



## **Profile and History**

The Day Surgery Nurses Interest Group was formed in August 1992 in N.S.W. At this time there was an overwhelming thirst for knowledge and information on this specialty. The group became incorporated in February 1995 as the 'Day Surgery Nurses Association Inc. NSW'.

Nurses working in this specialty are encouraged to join the Association, as it is a forum for the exchange of ideas and discussion and provides a springboard to problem solving.

Regular meetings and workshops for the exchange of ideas and discussions are held throughout the year. These meetings are hosted by different hospitals. Each meeting usually has a guest speaker who will give a short talk on an issue relating to Day Surgery. There is the opportunity for discussion and the exchange of information and ideas during the meetings.

The Inaugural State Conference, held in July 1995, was a great success and saw the membership rise dramatically. A state conference is now held every two years.

- The first educational workshop was held in Bateman's Bay in February 1996. Regular workshops are now held throughout the year at various venues in New South Wales with the assistance of the local members.
- In conjunction with the N.S.W. College of Nursing the first continuing education course for day surgery nurses was held at the College in May. The course was an introduction to and an overview of Day Surgery practice. Further courses have been held and will continue to be held as part of further education.
- Stryker Australia Ltd. provided generous sponsorship for our first national competition. This allowed one of our members to have an all expenses paid trip to the International Congress held in London in 1997.
- In 1995 the association entered into discussion with other day surgery groups in Victoria, South Australia and Western Australia and has now become part of the Australian Day Surgery Nurses Association, which was formally established in November 1996. Two members of the committee represent the NSW Association on the national body. This allows NSW to have a say and to influence decisions made nationally on issues that affect day surgery and day surgery nurses.
- A two-day course was conducted in Coraki for in 1997. The course was organised by the Association in conjunction with the College of Nursing.
- An education fund has been set up by the Association to provide support for members towards ongoing education either by attendance at courses, conferences or to assist with research studies.
- In March 1997 the DSNA NSW newsletter evolved into the 'Day Surge' national quarterly journal. This became the basis for the national journal 'Day Surgery Australia' published by the 'Australian Day Surgery Nurses Association', which commenced in 1999.
- Education sessions are spaced evenly throughout the year and a State Conference is held every 2 years to keep members up to date on current practice, new techniques, innovations and technology.
- DSNA, through ADSNA is now affiliated with The College of Nursing NSW and The Royal College of Nursing.
- DSNA represents day surgery nurses on many working parties and associations at both state and national level and can therefore influence decisions on behalf of our members.
- At the 2008 State Conference, DSNA was approved by the Royal College of Nursing to award CNE Points to all our delegates for the first time. The conference was a great success. Funds injected into the scholarship fund will allow members to attend IAAS in Brisbane in July 2009. Electronic banking facilities were made available to members for easier membership renewal and payment of conference fees etc.
- All states have representation on the ADSNA website, which contains valuable information regarding education in all states, which DSNA members can attend. The website also has links for study and research for members.
- 2009 - An open forum will soon be available on the website to members, where day surgery issues can be discussed live.
- 2009 - NSW has developed an information brochure, which will be available at meetings and on the website. The brochure outlines the benefits of being a member, the current committee contact details and the calendar of meetings. A tear off section gives nurses an easy no fuss membership application.
- 2009 - Scholarship funds will assist 4 members to attend International IAAS Congress in Brisbane.

DSNA NSW continues to provide educational events to our members, in metropolitan and country areas, through State Conferences, workshops, seminars, educational evenings and networking opportunities.

Membership of the Day Surgery Nurses Association continues to grow nationally. As a dynamic group, we can influence change, help set standards, solve problems and ultimately give great satisfaction to our members.