ACADEMY OF CHILD & ADOLESCENT HEALTH

AGENDA

Annual General Meeting
September 25th 2025 at 7pm AEST; Online via Zoom

https://us06web.zoom.us/j/3851910183?pwd=xLwSFpvrYcW9uF2sqCB8DZtunlJrlG.1&omn=84614151907&jst=2
Meeting ID: 385 191 0183
Passcode: ACAH2025

1. Welcome and introductions
2. Apologies
3. Acceptance of 2024 minutes – attached
4. Chair's Report
5. Financial statements 2024-25
6. Election of Board member(s)
7. Close meeting.

Chair's Report

It is with great pleasure that I write to you as Chair, Academy Child and Adolescent Health (ACAH), in this my first Annual Report having joined the Board in December 2024 and elected Chair in April 2025. I will provide a detailed update about the activities, strategy and other important matters in this report and at the AGM.

I want to acknowledge the leaders of the ACAH who have gone before including Frank Oberklaid, Ashfaque Quadir, Gervase Chaney, Gareth Bayman, Daniel Dorevitch and Kevin Forsyth. The Board and I aim to continue to build on their much-valued contributions and to strengthen the ACAH to adapt to changing circumstances.

The Board wishes to congratulate Frank Oberklaid, past ACAH Board Dire for being appointed Co-Chair of the Thriving Kids initiative with the Health Minister, Mark Butler.

The ACAH's mission- *promotes the health and wellbeing of every newborn, child and young person in order that they may meet their maximum potential,* is more relevant than ever given the declining number of Australian children whose development is on track and that 2024 was one of the worst years in UNICEF's history for children in conflict.

The ACAH's activities involve advocacy, networking, education and supporting through activities such as mentoring.

Departing Board Members

The Board wishes to thank those who are retiring from the ACAH Board who have made much valued contributions to improving child and adolescent health through the ACAH and other means.

Jenny Proimos Foundation Director, former Treasurer and President

Paul Bauert Secretary

Nitin Kapur Casual Member Director

Advocacy

Key advocacy initiatives include:

- ACT For Children Campaign- The ACAH is a member of the alliance and supporting the campaign being led by Anne Hollonds, National Children's

Commissioner. *The government must change the way they create policies for children. Because no matter who they are or where they live,* ***every child deserves to thrive****.*

- Support for Northern Territory paediatricians and children who are in contact with criminal justice system by writing to NT Chief Minister. The paediatricians advocating for the health and wellbeing of children who come in contact with the NT criminal justice system.
- NDIS Changes/Thriving Kids The ACAH is working with Prof Sharon Goldfeld, Murdoch Children's Research Institute, RACP- Paediatric and Child Health Division and Australian Society of Developmental Paediatrics to advocate for the best interests of children and their families and the important role that paediatricians and other child health professionals can play in advising government on the anticipated changes. We recognise there may be better ways to support many of the children and their families who have come to rely on the NDIS for services and that there are now significant proportions of young children entering the scheme.

Education

- A very successful primary care webinar was held on 17.07.2025- ACAH Primary Care Workshop: A Paediatric Update. Thanks to Anysha Walia, Board Director and Paediatric Trainee, who organised and chaired this webinar.
- Upcoming webinars include:
    - Making a Difference to Children's Health: Participatory Approaches in Childhood Onset Disability Research to be held on 25.09.2025 with guest presenters including Prof Olaf Kraus de Camargo, Developmental Paediatrician, CanChild Centre and McMaster University, Canada
    - Impacts of Gambling Advertising on Children. 19.11.2025, with Monique Ryan MP and paediatrician as guest. Details TF.

Annual conference

It was with regret that the Board made the decision to postpone the 2025 ACAH Conference due to be held in August 2025 for organisational reasons.

However, we remain grateful to the organising committee, capably led by Marissa Loh and Monica Parker, paediatric trainees, who are continuing to organise the deferred ACAH Conference.

The new dates of the ACAH Conference *Building Brighter Futures* are 23-25 April 2026 and it will be held at Darwin Convention Centre. Please stay tuned and join us in beautiful Darwin for a stimulating conference and networking opportunities.

ACAH Interim Strategy

The Board has approved the Interim Strategy, pending deeper engagement with members and stakeholders in the lead up and during the ACAH 2026 Conference.

1. ***Good governance***
    a. Good governance practices including formalizing subcommittees of the Board that serve the purpose of ACAH
    b. *Progress to date:*
        i. Prevocational Committee is in discussions with Chair about formalizing Committee Terms of Reference and has, under the leadership of Pretashini Somasundram and Anysha Walia, has worked to establish portfolios for committee members.
        ii. The Board has approved a guideline for sponsorship that excludes certain industries such as tobacco.
2. ***Sustainability***
    a. Current information on website
    b. *Progress to date* Some outdated information is being removed pending a more comprehensive website update in the future.
    c. Building reserves and membership
    d. *Progress to date*
        i. Demonstration of value to membership through establishing monthly Newsletters and more frequent webinars with featured guests and relevant topics
        ii. Elevating member voice and perspectives through the Newsletter
    e. Energise and support early career and diverse membership
3. ***Reestablish core activities***
    a. Regular member and colleagues' webinars
    b. *Progress to date* underway- see above
    c. Annual Conferences
4. ***Respect and embed First Nations foundations for child health***
    a. Build on First Nations leadership on the Board

Membership update

The Academy of Child and Adolescent Health currently has **120 active members**, of which **54 are ordinary members** and **66 are student members**.

Financial update

The Board informs the membership that the ACAH is technically insolvent, given significant expenses expected in the first half of 2026.

The Board determined that continuing to plan for delivery of key activities such as the 2026 ACAH Conference is in the best interests of the ACAH and is of the opinion that anticipated income will cover these impending costs.

The Board is taking the following actions to address this situation:

- Postpone ACAH 2025 to allow more time for attendees to plan their travel and attendance and communication with past sponsors of ACAH Conferences.
- Develop of an Interim ACAH Strategy
- Elevating member value to encourage renewal and new members.

The Board thanks Has Gunasekera for his commitment to ACAH as Treasurer.

On behalf of the Board, I wish to thank you for your own contributions to child health as members of ACAH. Your increased involvement is greatly welcomed, no matter how large or small the time is that you are able to contribute. The Board also wishes to thanks Michelle Pham, our capable administration officer and congratulate her on the birth of her first child.

Jacqueline Small, Chair ACAH Board

Treasurers Report

ACAH is a not for profit with ASIC responsibilities along with other organisations. The current ACAH balance has been relatively stable over the last several years.

This financial year we have had unexpected and one-off expenses as we discovered that we had inadvertently charged GST for some webinars and conferences and had ASIC fees for inadvertently not updating Board changes in the system. We also had admin expenses covered by a Board member's personal account and so have made arrangements to repay these expenses over the next 18 months.

ACAH's main expense and our main source of income are the ACAH conferences, which have run at a revenue neutral balance as we have kept registration fees low with heavily discounted rates for students and trainees. Conference expenses are upfront, whereas sponsorships and conference registration income are deposited into the account around the time of the conference. Webinar registration income is a smaller contribution to our balance.

We have received advice that we cannot include future/expected membership renewals, conference registration fees and corporate sponsorships in our balance sheet considerations. Given all of this, we have a cashflow issue this year and have total expenses exceeding our current balance and are technically insolvent. However, as we have a good understanding of ACAH income, the Board has determined that it is reasonable to continue to operate as this serves the best interests of the organisation.

In summary, if webinar registrations, membership renewals, corporate sponsorships and conference registrations are similar to previous years, we will end the conference with the same balance as we had after the Melbourne conference in 2023. Currently, membership renewals and webinar incomes are higher than last year and our previous corporate sponsors have indicated their intention to support ACAH2026.

Our plans to address ACAH balance:

1. We will reduce conference expenses in the future (e.g., university and hospital locations, which are less expensive but can only handle smaller audiences). This should ensure we run conferences at a small profit and we will aim to run conferences annually (vs. every 2 years on average currently)
2. We will run more Webinars across the year for healthcare professionals
3. We will have a sustained membership drive over coming years to build our membership base
4. We have applied for conference support from government funding schemes

Has Gunasekera ACAH Treasurer and Director

Financial Report

Balance Sheet

Academy of Child and Adolescent Health

As at 30 June 2025

Account	30 June 2025	30 June 2024
Assets		
Bank		
Academy of Child and Adolescen	59,368.29	72,829.36
Total Bank	**59,368.29**	**72,829.36**
Total Assets	**59,368.29**	**72,829.36**
Liabilities		
Current Liabilities		
GST	136.36	136.36
Total Current Liabilities	**136.36**	**136.36**
Total Liabilities	**136.36**	**136.36**
Net Assets	**59,231.93**	**72,693.00**
Equity		
Current Year Earnings	(13,461.07)	26,669.46
Retained Earnings	72,693.00	46,023.54
Total Equity	**59,231.93**	**72,693.00**

Cash Summary

Academy of Child and Adolescent Health
For the year ended 30 June 2025

Account	2025	Yearly average (YTD)	Variance (Compared to prior year)
Income			
Conference Dinner	0.00	375.00	-100.00%
Conference Registration	0.00	48,984.77	-100.00%
Event Sponsorship Revenue	0.00	4,363.64	-100.00%
Membership Subscription	10,541.40	13,250.52	-20.45%
Webinar Registrations	70.00	0.00	0.00%
Total Income	**10,611.40**	**66,973.93**	**-84.16%**
Less Expenses			
ASIC Fees	2,678.06	0.00	0.00%
Conference Expenses	9,290.73	2,826.00	228.76%
Facility Hire	0.00	20,266.53	-100.00%
General Expenses	0.00	1,500.00	-100.00%
Reimbursement	1,140.88	4,843.94	-76.45%
Wages and Salaries	10,400.00	10,100.00	2.97%
Xero Accounting	240.00	168.00	42.86%
Xero accounting subscription	600.00	600.00	0.00%
Total Expenses	**24,349.67**	**40,304.47**	**-39.59%**
Surplus (Deficit)	**(13,738.27)**	**26,669.46**	**-151.51%**
Plus GST Movements			
GST Collected	0.00	136.36	-100.00%
Net GST Movements	**0.00**	**136.36**	**-100.00%**
Net Cash Movement	**(13,738.27)**	**26,805.82**	**-151.25%**
Summary			
Opening Balance	72,829.36	46,023.54	58.24%
Plus Net Cash Movement	(13,738.27)	26,805.82	-151.25%
Cash Balance	59,091.09	72,829.36	-18.86%

Profit and Loss

Academy of Child and Adolescent Health
For the year ended 30 June 2025

Account	2025
Trading Income	
Membership Subscription	10,541.40
Webinar Registrations	70.00
Total Trading Income	**10,611.40**
Gross Profit	**10,611.40**
Operating Expenses	
ASIC Fees	2,678.06
Conference Expenses	9,290.73
Reimbursement	1,140.88
Wages and Salaries	10,400.00
Xero Accounting	240.00
Xero Accounting Subscription	600.00
Total Operating Expenses	**24,349.67**
Net Profit	**(13,738.27)**