facial Eye Disfigurement (FED) and the role of counselling: An insider perspective
11:10 - 11:25	15	Vicky Heaton (NSW)	More than a statistic: Insights from research with people living with macular disease
11:25 - 11:40	15	Christina Ly (SA)	Supporting the vision impaired patient: Reminders!"
11:40 - 11:55	15	Olga Brochner (NZ)	Vein Occlusion
11:55 - 12:10	15	Valerie Tosswill (NSW) and Natasha Sikman (VIC)	Glaucoma Australia - Glaucoma up-date
12:10-12:20	10	General Sponsor J&J: Phillip Lu	Up-date
12:20-12:30	10	Q & A	
12:30-12:45	15	AGM	AONA led
	115		
12:45—13:45		Lunch	



The Program — Session 3

Session 3: Chair - Bernie Hanratty (NSW)			
13:45-13:55	10	Amanda Davis (NSW)	International Agency for the Prevention of Blindness - IAPB up-date
13:55-14:05	10	Getruth Bare (PNG)	Surgical outreach proves successful for remote population
14:05-14:15	10	Peter Mitchell (NT)	Opening Eye and Closing the Gap
14:15-14:25	10	Isabella Mou (PNG)	Building Capacity in Eye Care: How intensive training is improving vision and eye Health in Papua New Guinea
14:25-14:35	10	Nicole Wyatt / Tierney Mikolaj (SA)	What I wish I'd known prior to Eye OT
14:35-14:45	10	General Sponsor Alcon: Darren Gray	Elevating patient experience through efficiency and sustainability – An ophthalmic nurse's impact
14:45-14:55	10	General Sponsor Zeiss: Charis McKerrell	Maximizing surgical workflow with Callisto/ Quatera
14:55 –15:05	10	Q & A	
	85		
15:05 - 15:25		Afternoon Tea	



The Program — Session 4

Session 4: Chair - Peter Mitchell (NT)			
15:25 - 15:40	15	General Sponsor Vision Hospital Group: Kylie Bennett (VIC)	Sustainability in Healthcare
15:40 - 15:55	15	Joanna Mcculloch (NSW)	SESEH/RVEEH Joint Ophthalmic Nurse Education Program
15:55 - 16:10	15	Gabriela Kalofonos (NSW)	Pilot post-surgery automated text follow up program: characteristics, acceptability, and role in Ophthalmic patient care
16:10 - 16:25	15	Kerrie Legg (NSW)	Trends in Ophthalmic Nursing
16:25 - 16:35	10	Terry Couper (VIC)	Corneal Crosslinking
16:35-16:50	15	Q&A	
16:50 - 17:00	20	End wrap-up and AONA updates (please stay for a group photo)	
	95		



Our Sponsors

Please join AONA in thanking our 2024 sponsors for their continual support of AONA and the ophthalmic nursing community.

Premium Sponsor



General Sponsor



Seeing beyond

Speakers

Keynote: Olga Brochner: NZRN, PGDipHSc (Nursing)

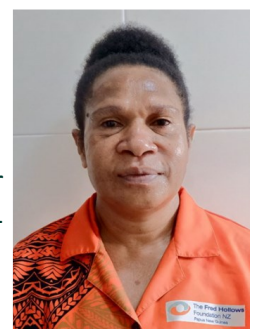
Olga is an ophthalmic Clinical Nurse Specialist (CNS) in the Te Toka Tumai Auckland Public Health Service. She has been an ophthalmic nurse for over 20 years, initially in ophthalmic theatres. She is now clinic based, mainly in retina clinics. She runs nurse led AMD, meibomian cyst and medical retinal clinics, and diabetic retinopathy photo-screening sessions. She is always open to eyes!



Guest Speakers

Getruth Bare

Getruth has worked in eye care since 2008. She is the Ophthalmic Clinician/Registered Nurse and Workforce Support Manager for the Fred Hollows Foundation PNG and Divine Word University. She is a Certified Ophthalmic Clinician and possesses a Bachelor degree in Nursing Management and Education, a diploma in general nursing and a Post-Graduate Diploma in Eye Care.

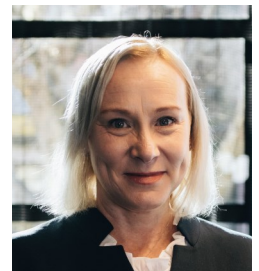




Speakers

Kylie Bennett

With over three decades of experience in nursing, Kylie has dedicated the past 15 years to senior and executive management roles with the New South Wales' private sector. Since joining Vision Eye Institute in 2022, she has served as both the National Quality Manager and the National Director of Nursing. Recently appointed as the General Manager of RiverCity Private Hospital in Brisbane, Kylie continues to lead diverse teams, implement positive changes, and oversee the quality system for the organisation, reflecting her unwavering commitment to excellence. Outside of her professional life, Kylie enjoys beach getaways with her husband and their three dogs, relishing the joys of life now that her children are grown.



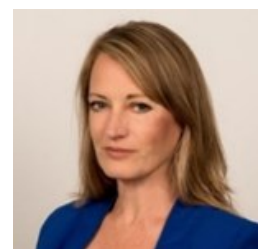
Terry Couper

Graduating 1984 and working in private, public and research clinical areas of Orthoptics, Terry then worked in the ophthalmic industry with CIBA Vision as Regional Manager Aust and NZ. Terry also worked in the team registering voltaren -ophtha with the TGA. Terry returned to Orthoptics after 9 years to work in the research/clinical area helping in the establishing of the first Excimer Laser in Australia, as Unit Manager in 1995, in collaboration with the University of Melbourne's Dept of Ophthalmology and the Royal Victorian Eye and Ear Hospital. He also liaises with industry on clinical trials activities relating to corneal cross linking for keratoconus. Terry also works at the Lions Eye Donation Service as part of the transplant team, where he also represents the Eye Bank Association of Australia and New Zealand on the Prevention Early Intervention Committee of Vision2020 Australia. In the past, Terry has been a casual lecturer for Undergraduate Orthoptic students and Corneal Fellow training. Terry is currently a member on the Board for the Aust Orthoptics Association.



Amanda Davis, BCom, MPH

Amanda has been working in the area of blindness prevention and public health since 2006. Amanda holds the elected position of Chair of the International Agency for the Prevention of Blindness (IAPB) in the Western Pacific region, working with over 50 member organisations and stakeholders across the region in developing evidence for advocacy and programming, facilitating joint initiatives and working on collective advocacy efforts in the area of blindness prevention. She is a member of the WHO SPECS Foundation Committee and holds a leadership position with The Fred Hollows Foundation.

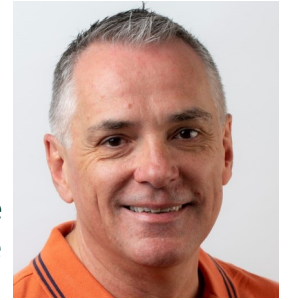




Speakers

Darren Gray

Darren is a Refractive Account Manager at Alcon, where he is promoting Toric and Presbyopia Correcting IOL's. He is also a practicing Perioperative Nurse with over 35 years' experience, with the majority of his skills within Anaesthesia and Ophthalmology Nursing, having been the Advanced Nursing Unit Manager of the Flinders Eye Centre at Flinders Medical Centre. This role also required him to manage the Ophthalmology Clinic. His special interests within Ophthalmology nursing include Paediatrics and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander eye health.



Vicky Heaton

Vicky is the Healthcare Relations Manager at the Macular Disease Foundation Australia. Vicky is a dedicated healthcare professional serving as the Healthcare Relations Manager at Macular Disease Foundation. With a background in optometry, she brings extensive knowledge and experience to the foundation, advocating for best-practice eye care and supporting those affected by macular disease. As a practicing optometrist, Vicky has worked in diverse clinical settings, from rural outreach clinics to aged care facilities. She is committed to bridging the gap between the macular disease community and health professionals, building and maintaining relationships to better support the needs of people with macular disease.



Gabriela Kalofonos

Gabriela completed her Bachelor of Nursing in 2000 at the University of Sydney and has been a Registered Nurse for 23 years. She has worked in ophthalmic day surgeries for the past 16 years, in all areas of the day surgery, but her main interest and experience is as a scrub/scout nurse. She completed the Graduate Certificate in Ophthalmic Nursing in 2018 through the University of Notre Dame and Sydney Eye Hospital. She is currently the Director of Nursing at Forest Road Day Surgery in Hurstville, NSW and has been a member of the AONA Committee since 2018, as one of the NSW representatives.





Speakers

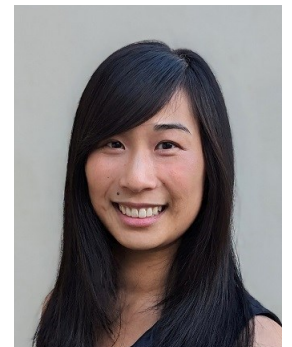
Kerrie Legg

Kerrie completed her nursing training at Royal North Shore Hospital in the early 1990s. She later became Deputy Director and then Director of Clinical Services. After Dalcross closed, she served as Hospital Director and Director of Nursing at Chatswood Private Hospital, focusing on Ophthalmology, ENT, and Dental surgery. Kerrie holds a master's in nursing management from UTS and a Cert IV in Training and Assessment. As a Clinical Lecturer, she trains nurses and medical students, supervises registrar training, and has participated in international Ophthalmology outreach, recently focusing on Indigenous eye health in Griffith, NSW.



Christina Ly

Christina is an optometrist with a passion for public health eye care. For over 10 years, she has provided outreach optometry services to underserved populations, including in refugee health, aged care, homeless shelters, and remote Aboriginal communities. To complement her outreach work, she has coordinated and managed national eye care programs to increase awareness and education of eye health. Christina holds a Bachelor of Optometry, Master of Public Health, Graduate Certificate in University Learning and Teaching, and is currently completing a Graduate Certificate in Social Impact. She has recently returned from her Churchill Fellowship exploring accessible and sustainable eye care delivery for refugees.



Joanna McCulloch –RN MA Nursing (NP), Ophthalmic Nursing Cert, BA Arts (Psychology), BA Health Science, Cert IV Training and Assessment

Joanna completed a post graduate qualification in Ophthalmic Nursing at Moorfields Eye Hospital London with a Masters of Nurse Practitioner from UTS (Sydney). She has worked as a Nurse Educator Ophthalmology developing a Post Graduate Certificate in Ophthalmic Nursing, and in a variety of clinical settings (inpatient, theatres, community and outpatients) with both adults and paediatric patients. She is currently the Clinical Nurse Consultant Ophthalmology at Sydney Hospital and Sydney Eye Hospital.

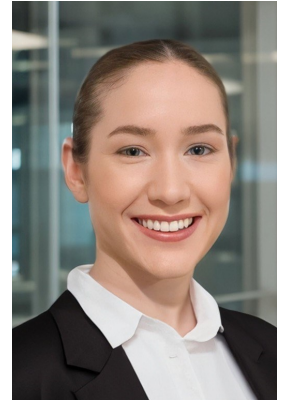




Speakers

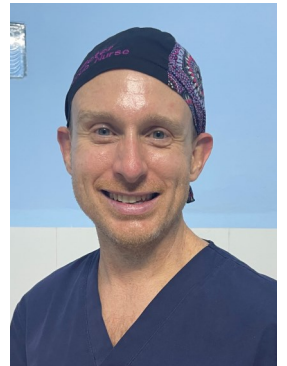
Charis McKerrell

Charis's academic background is rooted in healthcare. She holds a degree in Nursing and a Graduate Diploma of Clinical Practice. With over seven years of experience as a Clinical Nurse Consultant in ophthalmology, she developed a strong foundation in diagnostics, perioperative care, and ophthalmic surgery. Throughout her career, she has mentored and supported other professionals to grow and transition into the field of ophthalmology. Now, as a Product Specialist at ZEISS, she focuses on providing innovative ophthalmic technologies designed to enhance surgical precision and improve patient outcomes. Her passion lies in advancing the field through cutting-edge solutions and fostering growth in others.



Peter Mitchell

Peter is the Vanguard Health Ophthalmic Program Manager based in the Northern Territory. He oversees the Indigenous and Remote Eye Service (IRIS) in Darwin, Nhulunbuy, Katherine, and Alice Springs in the NT as well as the Torres and Cape Ophthalmic Program at Weipa Hospital on the Cape York Peninsula in Far North Queensland. He holds a Bachelor of Nursing, a Graduate Certificate in Perioperative Nursing, and a Professional Honours degree in Perioperative Nursing. Peter is the recipient of the 2024 Northern Territory Health Excellence in Nursing Award for Aboriginal Health. He is passionate about providing ophthalmic services to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders living in remote parts of the country.



Isabella Mou

Isabella Mou is Eye Care Tutor/Ophthalmic Clinician/Eye Health Workforce Coordinator at Madang Provincial Hospital Eye Clinic and DWU Paramed Classroom, where she is involved in the Advanced Diploma in Eye Care program, including providing extensive clinical supervision, delivering lectures, and ensuring safe nursing care for patients at the Madang Provincial Hospital Eye Clinic. She has Diploma in General Nursing, Advanced Diploma in Eye Care, and a Bachelor Degree in Health Service Management.





Speakers

Carmen Newman

Carmen has 27 years' experience in ophthalmic nursing in various nursing roles in Queensland and overseas. Carmen has worked in a wide range of practice settings, including Moorfields Eye Hospital, NGO Orbis International and currently works at the Gold Coast University Hospital as an Interventional Clinical Nurse Consultant (CNC) of Ophthalmology. Carmen has been an AONA Qld member since 2000, serving on the Executive Committee for the last 20 years. Carmen has been involved as the Assistant Course Coordinator for the QUT's Post-graduate 'Principles of Ophthalmic Nursing' Course in Queensland since it commenced in 2005. Carmen will be presenting today about her role as Interventional CNC and establishing a nurse led Intravitreal service to treat macular eye disease.



Thuan Nguyen, BSc, MD

Dr Nguyen is a medical intern based at the Princess Alexandra Hospital in Brisbane. He is interested in a career in Ophthalmology. Albeit a junior resident, Thuan has been avidly involved in the Ophthalmology space for several years, collaborating with Dr Shaheen Shah at the Queensland Childrens' Hospital. He has published research on retinopathy of prematurity screening which was presented at RANZCO's 2023 Best Papers Oral Presentation panel. While simultaneously managing his clinical duties and undertaking a Masters degree, Thuan also works with the Princess Alexandra Hospital Ophthalmology department on a number of hospital-based audits. With a dedication to the specialty, Thuan continues to keep a keen eye out for interesting projects and opportunities within the scope of Ophthalmology.



Zali O'Dea, PhD.

Dr O'Dea is the Founding Director and Principal Counsellor/Educator of Karibu Anawim meaning "Welcome to The Way of Victory". Karibu Anawim trains, equips and nurtures individuals and family members living with facial disfigurement, offering consultancy and professional development to professionals. Zali regularly presents globally advocating, raising awareness pertaining to living with facial eye disfigurement (any eye altering appearance condition) and facial disfigurement. Dr Zali, a published researcher in this field, holds insider status. She survived a car accident as a newborn and lives with third nerve palsy. Dr Zali is a qualified experienced researcher, speaker, teacher, counsellor, and mum.





Speakers

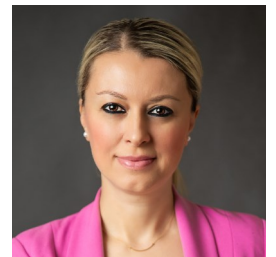
Damian Papps

Damien is the Executive Director of See Differently. With a strong commitment to social impact and mission driven initiatives, Damian leads one of the oldest and most experienced social impact organisations in South Australia. See Differently with the Royal Society for the Blind is the largest provider of guide and assistance dogs in the State and also provides a range of health, technology, manufacturing and packaging services to clients. See Differently employ 175 staff at four locations, with over 38% of their staff having lived experience of a disability. Damian has three decades of global financial services experience with skills in strategy development, investment, mergers and acquisitions, governance and corporate advice. Damian has specialised in healthcare over the past decade, with a focus on aged care, retirement living, medical specialists, general practice, and disability services. Damian holds a Bachelor of Economics, is a Fellow of Chartered Accountants Australia and New Zealand and is an experienced Director serving on several national and international Boards.



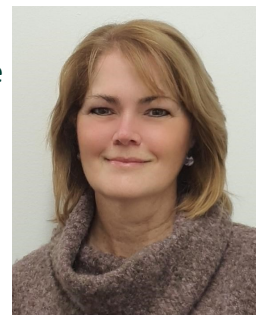
Natasha Sikman

Tash is a Senior Orthoptist Patient Educator with Glaucoma Australia. With over 21 years of extensive experience in tertiary public health, private ophthalmology, and the not-for-profit sector, Natasha holds a wealth of knowledge and a passion for supporting individuals affected by eye disease, low vision, and permanent disability. Her background includes roles at The Royal Victorian Eye and Ear Hospital, Vision Eye Institute, and Guide Dogs Victoria, where she developed her expertise in patient care. Her academic involvement at La Trobe University has allowed her to mentor the next generation of orthoptists, further showcasing her dedication to the field.



Valerie Tosswill

Val is a Senior Orthoptist Patient Educator with Glaucoma Australia. She has a diverse career spanning various sectors including private orthoptic practice, disability, rehabilitation, education, low vision, clinical research, ophthalmic practice, and practice management. As an Associate Lecturer at the University of Sydney in Orthoptics, Val has also contributed to shaping the next generation of professionals in the field. Val's commitment to Orthoptics and patient care is evident through her active involvement with Orthoptics Australia (OA), where she served on both Federal and State Councils of Management from 1993 to 2012, including holding the position of OA Federal President. Val's contributions have been recognised with prestigious accolades, including being the inaugural recipient of the Paediatric Orthoptic Award in 1999 and receiving the honour of OA Fellow in 2007.





Speakers

Tierney Mikolaj and Nicky Wyatt

Tierney and Nicky are both Clinical Nurse Specialists at the Day Ophthalmology Unit, Flinders Eye Centre.

Tierney has worked as a nurse in Ophthalmology for more than a decade. Her career started as a ward nurse surrounded by facedown post-surgical patients, before moving to Flinders Eye Centre to work as a recovery nurse and being told she was going to be an Ophthalmic theatre nurse instead. After a brief break to get a Master of Public Health, she found herself back at Flinders Eye Centre. Tierney's favourite parts about

working in Ophthalmology include education and supporting patients to have great outcomes. On weekends she likes to do Pilates, so she doesn't pull a muscle looking for the 10-0 nylon the surgeon dropped. Nicky commencing her nursing career in 2014, with rotations in theatre and the plastics/ orthopaedic ward. Her specialty in theatre was ENT, also gaining exposure to plastics, general, gynae, ortho, colorectal, vascular and emergency.

Nicky embarked on her ophthalmic journey in 2015. The world of Ophthalmology was foreign, and she had little prior knowledge. She was thrown in the deep end, working in all areas of Day Ophthalmology Unit, clinic, day surgery and theatre. Her true passion was theatre. That passion is still relevant to this day. Having worked her way up (in between having three babies), gaining specialised knowledge and enjoying the different challenges each day brings.





House Keeping

Registration and the AONA Conference Room

Follow directions to the main RANZCO registration area to collect your badge for AONA. Then make your way to our conference room—Riverbank Room 5.

Environmental Responsibility

We are taking every step to ensure this event is ecologically friendly. For that, we are not printing out individual programs or materials. Weblinks will be provided for you to download on to your device.

Mobile Phones

Please put your mobile phone onto silent during the conference presentations.

General Event and Venue Information

AONA is partnering with RANZCO this year. Therefore, please direct any venue and general questions to their event team staff from Think Business and/or the general RANZCO website (e.g. for information on your registration, the venue layout, catering etc.).

Photos

We will be taking photos today. The photos may be used in our event reports and on our social media. Please let our Team know if you do not want your photo image used.

Prizes

There will be a lucky dip and prize session at the end of the day. To win, you must stay for the very last session.

Certificates

Think Business and RANZCO will send you our certificate of attendance.

Join AONA

If you are not already a member of AONA, we encourage you to join.

For information on what we offer and how you can join: <https://www.aona.au>

Note: AONA provides a platform for speakers and sponsors to showcase their knowledge, research, organisation or group, and promote knowledge exchange. Presentations are not an endorsement and speakers and sponsors may or may not reflect the views of AONA.



AONA

**Australia's
peak body for
nurse engagement
in eye care.**



Australian Ophthalmic
Nurses Association

WWW.AONA.AU