

ACN Foundation Winter Appeal:
The importance of supporting nurse leaders like Annette Bezzant,
Lt Col. Vivian Bullwinkel Scholar 2025



Day one at Sunnybrook – nervous but excited



Annette's proud mum and sisters on her graduation day



Preparing and presenting at short notice for the team at Alberta Kidney Care North



Arriving for duty at Alberta Kidney Care North

This winter, the ACN Foundation is asking supporters like you to invest in nursing leadership by funding the Bullwinkel Scholars Program.

Your gift gives nurses the opportunity to build advanced skills, learn from world-leading practice, and bring innovative, nurse-led models of care back to Australia—improving outcomes for patients and communities, especially those living with chronic and complex health conditions.

Below is a Bullwinkel Scholar's story—shared as a reminder of what's possible when we back nurses to lead, learn and drive change.

A BULLWINKEL SCHOLAR'S STORY:

"I am deeply grateful to the ACN Foundation for the scholarship I received. It was an extraordinary honour in Vivian Bullwinkel's memory—and it strengthened my leadership and my ability to make a difference through nursing."

In 2025, the scholarship supported my travel to Toronto, Canada for an educational observership at Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre. I gained advanced, evidence-based knowledge and skills relevant to my

nephrology nursing specialisation, learning from leading medical professionals and nurse practitioners and observing innovative, nurse-led models of care in action."

"This winter, I hope you'll help create that same opportunity for other nurses, so more Bullwinkel Scholars can learn, lead, and improve care for patients and communities across Australia."

"I completed my application while caring for my mother in the final months of dementia. In that time, I drew strength from Mum's resilience—and from the example of Lieutenant Colonel Vivian Bullwinkel, whose courage and service continue to inspire nurses to lead with purpose."

"With the support of the Bullwinkel scholarship, I travelled overseas to learn from globally recognised leaders and to observe innovative, nurse-led models of care. Back home, I've used that learning to strengthen my clinical leadership, continue further study, and expand access to care through outreach and community-based services."

Annette Bezzant MACN, 2025 Vivian Bullwinkel Scholarship recipient



Annette with her amazing Sunnybrook hosts

Gifts to the Winter Appeal help fund these life-changing learning opportunities—so more nurses can bring new knowledge back to their teams, services and communities.

Your donation this winter will help:

- Fund scholarships that build advanced nursing capability and leadership
- Support learning that translates into better, safer patient care
- Strengthen access and equity through nurse-led innovation in communities across Australia

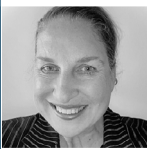
If you can, please make a tax-deductible gift to the ACN Foundation Winter Appeal to support the **Bullwinkel Scholars Program**. Every contribution helps create more opportunities for nurses to learn, lead and deliver lasting improvements in care.

Thank you for standing with nurses this winter—and for helping to carry Vivian Bullwinkel's legacy forward through the next generation of nursing leaders.



To donate
Scan the QR code or visit the ACN Foundation website acnfoundation.org.au

Contact Julijana Trifunovic, Director of Philanthropy to organise a private conversation
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