

ACN FOUNDATION SUMMER APPEAL 2024

YOUR IMPACT, SUPPORTING AUSTRALIAN NURSES

SUPPORTER NEWSLETTER

The Australian College of Nursing (ACN) Foundation provides access, through funding, to support initiatives that enhance, develop and recognise contributions made by Australian nurses that will improve the health of the Australian community and secure nursing history.

SUPPORT THE FUTURE OF NURSING RESEARCH

THE ACN FOUNDATION SUMMER APPEAL 2024

The ACN Foundation invites you to join us in a heartfelt initiative to support the next generation of nurse researchers across Australia. This summer, we're reaching out to you to help empower more dedicated nurses like Caitlin Kent, a recipient of an ACN Foundation Emerging Research Leadership Program (ERLP) Scholarship.

In 2023, the ACN Foundation proudly awarded 15 scholarships, each worth \$10,000, to talented nurses committed to improving health care through research. With your generosity, we can continue this initiative over the next 12 months, enabling even more nurses to explore critical areas of health care that impact our communities.

Caitlin Kent, a registered nurse and research nurse based in Darwin, embodies the passion and commitment that the ERLP fosters. With diverse experience across acute stroke, neurology units, and primary care in Aboriginal communities, Caitlin has seen firsthand the challenges our healthcare system faces.

'Having worked in a range of clinical settings, from acute stroke and neurology units to primary care in Aboriginal communities across the Top End, I have always been passionate about patient care.'

Her current research focuses on understanding emergency department (ED) nurses' perspectives on mental health care—a vital area as we witness a rise in mental health-related presentations. With psychiatric services stretched thin, ED nurses often find themselves at the forefront, caring for patients with limited support and training. Yet, their insights remain largely unheard, highlighting an urgent need for research in this area.

Through the ERLP, Caitlin is conducting a qualitative study in the Northern Territory, interviewing ED nurses to uncover their experiences and challenges. Her work aims to inform policy changes that can enhance mental health care in emergency settings, ultimately improving outcomes for countless Australians.

Participating in the ERLP has transformed Caitlin's career, equipping her with the skills and confidence to lead impactful research. With plans to pursue her Honours program in 2025, she is committed to shaping the future of health care not just for her patients, but for generations to come.

This summer, we invite you to be part of Caitlin's journey and the journeys of many other passionate nurses in the future. Your donation can help us award more scholarships, fostering research that addresses the pressing healthcare challenges in our communities across Australia.

Participating in the ERLP has been a transformative experience, Caitlin said.

Let's come together this holiday season to invest in the future of nursing research. Your generosity will help empower nurses like Caitlin to make meaningful changes in health care, ensuring better health outcomes for all Australians.

Thank you in advance for your continued support and commitment to advancing nursing research.



Caitlin Kent



HOW YOU CAN HELP:

Donate: Every contribution to the ACN Foundation goes a long way in supporting nurse-led research.

Share: Help us spread the word by sharing this appeal with friends, family, and colleagues.

Engage: Follow our journey and the impact of your support on social media, on our website and in our publications.



SCAN TO
DONATE



A MESSAGE FROM OUR CEO

Thank you for your ongoing support of the ACN Foundation. As I complete my eighth week as CEO of ACN and the ACN Foundation, I want to express my appreciation for the vital work we do in providing nurses with the skills and knowledge they need through our scholarship program.

Having been a member for over 30 years, I've gained a deeper understanding of the significant impact that donations to the ACN Foundation have on the nursing profession. Personally, I benefited from an ACN research scholarship that enabled me to complete my PhD. It's remarkable to think that, all those years ago, I never imagined I would be in this position today.

Adjunct Professor Kathryn Zeitz PhD FACN

THE BULLWINKEL SCHOLARS PROGRAM

TRANSFORMATIVE LEADERSHIP: INSIGHTS FROM THE NURSE DIRECTOR LEADERSHIP PROGRAM



Leisa Jackson MACN, a dedicated nurse unit manager and registered nurse reflects on her experience in the Nurse Director Leadership Program (NDLP) and its profound impact on her career. Over five transformative days, Leisa discovered invaluable lessons that reignited her passion for nursing and reshaped her approach to leadership. Leisa received one of 22 Bullwinkel Scholars Program scholarships valued at \$10,000 in February 2024. Her scholarship was awarded in memory of Sister Ellen Nell Louisa Keats FACN, who was killed on Radji Beach, Bangka Island, during WWII.

Below are Leisa's key takeaways from her experience.

KEY TAKEAWAYS

1. The Power of Effective Communication

One of Leisa's most significant realisations was the importance of clear communication with her team and stakeholders. Engaging in open dialogues with peers allowed her to share challenges and collaboratively brainstorm solutions, reinforcing the notion that shared experiences lead to better outcomes.

2. Strategic Planning and Goal Setting

Leisa gained essential skills in strategic planning, enabling her to set and achieve both short- and long-term goals. Armed with newfound confidence, she successfully led a "Delphi" study on dementia-related behavioural disturbances, a project that would not have been possible without the expertise gained from the NDLP.

3. Evidence-Based Practice for Improved Patient Outcomes

The NDLP emphasised the importance of evidence-based practice in enhancing patient care. Leisa learned to manage resources efficiently and advocate for her team, leading to the successful integration of a Clinical Coach model in her unit and driving efforts to secure additional staffing.

A COMMITMENT TO LIFELONG LEARNING

Since completing the NDLP, Leisa has embraced new opportunities and experiences, notably spearheading an Arts in Health project that addresses community needs. Her journey reflects a broader commitment to fostering exemplary leaders in nursing, believing that empowered nurses are essential to quality health care.

Leisa's experience underscores the significance of having a strong voice in the nursing profession and actively contributing to its evolution. Her leadership journey is a testament to the power of professional development and the lasting impact of the NDLP on her career and her community.

"Without nurses, there would be no health care," Leisa asserts, embodying the dedication and passion that drive her leadership. Her achievements inspire fellow nurses to pursue their own paths of growth and leadership.

'Thank you for the opportunity to share my journey.'
Leisa Jackson MACN,
Proud Nurse Leader and Unit Manager

THANK YOU TO OUR FOUNDING PARTNERS



DIAMOND HIGH TEA



CELEBRATING 75 YEARS OF AUSTRALIAN NURSING EXCELLENCE

On 5 October 2024, the ACN Foundation hosted its inaugural Diamond High Tea at Rydges World Square in Sydney. This significant event celebrated the invaluable contributions of Australian nurses while raising funds for the Bullwinkel Scholars Program, marking the Australian College of Nursing's 75 years of nursing excellence. Rydges World Square provided a sophisticated venue that enhanced the day's atmosphere.

The Platinum Sponsor, Aware Super, was instrumental in the event's success. Emma Vibert, Senior Partnerships Manager at Aware Super, shared a heartfelt presentation that highlighted her personal connection to nursing through her daughter's pursuit of a career as a mental health nurse. Bank First, the event's Silver Sponsor, was represented by Adrian Wilson, who emphasised the organisation's longstanding support for the nursing community.

The renowned comedian and author, Jean Kittson AM served as Master of Ceremonies, captivating guests with her signature wit and charm. Her blend of humour and heartfelt storytelling created a memorable atmosphere for attendees. Guests were further entertained by singer Dahlia Dior and the jazz trio MiSa Jazz, whose performances added an elegant touch as everyone enjoyed delicious treats, including wine donated by Villa Maria Wineries.

A major highlight of the afternoon was the emotional retelling of the story of the 22 nurses who sacrificed their lives on Bangka Island during WWII. This poignant moment served as a reminder of the bravery shown by Australian nurses, both past and present, and inspired the creation of the Bullwinkel Scholars Program, which offers leadership and study travel opportunities for nurses.

The event featured a powerful panel discussion with notable speakers who shared personal connections to the Bangka Island story. Georgina Banks, author of *Back to Bangka*, spoke passionately about her great-aunt, Sister Dorothy 'Bud' Elmes, who perished on Radji Beach on 16 February, 1942. Her recounting brought the crowd closer to the events of that fateful day and highlighted the enduring legacy of these nurses. Group Captain Kathryn Stein FACN, ACN Board Director and Director of Australian Defence Force Nursing, shared her insights as a military nurse, emphasising the dedication of nurses who serve on the front lines. Lieutenant Claire Knight MACN, also joined the panel to discuss her experience as a recipient of the 2024 Bullwinkel Scholars Program, exemplifying the program's mission to empower nurses.

Attendees participated in an exciting auction and raffle, which included overseas holidays and luxury jewellery. The live auction, led by Jean Kittson and ACN Foundation Director Julijana Trifunovic, created a spirited atmosphere, showcasing the generosity of guests in support of the ACN Foundation.

Thanks to the support of sponsors and the generosity of those in attendance, the event raised \$32,000 for the Bullwinkel Scholars Program.

This Diamond High Tea marked a significant milestone for the ACN Foundation, celebrating the dedication of nurses while looking to the future. A heartfelt thank you to Aware Super, Bank First, and all attendees for making this inaugural event a meaningful success.



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DONATE TO THE BULLWINKEL SCHOLARS PROGRAM





EXPLORING NURSING HISTORY

INSIGHTS FROM THE ACN 2024 TURKEY (TÜRKIYE) AND GREECE STUDY TOUR

An unforgettable journey that expanded our horizons and deepened our understanding of nursing in a global context

A group of 19 nurses, nurse practitioners (NP) and midwives from across Australia, travelled to Türkiye and Greece in September of 2024 to participate in the ACN Study Tour. Over the two weeks, there was the opportunity to delve into nursing practices, public health initiatives, and cultural nuances, enriching the group's understanding of global health care and enhancing our professional perspectives. The ACN Foundation provided four scholarships valued at \$5,000 each for ACN members to participate in the tour.



DONATE TO THE SUMMER APPEAL


SUPPORTING NURSES FOR LIFE

The ACN and the ACN Foundation have both been recipients of legacy gifts (bequests). Leaving a legacy gift in your will to support nurses through the ACN Foundation ensures growing support for nurses in the future. A gift that keeps on giving.

Want to know more?

For more information on how to leave a legacy to the ACN through the ACN Foundation, please download our Legacy booklet or contact the ACN Foundation via email info@acnfoundation.org.au to receive the Legacy booklet. Alternatively, please contact the Director of Philanthropy on 0434 133 629 to explore the opportunities and options for creating a Legacy gift in your will.

IMPACT & OUTCOMES 2023-24

 <p>330 NURSES applied for an ACN Foundation scholarship</p>	<p>BULLWINKEL PROJECT Unveiling of the Lt Col Vivian Bullwinkel DLF Statue in August 2023 and The Bullwinkel Scholars Program launch in February 2024.</p> <p>Scholarships valued at \$220,000</p>	<p>confirmed receipt of bequest from Estate of Nancy Hummerston</p>	<p>John Wilson Collection Received the first archives collection to the National Nursing Archives</p>
<p>ACN Foundation granted 69 SCHOLARSHIPS IN 2024 valued at almost \$633,934</p>	<p>CORPORATE FUNDED SCHOLARSHIPS Lucas Papaw, Johnson and Johnson, Health Professionals Bank, Serco</p>	<p>BUILDING LONG TERM PARTNERSHIPS Aspen Medical with a further \$60,000 in grants over the next three years. Australian Defence Force \$150,000</p>	
<p>COMMUNITY SCHOLARSHIPS including Rosemary Harrison scholarship Value of \$75,000 over five years</p>	<p>SUPPORTING OUR NEIGHBOURS Established two ACN Pacific Island Nurses Scholarships Value \$30,000</p>	<p>Established 15 x \$10,000 Emerging Research Leadership Program Scholarships</p>	

BUILDING A BRIGHTER FUTURE FOR NURSING: KIEL FOUNDATION INC.

As the demand for skilled nurses continues to rise across the country, Kiel Foundation Inc., in partnership with the ACN, is dedicated to providing opportunities that create a brighter future for our communities.

Lucas Kiel shares why the Kiel Foundation has partnered with the ACN Foundation. "Established in 2021 in Central Victoria, our foundation is driven by a small, passionate team committed to ensuring the sustainability and survivability of Australia's healthcare system and natural environment.

Supporting the nursing workforce is at the heart of our mission, and through our grants we provide educational opportunities to disadvantaged Australians pursuing careers in the public and private health sectors. We believe that everyone, regardless of their background, deserves the chance to succeed and contribute to the future of health care. By offering these opportunities, we aim to empower aspiring nurses to pursue specialisations and advanced qualifications, ultimately enhancing the quality of care delivered across the nation.

Equally passionate about our environment, the Kiel Foundation Inc. team raises a portion of our funds through the eco-conscious practice of recycling. By

reducing waste and saving valuable resources from landfill, we work to create a cleaner, greener world for generations to come.

With the generous support of our community, our clean-up efforts and fundraising initiatives have seen us raise \$7220 to date, all of which goes directly toward supporting opportunities for aspiring nurses.

Together, we are sowing the seeds of excellence in nursing and helping to ensure that Australia's healthcare system remains robust, sustainable, and ready to meet the challenges of tomorrow. Every ounce of support plays a vital role in shaping the future of nursing in Australia, helping us continue to empower and uplift those who dedicate their lives to caring for others."

The ACN Foundation welcomes the new partnership with the Kiel Foundation. The Kiel Foundation will provide a scholarship for a nurse to attend the ACN National Nursing Forum in 2025. The scholarship will open in March 2025.

