




2010/2011 Annual Report to the Federal RSA board from the NEN

Friday 27th May, 2010

Madame Chairperson and board

The Nephrology Educators Network, as the education SiG of the Renal Society of Australasia is pleased to present the following report of our activities over the previous twelve months.

-  Membership update. Full members: 138; Associate members: 18; Vascular Access coordinators: 16. Total membership as of May 18th 2011 = 172
-  The NEN executive now has representation from New Zealand and all Australian states and territories. Tarquin Robinson from the Northern Territory is the most recent member to join the executive. Maggie Goitia (WA representative) is on long service extended leave and Lynn Brown is fulfilling this role for WA in Maggie's absence.
-  The 2nd Biennial Nephrology Educators Network Symposium was held on the 17th and 18th February 2011 at Rendezvous Hotel Melbourne. The symposium was well attended by 64 delegates over the two days. The keynote speaker was Lynda Ball, Quality Improvement Director for the Northwest Renal Network, based in Seattle, USA. Lynda presented a passionate narrative about her work and vision in the area of vascular access care in dialysis. She also outlined how quality improvement plays an important part in dialysis nursing. Other invited speakers included Dr Allison Williams, Dr Paul Bennett and Mr Matthew Woods, the creative media producer behind some of our interactive components of e-learning.

There were six very high calibre abstracts presented, and Blair Donkin's presentation on "Challenging the way we work - making information technology work for us" was voted best presentation. The evaluation of the symposium by the delegates provided very insightful feedback and overall the data showed very positive outcomes – 48 delegates completed the survey, with 89.5% of these scoring the overall relevance, education, organisation and location of the symposium as very good (4) or excellent (5).




















Blair Donkin receiving his best presentation award from NEN Chair, Peter Sinclair. Thanks to Elsevier for donating the award.

The event was well supported by our industry partners, with representatives from 12 company sponsors attending the event, with Amgen the platinum sponsor



Planning for the next symposium is underway and will be held at Gold Coast, Queensland in February 2013. The theme is Ripples to waves: changing the course of renal education.

-  The day prior to the NEN Symposium, three of the NEN executive facilitated the Teach the Teachers workshop at the Royal Melbourne Hospital. The target audience was neophyte educators; however there was a broad range of experience in participants. Interestingly, of the 25 attendees, 10 were from a non-renal background. The workshop will be held again on Wednesday as part of the RSA national conference programme.
-  The 2011 NEN Education Scholarship will be announced at the Gala dinner at the RSA conference in Adelaide.
-  The development of the LEARN project continues. For pragmatic and financial reasons we have decided not to pursue defining the role of the renal nurse and their associated educational needs in Australasia. Rather we have decided to focus our attention on the development of peer reviewed; evidence based educational programs.
-  The development of paper based and e-learning programs by NEN team members continues to be a priority. Each team continues to face challenges in bringing their programs to fruition. I would like to publicly acknowledge all team members particularly given that a lot of them are undertaking this work in their personal time.
-  In December 2010, the NEN purchased an annual license for our own e-learning platform for the learning packages to be developed and hosted. We would like to thank Baxter and Amgen for their generous support in this area. A number of members undertook training in utilising this platform in February 2011 via webex. This training provided the participants with the skills to be able to develop content within the platform. Once developed, the e-Learning modules will be supported by a learning management system that will regionalise area health services. This will afford confidentiality for all staff that undertake these modules and will be linked with their educator or equivalent for assessment.
-  To date we have a number of projects in development. These are:
 -  Introduction to PD (paper based version currently in peer review)
 -  Introduction to HD (paper based version currently in peer review)
 -  Acute Kidney Injury (estimated date for peer review: June 2011)
 -  Hyperphosphataemia (cardiac and bone) (paper based version currently in peer review)
 -  Monthly online journal club (ongoing)
 -  Water quality (estimated date for peer review: TBA)
 -  Advanced fluid assessment (estimated date for peer review: June 2011)
 -  Vascular access (currently in design and concept outline)
 -  Nutrition (team currently being negotiated)
 -  CKD (team currently being negotiated)
-  We have had to review our e-learning launch date due to delays in development. We are now expecting that the introductory programs on PD and HD in addition to the advanced fluid assessment, online journal club and CKD-MBD programs will be launched prior to the end of 2011.



- The NEN has been exploring options to ensure the financial sustainability of the e-learning platform. This has been generously supported by numerous state branches contributing financially. This has ensured that for the first year the e-learning resources will be available free of charge. We are currently investigating appropriate funding models after the first year of delivery.
- Succession planning for NEN executive positions will be a consideration over the coming 12 – 24 months. The executive propose to follow a model whereby a new member joins the executive whilst the incumbent is still in the roll to ensure mentoring and a smooth transition. We recognise that everyone has their own strengths and while the current office bearers have successfully negotiated the formative years of the NEN we are looking for members who will be able to consolidate the work we have done to date while progressing the groups' work in new and innovative ways. All three office bearer positions will become vacant in the next 24 months. The first vacancy will be that of treasurer and expressions of interest for this position are currently being sought.
- The NEN accounts have been audited by Richards Financial Services Katoomba for the Financial Year of 2010 and were found to be true and correct. A copy can be obtained from the NEN Treasurer upon request. As of the 31st March, 2011 the balance of the NEN account stands at \$65,997.56 (10% which is collected GST). A significant proportion of these funds are earmarked for conversion of paper-based learning resources to e-learning programs.
- Publications and Conference Presentations relating to the NEN for 2010/2011 excluding RSA Adelaide
 - Sinclair, P.M. & Levett-Jones, T. (2011). The evolution of the Nephrology Educators' Network. *Journal of Renal Care*. 37(1), 40-46.
 - Sinclair, P.M., Schoch, M., Black, K. & Woods, M. (2011). Proof of concept: Developing a peer reviewed, evidence-based, interactive e-learning program. *Journal of Renal Care*. 37(2), 108-113.
 - Sinclair, P.M., Blackman, I., Schoch, M. & Black, K. (2010). *Using e-learning to increase the preparedness and confidence of nurses to perform buttonhole cannulation*. 39th International EDTNA/ERCA Conference, Dublin, Ireland.
 - Sinclair, P.M. & Black, K. (2010). *The development of an e-learning buttonhole cannulation program to support nurses in the delivery of better vascular access related patient outcomes*. American Nephrology Nurse's Association Annual Symposium, San Antonio, Texas
 - Sinclair, P.M. & Bennett, P. (2010). *The Nephrology Educators' Network: transcending geographical and organizational barriers*. American Nephrology Nurse's Association Annual Symposium, San Antonio, Texas
 - Schoch, M., Black, K., & Sinclair, P.M. (2010). *The development of an e-learning buttonhole cannulation to improve vascular access related outcomes*. The Renal Society of Australasia Conference. 6(S1) s40.
 - Black, K., & Gibson, W. (2010) *Generating the swell: Enhancing access and equity through innovative education strategies*. The Renal Society of Australasia Conference. 6(S1)

We look forward to continuing working with the federal RSA board in the coming year

Peter Sinclair (on behalf the NEN executive)