

Special Interest Group Convenors Toolbox

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Introduction

Dear current and future Special Interest Group (SIG) Convenors/Deputy Convenors,

Welcome to the SIG Convenors' Toolbox manual, a guide to the various roles and responsibilities associated with your position. Congratulations on your appointment to a prestigious role within the Society and a personal thank you for volunteering your time and expertise to further the Society's aims.

This manual has been compiled to create an easily accessible resource that includes the necessary information for you to have a comprehensive understanding of your role as SIG Convenors.

By-Laws

The Thoracic Society of Australia and New Zealand (TSANZ) SIG By-Laws outline the guidelines for SIG members and Convenors to follow. To view the SIG By-Laws, please refer to the TSANZ Constitution available on our website: <https://thoracic.org.au/about-us/board-of-directors-and-subcommittees/constitution/>

The section dealing with SIGs is in the By-Laws on pages 71-79.

SIG Convenors Terms of Reference

The SIG Convenor Terms of Reference (ToR) outline the roles and responsibilities of the SIGs and their Convenors. To view the SIG Convenor ToR, please see Appendix I.

TSANZ Annual Scientific Meeting-related Tasks

Below is an example calendar for the current standard two-year period. This is a guide to outline the key calendar dates for SIG Convenors for the TSANZ Annual Scientific Meeting (ASM) and other key periods throughout the year. Please note that the following dates are indicative; please look out for e-mails with precise dates around that time.

Current Year	Following Year
March - TSANZ ASM - SIG Oral Sessions - SIG Poster Sessions - SIG Symposium	January/February – Confirm Chairs for oral sessions
Early May - Call for symposia sent out to SIGs for the next year's ASM	February/March - EOIs for SIG Deputy Convenors/Convenors to be sent out
Mid-July - Abstract submission opened	March/April - TSANZ ASM - SIG Oral Sessions - SIG Poster Sessions - SIG Symposium
Late July - Symposia proposals for next year are due	
End of August - Symposia confirmed	
September - Confirmation of symposia speakers due	

**End of September - SIG Reviewers for ASM
Abstracts need to be provided to the TSANZ
Office/The Conference Company (TCC)**

**Mid-October - Abstract submission deadline,
all abstracts sent to SIGs without allocated
sessions for marking**

End of October - Marked abstracts due

**Early December - Compiled abstract scores
returned for session allocation**

Annual Scientific Meeting Manual – Special Interest Group Information

The Board retains the right of approval of the content of the Scientific Program.

Theme of the ASM

The theme of the ASM is proposed and approved by the TSANZSRS Conference Steering Committee (CSC) up to 2 years in advance and endorsed by the Board. This theme should be approved 12 months prior to the ASM. A sample ASM Program is included in Appendix II.

Composition

The Scientific Program comprises:

1. A combination of unopposed and concurrent sessions/symposia
2. Prize sessions within concurrent sessions for prize finalists
3. Combined sessions with ANZSRS (joint plenary, Masterclass)
4. Breakfast sessions
5. Abstracts for oral presentation within concurrent sessions
6. Abstracts for poster presentation at the Poster Wine and Cheese session
7. EMCR Networking Session
8. Meet the Expert Session

Unopposed sessions will include:

1. The TSANZ Annual General Meeting (AGM)
2. Plenary sessions
3. The TSANZ Welcome Reception
4. The Ann Woolcock New Investigator Award (NIA)
5. TSANZ Awards for Respiratory Research Excellence
6. President's Award and The Wonderful Oration Session.
7. Poster Wine and Cheese Session

A broad representation of the interests of the TSANZ is expected, and sessions will be specifically allocated to SIGs.

Appendix III sets out the roles and responsibilities of SIG Convenors as they relate to the ASM. These duties are also listed in the SIG Convenor and Deputy Convenor ToR. This document will be provided to all new SIG Convenors and Deputy Convenors upon commencement of their roles.

SIG Convenors' roles and responsibilities include:

- Co-ordinate and submit in a timely manner SIG-specific proposals for symposia and/or plenary sessions in the appropriate format according to the conference call-out.
- Nominate and confirm reviewers for abstracts specific to the SIG, ensuring a breadth of reviewers to manage conflict of interest.
- Provide advice to the CSC on the allocation of abstracts into appropriate sessions.
- Nominate and confirm chairpersons for all SIG sessions.
- Liaise with the CSC and TCC to confirm details as required.
- Co-ordinate the selection of SIG prize-winners. Session chairs (or others as required) will be selecting and scoring the best presentations.
- Thank sponsors of prizes for their support and thank session chairs and invited speakers.

Symposia Sessions

The call for symposia and sessions occurs in June the year prior to the ASM. All SIG Convenors and Deputy Convenors receive the notice with a **due date set near the end of July**. It is the responsibility of the CSC to rank and select proposals, including the Plenary sessions. Proposals that demonstrate a commitment to gender and professional diversity will be prioritised.

Since 2017, TSANZ has had two dedicated Plenary sessions plus a joint plenary with ANZSRS. The joint plenary is developed by the TSANZ CSC and ANZSRS Conference Organising Committee, to be approved by the TSANZSRS Committee.

Symposia may be held on subjects chosen by the CSC or SIGs with the approval of the CSC. They will usually run outside other sessions, e.g., oral. These may be available for partnership with external organisations.

The CSC is to ensure that all SIGs have the opportunity to submit symposia proposals and are adequately represented in the program. Once selected and notified, it is the responsibility of the session proposer to confirm proposed speakers and session chairs.

The Masterclass Symposium is a combined session with ANZSRS. The TSANZ Pulmonary Physiology & Sleep SIG Convenors are to liaise with ANZSRS representatives to develop the session proposal, to be approved by the CSC and TSANZSRS Executive Committee.

Breakfast Sessions

Breakfast Sessions are informal sessions of appropriate subject matter determined by CSC and held over a light breakfast. The number and timing of sessions may vary – the number of sessions on individual days may, in some cases, be dictated by the number of individual rooms available at the selected venue. The purpose of these sessions is to encourage interactive discussion and networking and not for didactic presentations.

Ann Woolcock NIA

Typically, six abstracts will be selected by the Research Subcommittee (RSC) for presentation in the NIA oral session. The NIA Session is unopposed by other sessions. Chairs for this session are selected

by the RSC. All finalists will receive a complimentary ticket to the TSANZ ASM Gala Dinner, where the award will be presented.

Awards

The Award session features the TSANZ/Partners awards and prizes. The awards will vary from time to time. Details of some of the awards are posted on the TSANZ and TSANZSRS websites. Winners from previous years are posted on the TSANZ website. Other TSANZ awards are presented throughout the ASM and final scheduling is decided by the CSC. Since 2018, a specific session has been introduced into the program (TSANZ Awards for Respiratory Research Excellence), hosting TSANZ and Partners Awards. SIG Awards have been removed from the Tuesday afternoon session and are now announced post-ASM on the TSANZ website.

Abstracts

TCC will liaise with the TSANZSRS CSC and TSANZ Head Office on the content of the call for abstracts. Abstracts are submitted by primary and secondary SIGs for either oral or poster presentations. Typically, the abstract deadline falls in October the year prior to the ASM, with applicants notified of the abstract outcome by mid-December. These abstracts are reviewed by the SIG Reviewers, with the top-ranking abstracts being offered a dedicated Oral session and the remainder a poster session. These sessions are included in the main program and structured around existing Symposium's and unopposed sessions.

Reviewing Process

The TSANZ Events and Education Officer will liaise with the SIG Convenors and TCC to coordinate the organisation of abstract graders and ensure abstracted graders are confirmed by the end of September of the year prior to the ASM. Each abstract will be blind reviewed. Since 2017, a minimum of 4 abstract reviewers are requested from each SIG to ensure conflict of interest (COI) is handled appropriately and the workload is reasonable.

Grading System

Abstracts are scored by reviewers on a scale of 1-10, with 1 being poor and 10 being excellent. Abstract reviewers are to declare COI and remove themselves from abstract reviewing where appropriate. Abstract reviews are to be completed within 3-4 weeks after the abstract deadline.

Oral Presentations

Oral presentations that run concurrently should, as far as possible, be on different topics, in order to ensure that delegates interested in a particular subject are able to attend all the sessions on that subject. If there is a large selection of oral presentations from one or more SIGs, there may be multiple sessions held if rooming allows. This is subject to approval from the CSC.

Poster Presentations

The poster discussion session is now labelled under the Poster Wine and Cheese session at the ASM. All posters are placed into the same location, usually the exhibition hall, and are ordered based on the SIG under which they were submitted. This session incorporates:

1. All posters manned during this time, during which time poster reviewers nominated by the SIG Convenors will tour the posters and other delegates have the opportunity for interaction with the primary poster author.
2. Reviewers are able to view the posters after this session to assist with scoring, and scoring sheets are to be submitted to the PCO once completed.

The number of oral sessions per SIG is based on the number of abstracts submitted in any given year. The selection of abstracts for oral sessions is initially based on the ranking scores provided by reviewers. The SIG Convenors have final approval of the selection (expected early December) and may alter the program to ensure appropriate session theming. Rejected abstracts (e.g., those not presenting any data) are to be approved by the CSC Chair prior to rejection.

It is the responsibility of the SIG Convenors to provide session chairs for all oral sessions by early February prior to the ASM.

It is the responsibility of SIG Convenors to select the Best Poster (as recommended by session chairs) for their SIG and notify the TCC. TCC then provides a list of the best posters, based on scoring, and the RSC then selects their top 3 posters, discusses and agrees on a winner. The RSC then notify TSANZ Head Office, who contact the winners. Convenors will delegate this responsibility should a COI be present.

All oral slide presentations must commence with the Declaration of COI Slide.

Other program inclusions

The program may also include:

Associated Meetings - includes committee/subcommittee meetings, AGM, closed sessions and sponsored symposia.

Advanced Trainees Course - a 1.5-day interactive session for Advanced Trainees. Not included in the registration fee.

Graduate Course(s) - interactive workshop opportunities for postgraduates including at least 1 interventional course, held the day prior to the ASM commencing. These are not included in the registration fee. Please be aware that arriving a day early needs to be factored in when booking flights and accommodation. Course proposals are managed by TCC and require approval from the CSC.

Other ASM Key Dates

Postgraduate Workshop and Symposia submission opens: mid-June

Postgraduate Workshop and Symposia submission closes: mid-July

Abstract submission opens: mid-July

Registration opens: early October

Abstract submission closes: early October

Earlybird Deadline: mid-January the following year

ASM: late March/early April the following year

Election and Annual Meeting

Election

Each year, the TSANZ Office organises a call for nominations to be sent out to members for either the SIG Deputy Convenor or Co-Convenor positions.

If there are more nominations than positions to be filled, an election will be held. In the event of an election, voting will be conducted electronically prior to the SIG Annual Meeting. Further information on the election process will be provided once nominations have closed.

As per the By-Laws:

- (a) At the first SIG Annual Meeting after registration of the Company, the SIG Members shall elect from among their number the following office bearers:
 - (i) one (1) or two (2) Convenors; and
 - (ii) one (1) or two (2) Deputy Convenors.
- (b) At the third SIG Annual Meeting after registration of the Company and every second SIG Annual Meeting thereafter, the SIG Members shall elect from among their number one (1) or two (2) Deputy Convenors.
- (c) SIG Members will decide by majority vote whether to elect one (1) or two (2) Deputy Convenors. At the first SIG Annual Meeting, there must be the same number of Convenors elected as Deputy Convenors. SIG Members may decide to elect two (2) Deputy Convenors instead of one (1) Deputy Convenor where, for example:
 - (i) the SIG has a large number of SIG Members; or
 - (ii) there is a need to represent distinct subgroups within the SIG.
- (d) The SIG must ensure that the details of the Convenor(s) and Deputy Convenor(s), once elected, are provided to the Company Secretary.

With the exception of the initial Convenor(s), prior to a SIG Member being appointed as the Convenor, that SIG Member should have served a two (2) year term as Deputy Convenor immediately prior to assuming office as the Convenor. The Deputy Convenor(s) shall hold the office of Deputy Convenor(s) for a term of two (2) years.

The Deputy Convenor(s) shall, on the expiry of the Deputy Convenor's two (2) year term, by default assume the position of Convenor(s). The Convenor(s) shall hold the office of Convenor(s) for a term of two (2) years. The Convenor(s) is not eligible for re-election as Deputy Convenor(s) on or ever after the expiry of the two (2) year term referred to in By-Law 15.3.

Annual Meeting

In August 2025, the Board approved that the SIG Annual Meeting shall be held independently from the ASM, at such time and place as the Convenor shall appoint. SIG Convenors are asked to notify the TSANZ Office of the meeting date, time, and location, so that the TSANZ Office can assist with arrangements and ensure the meeting notice is sent to members.

Non-ASM Tasks

Policy Review

SIG Convenors may be contacted by the TSANZ Staff to comment on certain policy submissions. In the event of a policy request, SIG Convenors can:

- Include their individual feedback to TSANZ; or
- Ask for a message to be sent out to their respective SIG members via the Central Office to seek SIG member comments to collate a SIG response to the policy request. This single document will be collated from the various responses of SIG members, and the SIG Convenors will send this document back to the TSANZ Office at the reasonably determined time. This is so the response can be included/utilised in the TSANZ submission.

If you are asked by a staff member of the TSANZ Office to submit and/or contribute to a policy submission for or on behalf of TSANZ, please indicate if you wish to put a call out to SIG members and the Central Office will assist in coordinating this with you.

For any policy submissions that you think are in your field of expertise, please contact the Advocacy team at their mailbox advocacy@thoracic.org.au.

Clinical Care and Resources Subcommittee (CCRS)/ETS Expert Reviewer

Expert review by the SIGs is critical to ensure that all TSANZ documents (guidelines and position papers) are peer reviewed and can be effectively implemented in clinical practice. Sometimes the SIGs will also be asked to provide expert content review for documents from external organisations who have asked for TSANZ endorsement.

CCRS/ETS may call upon SIG convenors to ask them to recommend a SIG member or volunteer themselves to review the documents within a specified timeframe. It may be expected that feedback and commentary is provided (if applicable) as to whether you would recommend the document for endorsement by the TSANZ.

Review of TSANZ and external documents is often time sensitive. SIG convenors should call on their SIG members to assist with a timely review. The Central Office can assist with calling for volunteers from your SIG if required.

Educational Tasks

TSANZ SIGs have been involved in the organisation of various educational events, including Short Courses and Webinars and may be called upon by the TSANZ Office to assist in providing support to find speakers for the activity. SIG members are welcome to propose ideas for short courses or other educational events to be run through TSANZ.

If you're interested in courses, please contact the TSANZ Events team at TSANZevents@thoracic.org.au.

Appendix I: Special Interest Group (SIG) Convenor and Deputy Convenor Terms of Reference (TOR)

Aim of the Special Interest Group (SIG)

The purpose of SIGs is defined in the By-Laws of the Society Constitution. Broadly, the aim of SIGs is to foster collaboration, research, education, advocacy and professional engagement among TSANZ members within a common defined area of interest.

Chair

- a) The SIG is chaired by a Convenor and Deputy Convenor.
- b) SIG Members shall elect from among their number one (1) or two (2) Deputy Convenors.
- c) The Deputy Convenor holds office for a term of 2 years. The Deputy Convenor shall, on the expiry of his or her 2-year term, by default assume the position of Convenor. The Convenor shall hold the office of Convenor for a term of 2 years. Therefore, upon election, a Member serves in office in the SIG for a total of 4 years.

Role and Responsibilities of the Convenor and Deputy Convenor

The Convenor and Deputy Convenor will:

- a. Be familiar with the By-Laws of the Constitution
- b. Be available to coordinate expert advice from the SIG when required, or as requested by the TSANZ Office. The SIG Convenors will contact SIG members (via the TSANZ Office) for feedback, collate all feedback and provide a formal response to the Office.
- c. Co-ordinate communication with the SIG via the TSANZ Office. The TSANZ office can provide Convenors' support with communicating with members and with setting up SIG tele/video conference meetings.
- d. Contribute to the development and staging of scientific sessions at the ASM. Specifically:
 - i. Co-ordinate and submit SIG-specific proposals for symposia and/or plenary sessions in the appropriate format according to the conference call-out.
 - ii. Nominate and confirm reviewers for abstracts specific to the SIG, ensuring a breadth of reviewers to manage conflict of interest.
 - iii. Provide advice to the CSC on the allocation of abstracts into appropriate sessions.
 - iv. Nominate and confirm chairpersons for all SIG sessions.
 - v. Liaise with the CSC and The Conference Company to confirm details as required.
 - vi. Co-ordinate the selection of SIG prize-winners. Session chairs (or others as required) will be selecting and scoring the best presentations.
 - vii. Thank sponsors of prizes for their support and thank session chairs and invited speakers.

Meetings of the SIG and Reporting

- e. The Convenor will chair the SIG Annual Meeting.
- f. No less than 21 days prior to the SIG meeting, the Convenor shall send out (via

TSANZ Office) a Meeting Notice and Expression of Interest for new deputy-convenors, if required.

- g. The purpose of the SIG meeting is to review the goals of the SIG, review past activities and discuss future SIG-related activities.
- h. The Convenor shall prepare minutes of the Annual meeting, including details of outgoing Convenors and incoming Deputy Convenors. The minutes are to be forwarded to the Company Secretary (TSANZ Office) in a timely fashion.
- i. The Convenor and Deputy Convenor will attend the SIG Convenors' Meetings, held face-to-face at the ASM or online at other times during the year.
- j. The Convenor shall prepare an annual SIG report detailing SIG activities and achievements prior to the Company's AGM. This report will be included in the annual reports of the Company.

Appendix II: Guidelines for Chairs of Oral and Poster Sessions

Briefing Notes for Plenary, Symposium and SIG Oral Chairs (these will be sent to all Chairs a few weeks prior to the Meeting)

To ensure that our sessions are enjoyable, informative and fair for all speakers and members of the audience, please read AND follow these guidelines.

BEFORE THE MEETING

If you are chairing a SIG oral session, try to identify some questions for each presentation in advance based on the relevant abstracts. Read the abstracts being presented in your session. Abstracts will be available on the TSANZSRS App and Website closer to the ASM. We will notify you when they are available. *Please note: nominations cannot come from someone with a conflict of interest. Please advise tsanzsrs@tcc.co.nz if you have a conflict of interest.*

If you are chairing a plenary or symposium session, speaker bios will be available in the room you are chairing. These will also be available on the TSANZSRS App.

ON ARRIVAL

Check in with The Conference Company member in the Speakers' Preparation Room about any changes to your session.

If you are chairing a SIG oral session, collect the SIG Oral Nomination Form to shortlist the best presentation within the session for a SIG Prize.

If any housekeeping announcements need to be made at the end of your session, these will be left on the lectern in the relevant meeting room. Printed speaker bios for plenary and symposium sessions will also be available in the room.

BEFORE THE SESSION

Meet and introduce yourself to the speakers. Confirm how they would like to be introduced. Try and put new speakers at ease!

Advise speakers of their time limit and how the expiry of their time will be indicated to them (refer to the detailed program for the time allotted to each speaker). Reinforce with them that time has been allocated at the end of their presentation for questions and discussion.

It is important to keep strictly to time so that all sessions finish at the published time.

Check that the audio-visual equipment in the room meets the presenter's requirements. If there are any problems in your room, please seek assistance from the audio-visual technician in the room or in the Speakers' Preparation Room.

Check the content of the session, so you can introduce it.

AT THE START OF THE SESSION

Introduce yourself to the participants as the Chair(s) of the session.

Advise the amount of time for audience participation, and then introduce each speaker and the title of the paper. Include brief biographical details **only** if you are chairing a plenary session or mini-symposium with invited speakers. For SIG oral sessions, simply introduce the speaker's name and presentation title.

DURING THE SESSION

PLEASE KEEP A CLOSE EYE ON TIMING TO ENSURE THE SESSION ENDS PROMPTLY.

Questions and discussion following each speaker should be addressed to the Chair.

Cut off any audience member who is making long statements and is not asking a question.

Cut off any questions that could be considered "abusive", or "out of line".

Have at least one question ready for each speaker. You should only ask your question first if no questions come from the floor.

If there are any problems during the session, seek help from the technician at the back of the room or The Conference Company staff member.

AT THE END OF THE SESSION

Thank the presenters and audience for their participation.

If you are chairing a plenary or symposium session, The Conference Company staff will bring gifts for invited speakers to the meeting room. A formal presentation can be made to all plenary speakers when wrapping up the session. For symposia, gifts should be distributed after the session has ended. Please return any uncollected gifts to the Speakers' Preparation Room.

If you are chairing a SIG oral session, convene with your co-chair to decide on the best oral within the session, complete the SIG Oral Nomination Form and return it to the Speakers' Preparation Room as soon as possible.

Please indicate any conflicts of interest on the nomination form.

Thank you for agreeing to act as a Chair and for helping to make the Meeting a success.

Briefing Notes for Poster Wine and Cheese Session

To ensure that our sessions are enjoyable, informative and fair for all speakers and members of the audience, please read AND follow these guidelines.

BEFORE THE MEETING

Read the abstracts being presented by your SIG during this session. These will be available prior to the ASM online and during the Meeting on the TSANZSRS App. We will notify you when they are available.

Try to identify some questions for each poster author during the viewing period as well as some broad topics for the facilitated discussion based on the relevant abstracts in the online program.

ON ARRIVAL

Check in with The Conference Company staff member in the Speakers' Preparation Room about any changes to your session and to collect the **SIG Poster Nomination Form** (used for shortlisting the TSANZ Best Poster Prize and SIG Best Presentation).

15 MINUTES PRIOR TO THE START OF THE SESSION

Meet and introduce yourself to your co-reviewer. Confirm that you will be able to meet immediately after the session to decide on the best poster.

DURING THE SESSION

Each poster will be available for viewing in the Poster Hall, which is in a part of the main Exhibition Hall. Poster viewing with presenters alongside their poster occurs during the Poster Wine and Cheese session. Posters presenters are required to stand by their poster at that time.

AT THE END OF THIS SESSION

Thank the presenters and then meet with co-reviewer to discuss posters. The scoring sheets are to be returned to TCC once they are completed.

Please note: nominations cannot come from someone with a conflict of interest. Please advise tsanzsrs@theconferencecompany.com if you have a conflict of interest.

Thank you for agreeing to act as a Chair and for helping to make the Meeting a success.

Appendix III: Briefing Notes for SIG Convenors at the ASM

JUNE OF YEAR PRIOR

SIG Symposia

Coordinate and submit SIG-specific proposals for symposia and/or plenary sessions.

Convenor leads a submission for a symposia proposal in response to an invitation from the TSANZ office. The submission **deadline is mid-July** (6 weeks). Speakers for the submission should be considered and a need for gender and professional diversity in the lineup should be observed.

Post Graduate Courses

TSANZ office calls for Post Graduate Workshop ideas from members. Consider submitting a proposal on behalf of your SIG. Submission **deadline is the end of July**.

EARLY OCTOBER OF YEAR PRIOR

Nominate and confirm reviewers for abstracts specific to the SIG, ensuring a breadth of reviewers to manage conflict of interest.

In mid-October, you will receive a link to the abstracts to be reviewed by The Conference Company.

The reviewer **deadline is the end of the first week of November**.

Provide advice to the CSC on the allocation of abstracts into appropriate sessions. Session allocation for the abstract **deadline is the end of the first week of December**.

TWO WEEKS PRIOR (MARCH)

The Convenor shall prepare an annual SIG report detailing SIG activities and achievements prior to the Company's AGM. This report will be included in the annual reports of the Company.

Appendix IV: Example of newsletter

TSANZ Respiratory Nursing SIG Newsletter May 2025

Welcome to Ms Jane Neill Australia Co-convenor April 2025



Congratulations to Jane on being elected as the Australian co-convenor of respiratory nurses SIG. Jane is a Respiratory Nurse Practitioner on the Sunshine Coast in Queensland. She developed nurse led services to support patients living with chronic lung disease in the UK, before moving to Australia in 2006 where she has developed nurse led models of care for respiratory patients in Sydney and on the Sunshine Coast. She is passionate about hospital avoidance and empowering the community management of chronic lung disease.

We would like to thank to all those who expressed interest in the Australian co-convenor role. We appreciate your willingness to volunteer your time and to support the work of the SIG

Catherine, Sharon and Nicola are delighted to welcome Jane to respiratory nurse SIG convenors. We look forward to working together on behalf of our members



Ms Catherine Buchan Australia Convenor



Ms Sharon Hancock New Zealand Convenor



Ms Nicola Corna New Zealand Co-Convenor



[Farewell and thankyou:](#) on behalf of the SIG, we thank Mr John Harrington (Australian convenor) for all his time and hard work for the respiratory nurses SIG.

AGM 2nd April 2025

This year's AGM was our first to be held via zoom and was successful and attracted our highest attendance in recent years (21 SIG members). It was highly engaging and all agreed to continue our SIG AGM outside of the ASM and online. Next AGM TBC April 2026

TSANZSRS ASM 2025 March 21 – 25 March 2025

Our national ASM was held at the Adelaide Convention Centre, March 21-25 2025 Theme 'Sustainable advances in lung health in a changing climate'.

There was a strong representation of nurse led, nurse first author abstracts (oral and poster) presentations in all SIGs. This is an excellent representation of nurses at TSANZ and highlights the

diversity of nurse led research to the broader community. Respiratory nurses SIG had three collaborative symposiums with other SIGs: COPD, Physio and Symptom Support and Palliation SIG which were all very successful with respiratory nurse representation.

- a. *Prioritising preventive and low carbon treatment options for sustainable management of respiratory disease*. Proposers: Arwel Jones (COPD SIG), Catherine Buchan and John Harrington (Respiratory Nurses SIG)
- b. *Opioid Shortages in Australia and New Zealand - what this means for breathlessness management - challenges, opportunities and evidence for use*. Proposers: Rebecca Disler (Symptom Support and Pall Care SIG), Catherine Buchan (Respiratory Nurses SIG)
- c. *Improving chronic lung disease management in Indigenous populations in adverse climate conditions*. Proposers: Dr Mariana Hoffman Barbosa (Physiotherapy SIG), Rebecca Disler (Symptom Support and Pall Care SIG), Catherine Buchan (Respiratory Nurses SIG).



Improving chronic lung disease management in Indigenous populations in adverse climate conditions.

Wonderful post symposium discussion and planning for next year!

L-R: Dr Subash Heraganahally, Dr Erik Tikof, Dr Andy Davies, Ms Jane Neil, Ms Catherine Buchan, Ms Siji Issac, Ms Ara Perez



Congratulations Ms Pauline Connell Respiratory Nurse Oral SIG Best Presentation 2025 "Healthy Teeth for healthy lungs"



Respiratory Nurses Indigenous Award 2025

Congratulations to Ms Adrienne Mackenzie. We look forward to hearing an update from Adrienne on how this award assists her work. It was lovely for a few of us to celebrate with Adrienne at the award ceremony.

L-R: Mr Emil Tabbada, AProf Rebecca Disler, Ms Adrienne Mackenzie, Ms Catherine Buchan, Dr Vanessa Brunelli

TSANZSRS ASM 2026 Perth March 27 – 31st 2026. Theme "Lungs Under the Microscope"

The SIG members are encouraged to submit abstracts for the ASM. SIG Members who would like confidential support to develop an idea, submit ethics and formulate their abstracts – please contact

the SIG convenors. We encourage you to do this as soon as possible. In addition, please encourage the clinical nurses working in your departments to submit abstracts and attend the conference.

We will continue to build engagement through increased nurse led abstract submissions, as well as our SIG profile through symposium and topical presentations at the ASM. Please reach out to the SIG convenors if you have suggestions for symposium topics related to the ASM theme.

TSANZ Position Statement –Respiratory nursing Australian and New Zealand Delphi consensus.

Update: To identify the priorities for the progression of resp nursing as a specialised discipline; we conducted a Delphi and reported to the PSS and the board. The board endorsed as a commissioned position statement – after PSS and blinded peer review. The manuscript is under peer review with respirology with revisions completed. We hope to share shortly this has been accepted for publication.

Committees and Working Parties – Ask us how to join!

Expressions of interest are sought from the TSANZ member via emails. We have a number of nursing members on these committees and working parties but we would like to have more. We encourage all nursing members to apply for these roles. They are a great way to meet new people, learn or expand your knowledge and experience, and importantly to ensure that we have strong nurse representation within TSANZ. Please reach out to the SIG Convenors if you would like more information and/or for confidential support and review of your application prior to submission.

Contact details:

Australian Convenor: Catherine Buchan
New Zealand Convenor: Sharon Hancock

Australian Convenor: Jane Neill
New Zealand Convenor: Nicola Corna