



ascia

australasian society of clinical immunology and allergy

Annual Report 2020



ASCIA Member Services



ASCIA Sustainability



ASCIA Conferences



ASCIA Online Resources



**ASCIA Education
and Training**



ASCIA Advocacy



**National Allergy
Strategy**



AIFA Research Grants



**ASCIA Immunodeficiency
Strategy**

www.allergy.org.au

ASCIA is the peak professional body for allergy and clinical immunology in Australia and New Zealand since 1990

This report is a record of the ASCIA Annual General Meeting (AGM) held on Thursday 3 September 2020 as a virtual meeting conducted via Zoom.

AGENDA

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• Acceptance of AGM 2019 Minutes – Dr Preeti Joshi, Dr Lara Ford.	
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ASCIA PRESIDENT'S REPORT – DR BRYNN WAINSTEIN

INTRODUCTION

Due to many challenges and issues that have arisen over the past six months, as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, ASCIA's priorities have changed in 2020, as outlined in the table below. The main changes are:

- **ASCIA Member Services and Benefits** have been added in 2020, and are now the first priority.
- **ASCIA Sustainability** has moved from priority 7 to 2, as this is now more important than ever.
- **Advocacy on Behalf of ASCIA Members** has replaced ASCIA Submissions, Reports, Communications and Collaborations.
- **ASCIA Annual Conference** has moved from priority 1 to 3 in 2020, due it being postponed until 2021, and the need to concentrate on member services, benefits and sustainability in 2020.

ASCIA Priorities in 2020	ASCIA Priorities in 2019
1. ASCIA Member Services and Benefits 2. ASCIA Sustainability 3. ASCIA Annual Conferences 4. ASCIA Online Resources, Education and Training 5. Advocacy on Behalf of ASCIA Members 6. National Allergy Strategy 7. AIFA Research Grants 8. ASCIA Immunodeficiency Strategy	1. ASCIA Annual Conference 2. ASCIA Education and Training 3. ASCIA Submissions, Reports, Communications and Collaborations 4. National Immunodeficiency Strategy 5. National Allergy Strategy 6. AIFA Research Grants 7. Sustainability

ASCIA has continued to work on initiatives that support ASCIA members and **ASCIA's Mission**:

- Advance the science and practice of allergy and clinical immunology.
- Promote the highest standard of medical practice, training, education and research.
- Improve the health and quality of life of people with immune system disorders.

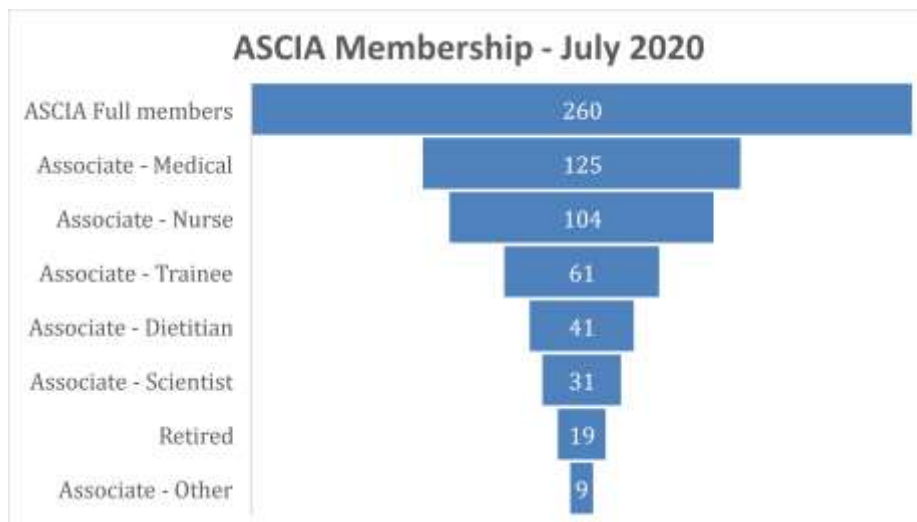
ASCIA Objectives remain unchanged and are consistent with the priorities for ASCIA:

- **Standards** - Promote the highest standards of allergy and immunology medical training, practice and care.
- **Education and Training** - Provide high quality allergy and immunology education and training for ASCIA members, health professionals, patients, consumers and carers.
- **Expertise and Advice** - Utilise ASCIA and stakeholder expertise to address allergy and immunology issues, provide advice, representation and submissions to government and other organisations.
- **Advocacy and Collaborations** - Increase the profile of allergy, immunology and immunopathology, and advocate for patients.
- **Research** - Promote and fund research to improve the health and quality of life of people with allergy and other immune diseases.

ASCIA PRIORITY 1: MEMBER SERVICES AND BENEFITS

As of 1st July 2020 there were **650 ASCIA members**, comprising:

- 260 Full ASCIA members, who are mainly clinical immunology/allergy specialists, who are listed on the ASCIA website www.allergy.org.au/patients/locate-a-specialist
- 125 Associate (Medical) members, who are medical practitioners with an interest in allergy, but are not clinical immunology/allergy specialists.
- 104 Associate (Nurse) members.
- 61 Associate (Trainee) members, who are completing advanced training to become clinical immunology/allergy specialists.
- 41 Associate (Dietitian) members.
- 31 Associate (Scientist/Researcher) members.
- 19 Retired members.
- 9 Associate (Other) members.



From early March 2020, it was agreed by the ASCIA Directors, CEO and Council members that ASCIA would need to address issues due to the COVID-19 pandemic, including postponing of the ASCIA Annual Conference until 2021, development of COVID-19 information and telehealth resources. This has resulted in a greater emphasis and expansion of ASCIA member services and benefits, which include:

- **Online communication** – Each month ASCIA informs members and the community of new and updated information about allergy and immunology via emails, ASCIA e-newsletters (more than 4,500 subscribers in 2020), and social media.
- **ASCIA Annual Conference** - Discounted registration is available to ASCIA members (see Priority 3).
- **ASCIA online resources** - To support ASCIA members, new and updated ASCIA online information is regularly developed and updated, including new [ASCIA COVID-19](#) and [ASCIA telehealth](#) resources (see Priority 4).
- **Advocacy on behalf of ASCIA members** – ASCIA makes regular submissions to government and other organisations through letters, submissions and reports (see Priority 5).
- **National Allergy Strategy resources** - ASCIA members have access to new and updated allergy resources to support both them and their patients (see Priority 6).
- **AIFA research grants** – Only ASCIA members are eligible to apply for Allergy and Immunology Foundation of Australasia (AIFA) research grants (see Priority 7).
- **Immunodeficiency resources** – ASCIA members have access to new and updated immunodeficiency information, resources and collaborations (see Priority 8).
- **ASCIA committees and working parties** – Only ASCIA members are eligible to join ASCIA committees and working parties www.allergy.org.au/members/committees and to access ASCIA member only resources, including ASCIA slides, food and drug (medication) allergen challenge protocols, and draft ASCIA information.
- **ASCIA educational meetings** – Only ASCIA members are eligible to attend ASCIA regional and training education meetings.
- **Listing on the ASCIA website ‘How to Locate a Specialist’ section** – Full ASCIA members are eligible for one or more listings on the ASCIA website www.allergy.org.au/patients/locate-a-specialist

ASCIA PRIORITY 2: SUSTAINABILITY

ASCIA has been operating in a sustainable way over the past 30 years, to meet the needs of ASCIA members and the community, whilst ensuring that ASCIA's operations are financially viable into the future.

Whilst financial sustainability is particularly important to ASCIA due to the postponement of the ASCIA Conference until 2021, environmental sustainability is also a priority.

ASCIA will continue working towards improving its sustainability, both environmentally and financially, whilst adapting its operations and priorities, to address global issues, including the COVID-19 pandemic.

In 2015 the United Nations (UN) created 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) which are the blueprint to achieving a better and more sustainable future for everyone in the world. ASCIA's daily operations meet many of these SDGs as outlined below.

Good Health and Well-Being (UN SDG 3)

ASCIA addresses the growing burden of allergy and other immune diseases and contributes to community awareness, education and training of health professionals and the community, through:

- Accessible, consistent and evidence based ASCIA online resources, education and training,
- Research projects funded by AIFA grants.
- Public health campaigns implemented by the National Allergy Strategy.
- Access to specialist physicians, on the [Locate a Specialist](#) link on the ASCIA website.

Promote Quality Education (UN SDG 4)

Since 2010 ASCIA has provided accessible, consistent and evidence based ASCIA online resources, education and training for health professionals, school teachers, early childhood education/care (ECEC), and the community. The main aim of providing inclusive and quality education about allergy, anaphylaxis and immunodeficiency for all is to improve the health and well-being of all Australians and New Zealanders. Financial support is required for ASCIA to continue providing free online services from 2021 onwards.

Affordable and Clean Energy (UN SDG 7)

Since 2013 the ASCIA office has been located in the Lifestyle Working Building Brookvale, which is a benchmark environmentally sustainable design (ESD), strata office building, the first of its kind to be built in Australia in 2008. The building uses electricity generated from solar panels, tank water captured off the building, and an energy efficient design that results in reduced energy costs (minimising the need for air conditioning). The ASCIA office was already configured in a design that is compliant with physical/social distancing requirements due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Decent Work and Economic Growth (UN SDG 8)

The ASCIA Annual Conference has been the main source of income for ASCIA since 2006, so we have been reassessing our sustainability practices in order to ensure future welfare.

In doing so, ASCIA is ensuring that staffing is maintained at a sustainable level (current total is 4.5 FTE staff, (2.2 FTE for ASCIA and 2.3 FTE for National Allergy Strategy). ASCIA also contracts specialised services as required, including webmasters, conference organisers and graphic designers. The ASCIA CEO and Directors monitor the use of external contractors to ensure cost effectiveness and efficiency.

Sustainable Cities and Communities (UN SDG 11)

ASCIA is part of the Lifestyle Working Building community, which includes onsite recycling of all paper and plastic waste, composting of its green waste, and communal areas with green spaces.

Responsible Consumption and Production (UN SDG 12)

ASCIA is continuously working on responsible consumption of resources, and examples include:

- Reuse of all office furniture purchased in 2013, in the 2019 office move.
- Minimal use of printing, with increased use of VPN and cloud based software.
- Electronic poster boards will be used from 2021 onwards at the ASCIA Annual Conference, which will reduce production and waste associated with printing and transporting of posters.

ASCIA PRIORITY 3: ANNUAL CONFERENCES

Since 1990, the ASCIA Annual Conference has provided an international standard of continuing professional development (CPD) and is a highlight of the year for ASCIA members.

The ASCIA Annual Conference is also a unique networking opportunity for health professionals working in allergy, clinical immunology and immunopathology.

The ASCIA Annual Conference for 2020 has been postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic and will now be held from 1st to 3rd September 2021, at the Melbourne Convention Centre, in conjunction with the CFAR Symposium on 31st August 2021 and the ANZVASC meeting on Saturday 4th September 2021.

ASCIA will implement measures to ensure that the event will be held in the safest possible way, to protect the health and safety of everyone involved. This may include new physical distancing, food/coffee service and hand hygiene measures, in addition to government and venue health and safety requirements.

Work that has already been completed regarding the program, website, exhibition and sponsorship will be transferred to 2021. This includes the roll-over of payments received by ASCIA from exhibitors and sponsors, as well as deposits paid by ASCIA to the venue.



The ASCIA 2021 Conference is expected to be a successful event, even if international travel and quarantine restrictions are still in place during 2021, for the following reasons:

- Delegates who attend ASCIA Annual Conferences are usually from Australia or New Zealand, and it is anticipated that travel restrictions between New Zealand and Australia (or regions within Australia), will be relaxed by mid 2021.
- Most international conferences in 2020 have been cancelled or postponed and it is likely that there will be a reluctance (or restrictions) for people to travel outside of Australia and New Zealand in 2021. The ASCIA 2021 Conference will therefore be an opportunity for an international standard of continuing professional development (cpd) in a relatively safe location.
- The four international speakers invited to speak in 2020 have confirmed their participation for 2021. If travel restrictions are still in place, their talks can be presented via video conferencing.

Electronic poster boards will be introduced for the first time at the ASCIA 2021 Conference, which will allow posters to be viewed in the exhibition hall. This should result in multiple benefits, including:

- Reduced production and waste associated with printing posters.
- Time and cost savings for delegates who will no longer need to print and transport posters.
- More efficient use of space which will increase opportunities for engagement.

For preliminary information about the ASCIA 2021 Conference go to www.ascia2021.com

ASCIA PRIORITY 4: ONLINE RESOURCES, EDUCATION AND TRAINING

ASCIA has been working continuously in 2019-2020 to update and develop more online resources, education and training than in previous years. This has resulted in more than:

- 20 new ASCIA resources.
- 40 updated ASCIA resources (including 10 e-training courses).

Due to many challenges in 2020 we believe that this work is now more important than ever, to support ASCIA members, their patients/carers, other health professionals and the community by providing accessible, consistent and evidence based information. This information is listed on the ASCIA website www.allergy.org.au/about-ascia/education-projects

We greatly appreciate the contributions from the chairs and members of ASCIA committees and working parties, and ASCIA staff (medical writers and editors) who coordinate and progress the projects.

We also appreciate the unrestricted educational grants that have enabled ASCIA to progress this work.

Supporters of ASCIA educational projects are listed and acknowledged in each monthly ASCIA e-newsletter and on the ASCIA website www.allergy.org.au/about-ascia/sponsors and we welcome further support to expand and promote ASCIA resources.

ASCIA Website

The ASCIA website continues to attract a large number of visits. From 1 July 2019 to 30 June 2020 there were:

- Over 3.3 million pageviews (an increase of more than 10% compared to the previous year).
- Over 1.885 million visits to access ASCIA online resources.

In 2020 two new ASCIA webpages have been developed in response to COVID-19 and telehealth changes, which are regularly reviewed and updated.

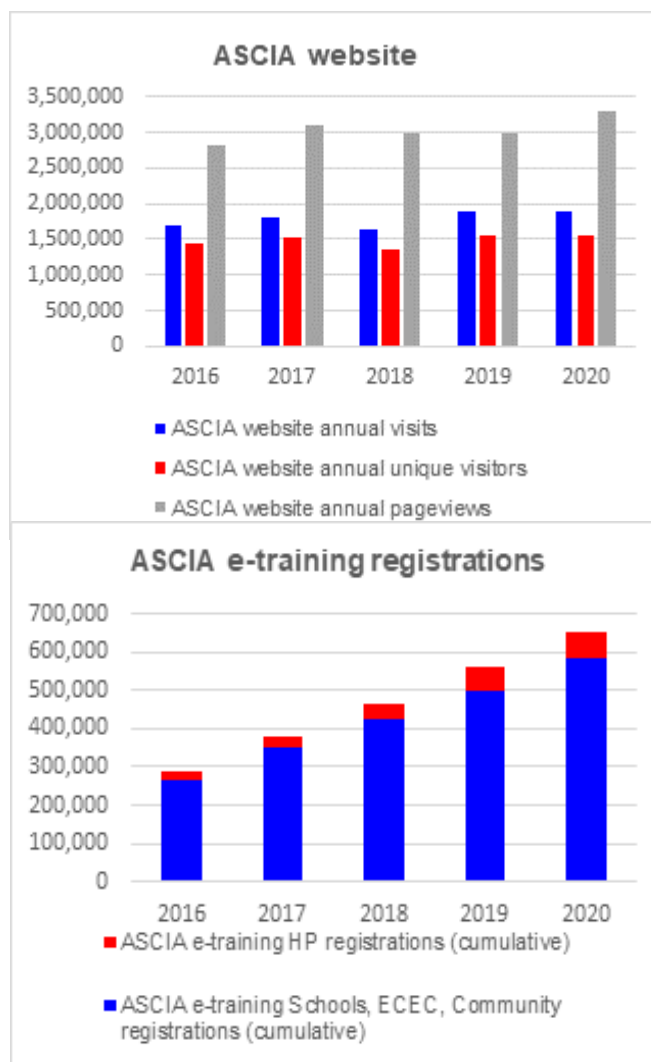
ASCIA Online Training Courses

ASCIA has continued to provide and subsidise world leading accessible, consistent and evidence based online training courses since 2010.

Usage of these courses is high, with more than:

- 650,000 registrations since 2010.
- 100,000 registrations from 1 July 2019 to 30 June 2020.

Financial support is required for ASCIA to continue providing free online resources from 2021 onwards. ASCIA has lodged a pre-budget submission in August 2020 to request support from the Australian government. This submission is on the ASCIA website www.allergy.org.au/ascia-reports#s1



In 2020-2021 ASCIA will focus on developing, updating and promoting the following resources:

[ASCIA Telehealth resources](#) | [ASCIA COVID-19 resources](#) | [ASCIA Anaphylaxis projects](#) | [ASCIA Food Allergy projects](#) | [ASCIA Respiratory/Insect Allergy projects](#) | [ASCIA Drug \(Medication\) Allergy projects](#) | [ASCIA Skin/Allergy projects](#) | [ASCIA Immunodeficiency projects](#)

ASCIA Telehealth resources

The following recently completed resources will be promoted in 2020-2021:

- New ASCIA Telehealth Resources webpage www.allergy.org.au/ascia-telehealth
- New Allergic Reactions Clinical History Form (with type in fields and tick boxes) www.allergy.org.au/hp/anaphylaxis/clinical-history-form-allergic-reactions
- Updated Allergic Reactions Event Record (with type in fields and tick boxes) www.allergy.org.au/hp/anaphylaxis/anaphylaxis-event-record

The following projects are scheduled to be completed in 2020-2021:

- New 'How Allergies Work' animation (developed by the National Allergy Strategy)
- New 'ASCIA Allergy and the Immune System' information for patients, consumers and carers

ASCIA COVID-19 resources

The following recently completed resources will be promoted in 2020-2021:

- New ASCIA COVID-19 Resources webpage www.allergy.org.au/members/covid-19
- New ASCIA COVID-19 information for health professionals www.allergy.org.au/hp/papers#covid
- New ASCIA Position Statement - Specific Treatments for COVID-19 www.allergy.org.au/hp/papers/specific-treatments-for-covid-19
- New ASCIA Position Statement - Immunoglobulin Therapies for COVID-19 www.allergy.org.au/hp/papers/immunoglobulin-therapies-for-covid-19
- New ASCIA Webinar - Part 1: HAE. Part 2: COVID-19 www.allergy.org.au/hp/immunodeficiency-webinar
- New COVID-19 Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) www.allergy.org.au/patients/covid-19#faq
- New Checklist: Actions to Reduce the Spread of COVID-19 www.allergy.org.au/patients/covid-19#list
- New COVID-19 and Immunodeficiency (accessed over 100,000 times from March to June 2020) www.allergy.org.au/patients/immunodeficiencies/covid-19-and-immunodeficiency
- New COVID-19, Immunodeficiency and School Attendance www.allergy.org.au/patients/immunodeficiencies/covid-19-immunodeficiency-and-schools

ASCIA Anaphylaxis projects

The following recently completed resources will be promoted in 2020-2021:

- Updated ASCIA Anaphylaxis Checklists www.allergy.org.au/hp/anaphylaxis/anaphylaxis-checklist
- Updated ASCIA Guidelines - Acute Management of Anaphylaxis www.allergy.org.au/hp/papers/acute-management-of-anaphylaxis-guidelines
- New ASCIA Guidelines - Acute Management of Anaphylaxis in Pregnancy www.allergy.org.au/hp/papers/acute-management-of-anaphylaxis-in-pregnancy
- Updated ASCIA Action Plans for Anaphylaxis and Allergic Reactions and First Aid Plans for Anaphylaxis www.allergy.org.au/anaphylaxis
- Updated ASCIA Anaphylaxis e-training courses www.allergy.org.au/anaphylaxis
- Updated ASCIA Anaphylaxis Resources webpage www.allergy.org.au/anaphylaxis
- New ASCIA Anaphylaxis bagtags and wallet cards

The following project is scheduled to be completed in 2020-2021:

- New ASCIA Guide for Management of Anaphylaxis in Oncology Patients

ASCIA Food Allergy projects

The following recently completed resources will be promoted in 2020-2021:

- New ASCIA Guide for Milk Substitutes in Cow's Milk Allergy (for health professionals) www.allergy.org.au/hp/papers/guide-for-milk-substitutes-cows-milk-allergy
- New ASCIA Fast Facts - Eczema and Food Allergy, Cow's Milk Allergy and Peanut Allergy www.allergy.org.au/patients/fast-facts

- Updated ASCIA Food Allergy Resources webpage www.allergy.org.au/patients/food-allergy
- Updated ASCIA Egg Allergy and Influenza Vaccination information www.allergy.org.au/patients/food-allergy/egg-allergy-flu-vaccine
- Updated ASCIA OIT for Food Allergy www.allergy.org.au/patients/allergy-treatment/oral-immunotherapy-for-food-allergy
- Updated ASCIA Dietary Avoidance for Cow's Milk Allergy www.allergy.org.au/patients/food-allergy/ascia-dietary-avoidance-for-food-allergy
- ASCIA/NAS Food Allergy Prevention e-training (for health professionals) <https://etraininghp.ascia.org.au/mod/page/view.php?id=134>

The following projects are scheduled to be completed in 2020-2021:

- Updated ASCIA Food Allergy e-training and reference list (Completion is expected by late 2020).
- New ASCIA Cow's Milk Allergy Position Paper for health professionals (Completion is expected by late 2020).
- New Oral Allergy (Pollen Food) Syndrome patient information

ASCIA Respiratory/Insect Allergy projects

The following recently completed resources will be promoted in 2020-2021:

- Updated ASCIA Subcutaneous Immunotherapy (SCIT) Treatment Plan www.allergy.org.au/hp/papers/scit-treatment-plan
- New ASCIA Venom Immunotherapy (VIT) guide www.allergy.org.au/hp/papers/ascia-venom-immunology-guide
- New ASCIA Aeroallergen Immunotherapy (AIT) guide www.allergy.org.au/hp/papers/ascia-aeroallergen-immunology-guide
- New ASCIA AIT FAQ and Consent Form www.allergy.org.au/patients/allergy-treatment/allergen-immunotherapy-faqs
- New ASCIA Skin Prick Testing (SPT) Guide www.allergy.org.au/hp/papers/skin-prick-testing
- New quick-link to ASCIA Insect and Tick Allergy information on ASCIA website homepage www.allergy.org.au/patients/insect-allergy-bites-and-stings
- Updated ASCIA Allergic Rhinitis Treatment Plan www.allergy.org.au/patients/allergic-rhinitis-hay-fever-and-sinusitis/allergic-rhinitis-treatment-plan
- Updated ASCIA Allergic Rhinitis Clinical Update for health professionals www.allergy.org.au/hp/papers/allergic-rhinitis-clinical-update
- Updated ASCIA Respiratory Allergy webpage www.allergy.org.au/allergic-rhinitis
- New ASCIA Allergic Rhinitis Fast Facts allergy.org.au/patients/fast-facts/hay-fever-allergic-rhinitis
- New ASCIA Asthma Fast Facts allergy.org.au/patients/fast-facts/asthma-and-allergy

The following projects are scheduled to be completed in 2020-2021:

- New ASCIA Sublingual Immunotherapy (SLIT) treatment plan
- Updated ASCIA Allergen Immunotherapy e-training for health professionals and slides
- Updated ASCIA Allergic Rhinitis e-training for health professionals and slides

ASCIA Drug (Medication) Allergy projects

The following recently completed resources will be promoted in 2020-2021:

- Updated ASCIA Penicillin Allergy Consensus Statement www.allergy.org.au/hp/papers/ascia-penicillin-allergy-guide-for-health-professionals
- New ASCIA Action Plan for Drug (Medication) Allergy www.allergy.org.au/hp/drug-allergy/ascia-action-plan-for-drug-medication-allergy
- New ASCIA Record for Drug (Medication) Allergy www.allergy.org.au/hp/drug-allergy/ascia-record-for-drug-medication-allergy
- New ASCIA Drug (Medication) Allergy Terms www.allergy.org.au/hp/drug-allergy/ascia-drug-medication-allergy-terms
- Updated ASCIA Penicillin Allergy Guide for health professionals www.allergy.org.au/hp/papers/ascia-penicillin-allergy-guide-for-health-professionals

- Updated ASCIA Drug Allergy webpage www.allergy.org.au/drug-allergy
- Updated ASCIA Penicillin Allergy e-training <https://etraininghp.ascia.org.au>
- ASCIA 2019 Conference Antibiotic and Allergy discussion www.allergy.org.au/hp/podcasts

The following project is scheduled to be completed in 2020-2021:

- New ASCIA Cephalosporin Allergy Consensus Statement

ASCIA Skin/Allergy projects

The following resources will be promoted in 2020-2021:

- New ASCIA Eczema and Food Allergy Fast Facts www.allergy.org.au/patients/fast-facts/eczema-and-food-allergy
- New ASCIA Eczema Fast Facts www.allergy.org.au/patients/fast-facts/eczema-atopic-dermatitis
- Updated ASCIA Eczema Action Plan www.allergy.org.au/patients/skin-allergy/eczema-action-plan
- Updated ASCIA Allergy and the Skin webpage www.allergy.org.au/patients/skin-allergy
- Updated ASCIA Chronic Urticaria Position Statement and Treatment Guidelines www.allergy.org.au/hp/papers/chronic-spontaneous-urticaria-csu-guidelines
- ASCIA/NAS Paediatric Atopic Dermatitis (Eczema) e-training for health professionals <https://etraininghp.ascia.org.au/mod/page/view.php?id=135>

The following projects are scheduled to be completed in 2020-2021 **(subject to funding)**:

- New ASCIA Atopic Dermatitis (Eczema) Clinical Update for health professionals (to include new treatment options for moderate to severe eczema)
- Updated ASCIA Eczema information for patients, consumers and carers (to include new treatment options for moderate to severe eczema) www.allergy.org.au/patients/skin-allergy/eczema
- Updated ASCIA Eczema Action Plan and Management Guide (to include new treatment options for moderate to severe eczema) www.allergy.org.au/hp/ascia-plans-action-and-treatment#r4

ASCIA Immunodeficiency projects

The following will be promoted in 2020-2021:

- SCID Guidelines (once publication in JPCH is confirmed)
- TAPID Collaboration www.allergy.org.au/about-ascia/ascia-initiatives/tapid
- ASCIA COVID-19 and Immunodeficiency Resources www.allergy.org.au/members/covid-19
- ASCIA Telehealth Resources www.allergy.org.au/ascia-telehealth
- Updated ASCIA Immunodeficiency webpage www.allergy.org.au/immunodeficiency
- Updated HAE Position Paper and Management Plan www.allergy.org.au/hp/papers/hereditary-angioedema
- ASCIA Immunodeficiency Register <https://idregister.ascia.org.au/>

The following projects are scheduled to be completed in 2020-2021:

- ASCIA Immunodeficiency Strategy www.nationalimmunodeficiencystrategy.org.au
- Updated ASCIA PID Clinical Update
- New ASCIA HAE patient information
- New ASCIA immune system and immunodeficiency slides and videos

ASCIA PRIORITY 5: ADVOCACY ON BEHALF OF ASCIA MEMBERS

In 2019-2020 ASCIA has continued to advocate on behalf of ASCIA members to government and other organisations by lodging letters, submissions and reports www.allergy.org.au/ascia-reports#s1 and by working in collaborations www.allergy.org.au/about-ascia/collaborations

To date ASCIA has lodged 18 submissions since July 2019 (see below), including a submission to the Inquiry into Allergies and Anaphylaxis. The Inquiry Report was published in June 2020 and in July 2020, ASCIA has lodged a further submission of feedback on the Inquiry recommendations on 14 July 2020.

ASCIA Submissions 2019-2020

Parliamentary Inquiry into Allergies and Anaphylaxis	5
Pharmaceutical Benefits Advisory Committee (PBAC)	4
Minister for Health (Hon Greg Hunt MP) regarding COVID-19	2
Ministerial Forum on Food Regulation/FSANZ	2
ASCIA pre-budget 2020-2021 submission	1
National Blood Authority (NBA)	2
Australian National Breastfeeding Strategy	1
Medical Services Advisory Committee (MSAC)	1
Total	18

The Report recommendations from the Parliamentary Inquiry into Allergies and Anaphylaxis address 80% of the 10 issues raised in the ASCIA submission:

1. Support is required for quality allergy and anaphylaxis educational and training resources for patients, carers and health professionals.
2. Support is required for quality, evidence-based allergy and anaphylaxis education and training for all health professionals.
3. Improved access to timely, equitable and quality care for patients with allergic disease is needed.
4. Improved access to skin testing reagents for allergy diagnosis by clinical immunology/allergy specialists is needed. **This issue was not addressed in the Inquiry Report recommendations.**
5. A specific food allergen challenge MBS item number is needed.
6. A specific drug allergen challenge MBS item number is needed.
7. Improved access to evidence-based and cost-effective treatments is needed. **This issue was not addressed in the Inquiry Report recommendations.**
8. Support is required for further research into all allergic diseases.
9. Support is required for further research into food allergy treatments including oral immunotherapy.
10. National anaphylaxis and drug allergy registers do not exist.

Whilst ASCIA supports all of the 24 recommendations in the Inquiry Report, we believe that implementing certain key recommendations as a priority, will address major issues and result in significant improvements to the health of Australians with allergic disease, with immediate and long term impact. We have grouped the relevant issues along common 'themes' as shown in the table below:

Theme	Report recommendations
Education, Training and Resources for Health Professionals	5
Access to Care – Workforce, Telehealth and Item Numbers	6, 7, 8, 13, 23
Collaborations and Research	1, 2

Implementation of the Inquiry Report recommendations listed above will:

- Improve education and training in allergies and anaphylaxis for health professionals.
- Improve access to care through workforce, telehealth and MBS item number changes.
- Standardise allergy care and management to improve the quality of patient care.
- Increase research into allergies and anaphylaxis.

ASCIA PRIORITY 6: NATIONAL ALLERGY STRATEGY

The following reports provide a summary of National Allergy Strategy projects. [The National Allergy Strategy](#) is a partnership between [ASCIA](#) and [Allergy & Anaphylaxis Australia](#) working in collaboration with other stakeholders. Despite the COVID-19 pandemic causing some delays, National Allergy Strategy projects have progressed as planned, by using virtual video meetings instead of face to face meetings.



Food service project

- All about Allergens for Hospitals has been created for food service and ward staff to improve food allergen management in hospitals. This is in the final stage of development and will be released on 24th September 2020.
 - [Food allergy videos](#) for parents and people with food allergies have been developed.
 - The [All about Allergens](#) online training continues to have approximately 1,000 registrations per month.
 - This project has three websites:
 - www.foodallergyaware.org.au (a food allergy resource hub)
 - www.foodallergytraining.org.au (All about Allergens online training)
 - www.foodallergyeducation.org.au (for consumers with food allergy)
-



250K youth project

- The [second 250K youth camp](#) was held at Merrick's Lodge in Victoria in November 2019.
 - A new [camp section](#) on the 250K teen website has been developed and includes photo, video and recipe galleries from each 250K camp.
 - Our first peer mentor training day was held in conjunction with the 250K youth camp in November 2019.
 - Regular Zoom chats with peer mentors, school aged teens and young adults have been held.
 - 250K 'How allergies work' animations have been developed for the [teen](#) and [young adult](#) websites.
 - Eczema and hay fever information has been developed for the [teen](#) and [young adult](#) websites and video animations are being developed.
-



Nip Allergies in the Bub food allergy prevention project

The following new resources have been developed:

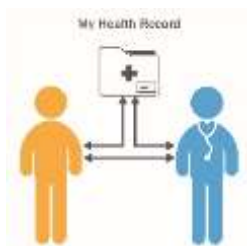
- New [downloadable resources](#) for parents about how to introduce the common food allergens for each stage of eating development.
 - A new [recipe booklet](#) to help parents feed their baby the common food allergens.
 - A new [15 second social media video animation](#) and [website information](#) to encourage parents to continue feeding the common food allergens once introduced.
 - An [article about SmartStartAllergy](#) has been published in the MJA.
-

Shared care model for allergy project



- Three phases of consultation were undertaken including a face to face stakeholder meeting, online health professional and consumer surveys and Zoom focus groups.
- The final report was completed and submitted to the Australian Government Department of Health in December 2019.
- Recommendations within the report were submitted to the Committee overseeing the [Parliamentary Inquiry into Allergies and Anaphylaxis](#).

Australian Digital Health Agency project



The National Allergy Strategy has worked with the Australian Digital Health Agency to:

- Develop [information sheets and use cases](#) for clinical immunology/allergy specialists about how to access and utilise My Health Record.
- Host a [webinar](#) specifically for clinical immunology/allergy specialists about allergy information in My Health Record.
- Develop an allergy template for standardising and improving allergy information in My Health Record.
- Develop [consumer resources](#) about allergy information in My Health Record.

School and ECEC project



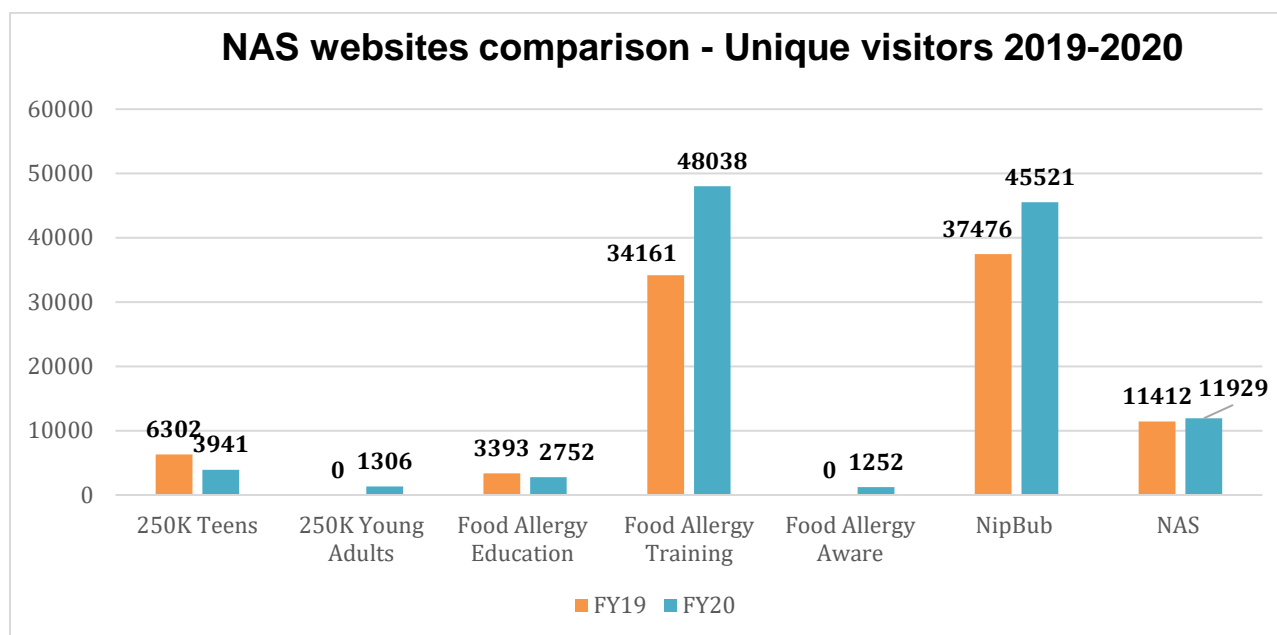
- The National Allergy Strategy is working with key stakeholders to develop minimum standards for the prevention and management of anaphylaxis in schools and early childhood education and care (ECEC).
- Three phases of consultation will be undertaken. The first phase of consultation, a stakeholder meeting was undertaken in February 2020.

Acute Anaphylaxis Clinical Care Standard project



- The National Allergy Strategy, ASCIA and A&AA are represented on this project run by the Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care, which also involves state and territory health department clinical representatives.
- The clinical care standard relates to the care that patients should receive when they are experiencing anaphylaxis, from initial presentation to a healthcare setting, or first clinical contact in the community, through to discharge from health care including planning for follow-up care. It also includes patients who experience anaphylaxis while in a health care facility.
- ASCIA Guidelines for anaphylaxis management will be referenced.

Further information: www.safetyandquality.gov.au/acute-anaphylaxis-clinical-care-standard



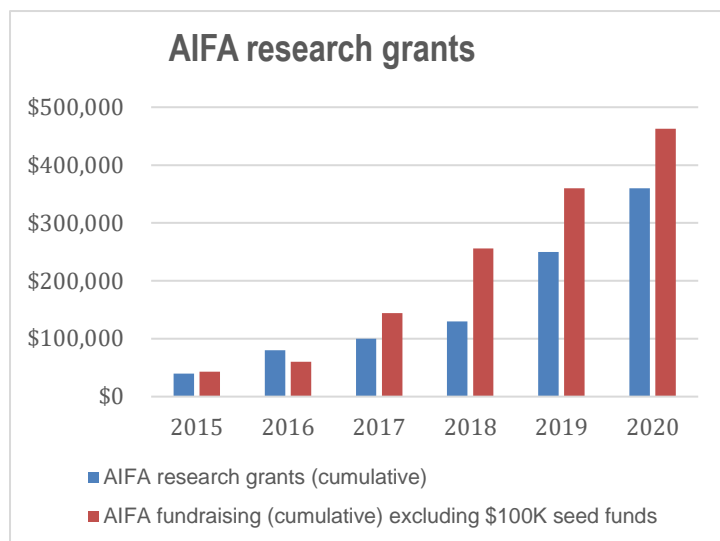
National Allergy Strategy websites are monitored every month and this graph shows a comparison of unique visitors from 2019 to 2020, for each of the seven websites.

Thank you to Dr Preeti Joshi (ASCIA co-chair), Maria Said (A&AA co-chair and Sandra Vale (Manager) for their leadership, and to staff and members who participate in, and contribute to projects.

Thank you also to A/Prof Richard Loh who stepped down from the role of ASCIA co-chair in September 2019, after being involved from the start.

ASCIA PRIORITY 7: AIFA RESEARCH GRANTS

In 2020 AIFA will award \$110,000 in grants for allergy and immunology research, following \$120,000 awarded in 2019, which will give a cumulative total of \$463,000 of AIFA grants awarded since 2015.



To be eligible for an AIFA grant in 2020 the Chief Investigator must be an ASCIA member and the research needs to be carried out by the chief investigator and designated team in a non-profit institution in Australia or New Zealand.

Thank you to our generous donors (including many ASCIA members), corporate supporters and our expert grant selection panel who volunteer their time.

Thank you to Dr Melanie Wong for chairing this panel.

All donations to AIFA directly fund allergy and immunology research grants. Significant donors (of \$10,000 or more) may request targeted research project funding in particular areas.

AIFA research grants encourage:

- Emerging researchers who may not yet receive grants from the NHMRC or other organisations.
- Innovative research that requires seed funding.
- Collaborative research projects conducted throughout Australia and New Zealand.
- Projects that will translate to better treatment and care for patients with allergy and other immune diseases.

To view the grants awarded in 2019 listed below see www.allergyimmunology.org.au/projects

AIFA Research Grants 2019



Food Allergy and MAIT cells

Dr Sidonia Eckle's research aims to determine if mucosal-associated invariant T cells mediate food allergies.



Vitamin D and Food Allergy

Dr Rachel Peters is researching if resolution of vitamin D deficiency predicts resolution of food allergy in infants.



Severe Drug Allergy Register

Dr Jason Trubiano's team aims to study high risk drug allergies by building a special registry called AUS-SCAR.



Improved Diagnosis of PID

Dr Tri Phan's research will utilise machine-based learning to improve the diagnosis of primary immunodeficiency.



Next generation sequencing in HAE

Dr Samantha Chan's research aims to improve the utility of next-generation sequencing in Hereditary Angioedema.

ASCIA PRIORITY 8: ASCIA IMMUNODEFICIENCY STRATEGY

The ASCIA Immunodeficiency Strategy for Australia and New Zealand aims to improve the health and wellbeing of people with primary immunodeficiencies (PID) and minimise the burden on individuals, carers, healthcare services and community.

The Goals of the ASCIA Immunodeficiency Strategy are as follows:

Goal 1: Enable early diagnosis of PIDs, by SCID newborn screening of the population and recognition of early warning signs of PID.

Goal 2: Improve access to expert genetic testing for patients with suspected or recently diagnosed PID, or people with a family history.

Goal 3: Equitable access to specialist and multi-disciplinary care for patients with PID, including those living in regional, rural and remote areas.

Goal 4: Equitable access to treatments, that are appropriately supported and funded for patients with PID.

Goal 5: Support PID education and training for patients, carers and health professionals.

Goal 6: Support multi-disciplinary clinical and laboratory PID research and collaborations.

A draft Strategy has been developed, following a meeting of stakeholders in March 2019 and an extensive review in early 2020. However, progress on finalising the Strategy has been delayed due to the COVID-19 pandemic and absence of funding.

Completion of the Strategy is critical for advocacy on behalf of patients with immunodeficiencies.

Funding in 2020 will enable ASCIA to:

- Update the Strategy document and website www.nationalimmunodeficiencystrategy.org.au
- Coordinate a final review by stakeholders.
- Publish the Strategy by the end of 2020, to enable it to be implemented in 2021.

Once it is published, ASCIA will promote the Strategy through its online newsletters and social media, and in meetings with governments and other organisations.

The Strategy will include the ASCIA Immunodeficiency Register project <https://idregister.ascia.org.au> which requires further ethics approvals and coordinated promotion to expand its use.

The Register will be a critical tool to build a broad and comprehensive knowledge base and improve outcomes for patients with immunodeficiencies, who are managed by clinical immunologists.

Analysis of deidentified patient data collected in this Register will inform current and future practice.



CONCLUDING COMMENTS

ASCIA's plans for 2020-2021 include:

- Hosting of virtual ASCIA Clinical Grand Rounds in late 2020.
- Hosting and promotion of other virtual ASCIA educational events for ASCIA members.
- Further expansion of ASCIA member services, sustainability initiatives, advocacy on behalf of ASCIA members, AIFA research grants, collaborations and partnerships, including the National Allergy Strategy.
- Expansion and promotion of ASCIA online resources, education and training, subject to funding.
- Development of a New Zealand Allergy Strategy.
- Completion and implementation of the ASCIA Immunodeficiency Strategy for Australia and New Zealand.
- Hosting of the ASCIA 2021 Conference in Melbourne, Australia.

Thank you

In my role as ASCIA President I have really enjoyed working closely with the other ASCIA Directors, Council members, the ASCIA CEO and the rest of the ASCIA team over the last two years.

ASCIA is a very special organisation and I feel privileged to have had first hand experience of the inner workings of the society.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank:

- ASCIA Directors, who have met regularly from September 2019 onwards, firstly to develop the submission to the Allergies and Anaphylaxis Parliamentary Inquiry in 2019, then from March 2020 onwards, to develop strategies to sustain ASCIA throughout the COVID-19 pandemic and beyond.
- Other ASCIA Council members, including our committee and working party chairs.
- Outgoing ASCIA Council members - Dr Susan Perel, Dr Pravin Hissaria, Dr Tracy Markus, Dr Victoria Smith and Dr William Smith.
- All ASCIA members, many of whom are active members of ASCIA committees and working parties.
- Past ASCIA presidents who have established such a strong foundation for ASCIA, and particularly William Smith, the immediate Past President.
- ASCIA staff (Jill Smith, Rikki Dunstall, Nadene Dorling, Michelle Haskard, Sandra Vale, Heather Roberts) and Jo McBurnie who covered for Rikki Dunstall whilst on maternity leave.
- ASCIA contractors (Impagination – websites, ICMSA - conference logistics, Rachel Hopkins - graphic design).

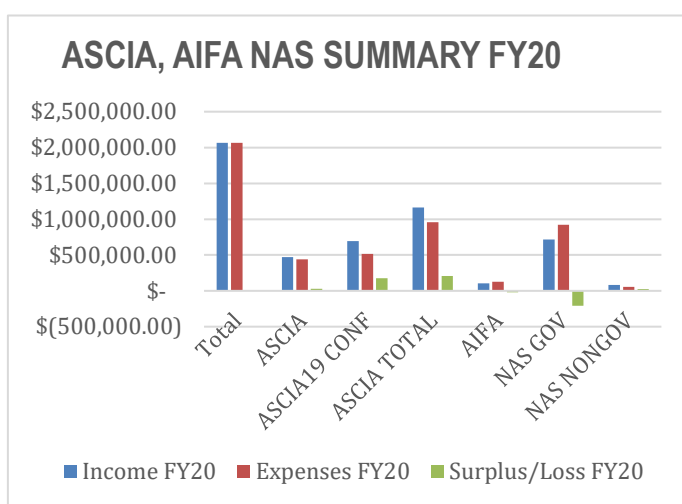
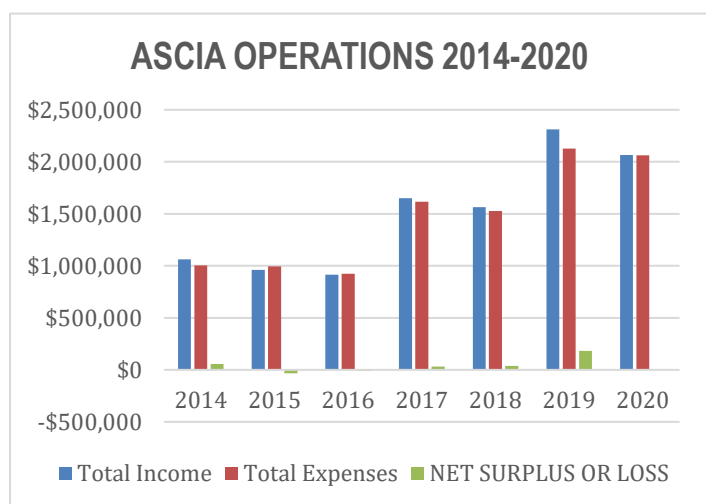
ASCIA FINANCE REPORT 2019-2020

This report is based on the audited ASCIA financial report which covers the 2019-2020 financial year (FY) from 1 July 2019 to 30 June 2020. ASCIA's financial report is consolidated to include ASCIA (general and conference), AIFA and NAS (government and non-government) accounts. The funds for each entity are held in separate bank accounts.

Whilst ASCIA's total (consolidated) income for 2019-2020 was **\$2,064,417** and total expenses were **\$2,063,400** (resulting in a surplus of **\$1,017**), ASCIA's surplus was **\$207,227** which was mainly due to:

- The highly successful ASCIA 2019 Conference, which generated a surplus of **\$176,525**,
- Payment of more ASCIA annual membership fees (**\$183,409 in total**).
- Government subsidies (**\$77,350 in total**) comprised of Cash Flow Boost (\$24,600), Jobkeeper (\$42,750) and a Service NSW COVID-19 Grant (\$10,000).
- Improvements to efficiency resulting in cost savings.
- Unrestricted educational grants from industry (**\$167,000 in total**) which have enabled ASCIA to continue developing and updating ASCIA online resources, education and training programs.

Due to new accounting standards, unspent NAS income from government grants (due to pandemic related delays) is now included as income in advance, which is why NAS expenses appear to exceed its income. However, the NAS accounts are breakeven for government funded projects over the past three years.



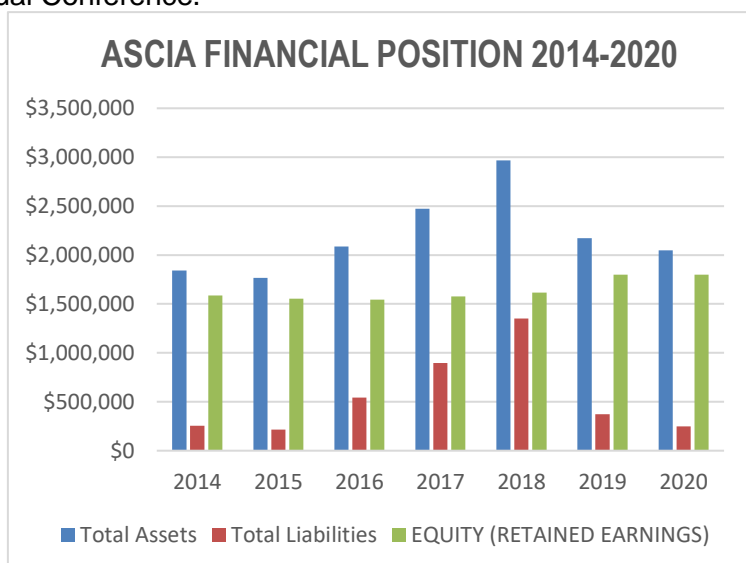
ASCIA's equity (retained earnings) of ~\$1,800,000 remains relatively stable in recent years. Whilst ASCIA is a not for profit company, ASCIA will strive to have at least \$1,500,000 in retained earnings, to maintain ASCIA's sustainability in the long term. This is important if there is another (or continued) pandemic or other natural disaster that affects the ASCIA Annual Conference.

ASCIA's assets include cash at bank of \$1,200,060 at 30 June 2020, comprising:

- **\$546,586 - ASCIA**
- **\$260,301 - AIFA**
- **\$79,427 - NAS govt**
- **\$313,745 - NAS non-govt**

The other main ASCIA asset is the office which was purchased for **\$580,000** in March 2019, with no mortgage.

ASCIA has no loans or any other debts, so liabilities are mainly due to income in advance for the ASCIA 2021 Conference, TAPID meeting in May 2021, unspent NAS (government) funds and staff leave provision.



ASCIA ANNUAL REPORT 2020

ASCIA, AIFA and NAS income has been relatively stable for the past four years (refer to shaded area in table below) and AIFA grants are based on income from previous year (refer to the AIFA report).

As a result of the ASCIA 2020 Conference being postponed until 2021 we expect a reduction in ASCIA's retained earnings of approximately \$150,000 in 2020-2021, unless additional funding is obtained.

Due to favourable recommendations in the Report from the Inquiry into Allergies and Anaphylaxis in Australia, published on 15 June 2020, the decision was made to delay charging fees for ASCIA online training courses, and to send a revised pre-budget submission to the Australian government for consideration in the October 2020 budget. www.allergy.org.au/ascia-reports/s1

CASH FLOW	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Cash (start of year)	\$1,539,879	\$1,469,988	\$1,468,172	\$1,761,444	\$2,132,105	\$2,562,514	\$1,141,152
Cash (end of year)	\$1,469,988	\$1,468,172	\$1,761,444	\$2,132,105	\$2,562,514	\$1,141,152	\$1,200,060

FINANCIAL POSITION	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Total Assets	\$1,842,392	\$1,766,897	\$2,085,947	\$2,474,403	\$2,965,699	\$2,170,951	\$2,048,303
Total Liabilities	\$255,491	\$214,300	\$541,538	\$897,067	\$1,351,027	\$372,673	\$249,007
EQUITY (RETAINED EARNINGS)	\$1,586,901	\$1,552,597	\$1,544,409	\$1,577,336	\$1,614,672	\$1,798,278	\$1,799,296

OPERATING STATEMENT	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Total Income	\$1,061,782	\$960,849	\$913,988	\$1,648,836	\$1,563,349	\$2,311,470	\$2,064,417
Total Expenses	\$1,004,893	\$995,193	\$923,490	\$1,616,218	\$1,525,704	\$2,127,863	\$2,063,400
NET SURPLUS OR LOSS	\$56,889	-\$34,344	-\$9,502	\$32,618	\$37,645	\$183,607	\$1,017

INCOME	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
ASCIA Membership Fees	\$112,384	\$113,859	\$129,351	\$124,068	\$162,290	\$146,617	\$183,409
ASCIA Conference Income	\$458,251	\$480,172	\$452,565	\$641,235	\$626,542	\$630,806	\$693,185
Interest	\$47,420	\$45,749	\$31,633	\$32,352	\$24,085	\$25,582	\$3,294
Other ASCIA Income	\$32	\$3,890	\$3,022	\$2,055	\$25,221	\$30,753	\$169,458
Sponsorship - ASCIA Education	\$279,086	\$135,805	\$157,480	\$270,243	\$103,440	\$172,000	\$115,632
Sponsorship - NAS Govt	\$0	\$0	\$100,000	\$400,000	\$500,000	\$975,000	\$716,245
Sponsorship - NAS non-Govt	\$35,000	\$168,000	\$24,944	\$95,995	\$11,155	\$225,518	\$59,938
Sponsorship - AIFA	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$16,605	\$40,000	\$40,000
Donations - AIFA	\$129,609	\$13,374	\$14,993	\$82,888	\$94,011	\$65,194	\$83,256
TOTAL INCOME	\$1,061,782	\$960,849	\$913,988	\$1,648,836	\$1,563,349	\$2,311,470	\$2,064,417

ASCIA COUNCIL ELECTIONS 2020

One nomination for the following Council positions was received so no elections were required for those positions:

- QLD representative – Dr Alberto Pinzon
- SA representative – Dr Jovanka King
- Medical Associate representative – Dr Kathryn Heyworth
- ASCIA Drug Allergy committee chair – Prof Connie Katelaris (previously Deputy Chair)

Congratulations to these new ASCIA Council members and thank you to Connie for returning to Council. It is a great reflection on ASCIA that we have four past Presidents who have stayed on, or recently returned as Committee chairs.

Thank you to the following departing ASCIA Council members for their contributions which we greatly appreciate:

- QLD representative – Dr Susan Perel
- SA representative – Dr Pravin Hissaria
- WA representative – Dr Tracy Markus
- Medical Associate representative – Dr Victoria Smith
- Immediate ASCIA Past President – Dr William Smith

Following the AGM:

- Nominations were called for the WA representative, and A/Prof Kristina Rueter is now in this role.
- A virtual election amongst Full ASCIA members was held for the President Elect position, as we received two nominations, from A/Prof Jane Peake and Dr Theresa Cole, and the results were very close.

Dr Theresa Cole was the successful candidate and will now take on the role of ASCIA President Elect and A/Prof Jane Peake will continue in her valued role as an ASCIA Director.

INCOMING PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE - PROFESSOR MICHAELA LUCAS

I am honoured and proud to lead ASCIA for the next two years, from 2020 to 2022.

Since 1990 ASCIA has grown into a world leading, innovative and active professional society with strong and progressive leadership.

ASCIA is in a fortunate position today due to the leadership of Presidents who have served before me, the active participation of ASCIA members and the leadership, support and guidance from ASCIA staff.

The COVID-19 pandemic in 2020 has presented new challenges for everyone, including ASCIA.

However, with such a strong foundation I am confident that ASCIA will continue to succeed and grow, despite current issues.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Dr Brynn Wainstein for his excellent leadership over the past two years, from 2018 to 2020.

As outlined in the President's Report there have been significant submissions and projects completed over that time, and many difficult issues addressed since March 2020. Brynn's leadership has been critical in these challenging times.

Thank you to the departing ASCIA Council members for all their work over the past few years and welcome to new ASCIA Council members, who I look forward to working with.

In September 2021 I look forward to seeing you at the 31st ASCIA Conference in Melbourne which is being organised by Dr Dean Tey and his committee.

In the meantime I hope everyone stays safe and well.

ASCIA COUNCIL 2020-2022

DIRECTORS (EXECUTIVE)

PRESIDENT (CHAIR of Board of Directors)	Prof Michaela Lucas (WA)
PRESIDENT ELECT	Dr Theresa Cole (VIC)*
DIRECTOR	A/Prof Jane Peake (QLD)
DIRECTOR	Dr Michael O'Sullivan (WA)

AREA REPRESENTATIVES

AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY	Dr Elizabeth da Silva
NEW SOUTH WALES	Dr Narinder Kaur
NEW ZEALAND	Dr Andrew Baker
QUEENSLAND	Dr Alberto Pinzon
SOUTH AUSTRALIA	Dr Jovanka King
VICTORIA	Dr Stephanie Richards
WESTERN AUSTRALIA	A/Prof Kristina Rueter*

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Anaphylaxis committee Chair	Dr Katie Frith (NSW)
Drug Allergy committee Chair	Prof Connie Katelaris AM (NSW)
Education committee Chair	Dr Kathryn Patchett (NSW)
Laboratory Practice committee Chair	Dr Karl Baumgart (NSW)
Paediatric committee Chair	Dr Lara Ford (NSW)
Immunodeficiency committee Chair	Dr Theresa Cole (VIC)

ASSOCIATE REPRESENTATIVES

Associate (Dietitian) Representative	Kathy Beck (QLD)
Associate (Nurse) Representative	Briony Tyquin (NSW)
Associate (Medical) Representative	Dr Kathryn Heyworth (QLD)
Associate (Trainee) Representative	Dr Hannah Hu (NSW)

OTHER COUNCIL MEMBERS

Immediate Past ASCIA President	Dr Brynn Wainstein (NSW)
Chair, JCTC Immunology/Allergy Training	Dr Jan Sinclair (NZ)
AIFA Chair	Dr Melanie Wong (NSW)
National Allergy Strategy co-chair (ASCIA)	Dr Preeti Joshi (NSW)

*These roles were appointed after the AGM, following an election for the ASCIA President Elect role and a call for nominations for the ASCIA WA Representative role.