

aclta



Association of Child Life Therapists Australia

From the Management Committee

Welcome to our Spring update! We hope you have all survived the winter period and are keeping well. The ACLTA committee have continued to be busy working on some of our projects and plans to deliver more to our members and strengthen our profession. In this newsletter we would like to introduce our new management committee. We would love to hear from you about ways that we can support you in your work. Contact your State representative or be in touch at email@childlife.org.au

Chairperson Update

Dear members,

On behalf of the ACLTA Executive, we thought it would be a good idea to update you on some of the exciting Association advancements that we have been working on behind the scenes. As many of you who attended the recent conference will be aware we have finalised our national training module package and are in the process of putting the finishing touches to how we envisage this will roll out. We are particularly mindful of our smaller programs and those who are sole practitioners so with this in mind we are seeking to create mentor and network programs to link more experienced practitioners into the training module discussions. We will provide more details of this in the next month.

Additionally, we have also been working to streamline our accreditation process. Moving forward, the anticipation is that accreditation will be undertaken once practitioners have completed their training module package. We feel that accreditation will then be a meaningful recognition of the professional commitment you have made and better reflect your level of expertise. We anticipate that the Accreditation process will have Executive sign off in the next few months, so watch this space for further information.

Finally, we know that professional development and advancing our skills and experience is a core request in the maintenance of our professional identity. It can sometime be difficult to source high quality courses/training that are relevant to our profession so the Executive have created a sub group which will look specifically at this. Their remit will include sourcing and reviewing courses/webinars/conferences etc. that would be of interest to us all as Child life Therapists. Links and course details will be posted on the membership page so please feel free to contact us if you have attended anything recently that you feel others would benefit from. In particular, we are focusing on collating a bank of low cost training to maximise member's ability to participate.

Myself and the Executive feel that exciting times lie ahead for us and our Profession as a whole. We look forward to working with you all over the coming 2 years.

Best Wishes

Louise Marbina CCLS
Chairperson ACLTA

Introducing the ACLTA Management Committee

Chairperson - Louise Marbina

My name is Louise and I am a Certified Child Life Specialist and the Head of Department at The Royal Children's Hospital Melbourne. I am delighted to have been voted in as the new Chairperson for ACLTA and look forward to working with you all to further strengthen our Profession across Australia.

Treasurer - Karen Weir

My name is Karen and I work as a Child Life Therapist at The Children's Hospital at Westmead. I am excited to be continuing on in the role of treasurer and am looking forward to exploring ways we can better utilise membership fees to strengthen our professional image and give back to members.

Secretary - Vanessa Starr

My name is Vanessa and I am a Child Life Therapist working at The Children's Hospital at Westmead. This year I have taken on the role of Secretary which involves supporting the effective management of our association and I look forward to helping our profession to continue to develop and strengthen

Membership coordinator - Kerry Crannis

My name is Kerry and I work as a Child Life Therapist at Sydney Children's Hospital, Randwick. I am honoured and thrilled to be voted in as the current membership coordinator. I am excited to see the numbers of members joining and re-joining ACLTA and how we can best represent you and your needs. I look forward to working with you all.

Past Chairperson - Michelle Perrin

My name is Michelle and I am the outgoing Chairperson for ACLTA. I am the head of Music, Art & Child Life Therapy at John Hunter Children's Hospital in Newcastle, NSW. I'm really excited to be working alongside an energetic and professional group of volunteers on this committee and look forward to continuing the work that we have been doing to strengthen our profession in Australia.

NSW State Representative - Sandra Pengilly

My name is Sandra and I am a Certified Child Life Specialist and the Head of Department (Child Life and Music Therapy Department) at The Children's Hospital at Westmead. I am delighted to have been voted in as the NSW representative for ACLTA with a particular focus on training. I look forward to representing your Child Life professional needs.

NSW State Representative - Kylie Estreich

My name is Kylie and I am a Child Life Therapist (oncology/haematology) at Sydney Children's Hospital, Randwick. I am excited to have commenced in my role as one of the NSW representatives for ACLTA, particularly looking at our social media accounts. I am looking forward to working with everyone as the Child Life profession continues to grow!

VIC State Representative - Carlie Alicastro

My name is Carlie and I am a Child Life Therapist in the Children's Cancer Centre at The Royal Children's Hospital Melbourne. I am one of the Victorian Representatives for ACLTA and my role will be to provide PD opportunities for members. I look forward to working with you all.

VIC State Representative - Lydia Johnsey

My name is Lydia and I am a Child Life Therapist at The Royal Children's Hospital, Melbourne, specialising in Medical Imaging support. I am delighted to have been voted in as one of the State representatives for Victoria with a focus on supporting professional development needs. I am excited to be part of this amazing profession as we move forward.

ACLTA Conference 2017

Thanks to everyone who was able to attend our conference back in March. The evaluations are in and the general feel was that the conference was a great way to network with others in our profession and provided some very interesting topics and speakers to take back to our practice. Conference delegates should have received an email inviting them to our dropbox account to view the proceedings. Please let us know if you attended the conference and have been unable to access this.

During the conference we presented our biannual **Child Life Therapy awards**.

Award for clinical excellence

Cathy Quinn & Lisa Carnovale - joint winners from the Children's Hospital at Westmead.

Award for contribution to the field

Michelle Perrin - John Hunter Children's Hospital



Photo: Conference planning committee with keynote speaker Tina Allen. L to R - Lisa Carnovale, Vanessa Starr, Tina Allen, Karen Weir, Michelle Perrin, Cathy Quinn

Child Life Therapist Kylie Estreich has been accepted as a 2017 Liddle Kidz Global Ambassador

After attending Tina Allen's Paediatric Massage Therapy Certification and Liddle Kids with Cancer workshop after the ACLTA Conference in March, I successfully applied to travel to India in December as a Global Ambassador on an outreach trip with Tina and the Liddle Kidz Foundation. Over 3,500 people applied for the 30 volunteer spots on the team this year, and I am also the ONLY Australian who has been selected for this year's trip.

The ambassador team, made up of massage therapists, physical therapists, nurses, occupational therapists, child life therapists and other professionals, will be in India for three weeks, starting in December 2017. We will be working in numerous areas of the country (Mumbai, Japipoor, Varanasi, Agra and Delhi), at hospitals, orphanages, and care centers, providing pediatric massage and therapeutic touch to the children there. We will also be training the kids' caregivers and healthcare staff in massage/touch techniques, so that the therapy can continue long after we return home.

The effects of this program are amazing. Volunteers from a similar Liddle Kidz trip to Vietnam in 2012 learned this when the director of one of the charity centres they visited told them of a big change that happened once the caregivers there had incorporated the techniques they had learned after the outreach trip: The rate of hospitalisation of the kids from the centre had dropped from approximately 40 per year to just 2-3 per year! The results of the education and care that can be provided with the support of the Liddle Kidz team speak for themselves.

To find out even more about the program, you can visit The Liddle Kidz Foundation India Outreach page or my secure fundraising page here:

<http://www.liddlekidz.com/india-global-outreach.html>

<https://www.youcaring.com/liddlekidzfoundation-869207>



Hospital Play Specialists Association of Aotearoa/New Zealand

The HPSAANZ Conference Planning Committee is seeking submissions for presentations to the Hospital Play Specialists Association of Aotearoa/New Zealand (HPSAANZ) conference to be held 12 – 14 April, 2018. Our biennial conference is an opportunity for those working as Hospital Play Specialists and associated professions to participate in educational and networking sessions. Abstracts are invited for 30 minutes, 1.5 hours and posters

More information can be found at http://www.hospitalplay.org.nz/online/latest_news.csn



Coming soon - ACLTA Closed Facebook group!

ACLTA is creating a closed Facebook group for all full members of the Association. This group will allow those working within the field to network, share ideas and resources, and problem solve. As this will be a closed Facebook group, administrators will approve full member requests to join and only group members will see the posted content. There will be guidelines in place to ensure that it is a safe and positive environment for all members. Stay tuned for more details.

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Our mailing address is:
email@childlife.org.au



