

Conference Reports

The following reports have been submitted by members who have received conference grants from the NSW OTA.

ACORN Conference Report - *Written by Melissa McLean*

As a recipient of a NSW OTA conference grant I was very lucky to attend the National ACORN Conference "All for one and one for all" in Melbourne. The conference was held over 4 days and I gained both many educational and enjoyable moments. Some of the highlights include...

A fantastic presentation by Peter Smith and John Gibbs entitled "Below 10,000" which highlighted the importance of a quiet theatre at pivotal times; those times include Induction/Intubation, Timeout, Nurses Count and Extubation. It gave ideas on how to use a language tool to gain people's full attention and focus to those tasks at hand. By minimising distractions at sentinel times gives one the potential to value add to your team (see www.belowtenthousand.com for inspiration!).

From the legal side of nursing it was great to hear 2 talks from people's experience within this field. Penny Arnold's story was very moving and she quoted "If it's not written, it's not done". Whereas Sally Sutherland Fraser and Menna Davis's experiences as expert witnesses also stressed that "Documentation can either be your best friend or your worst enemy".

I have an interest in the concepts of Lean, so I found the talk by Gavin Meredith very interesting on his companies work in collecting data to try and obtain a 'cost' for operating theatres that can be used as a KPI. This could then be used to cost inefficiencies within the operating theatre.

The talks on the ACSQHCS 10 standards were interesting as in my prior role as theatre NUM of a small private hospital having gone through the 10 standard accreditation last year, it was good for our journey and learning's to be consolidated, as well as to gain more ideas for future areas of growth.

Patricia Nicholson's statistics that up to 70% of waste in a hospital comes from the perioperative area was good to bring home some truths and to gain an ethical lesson on what we should do to minimise our footprint on the environment. With the introduction of disposable drapes and bowls the landfill impact resulting from this is huge and as Australia is already the 2nd largest waste maker in the world, we need to make an effort in this area. If recycling is not working, maybe we should be compacting our waste, then at least the footprint is been reduced.

But definitely my highlight, aside for the Medline High Tea on the last day!!, was the reflection by Peter Davidson on his time doing rescues during the Sydney-Hobart Yacht Race 1998/9. The strength of his teams spirit, will power and amazing courage was skin tinglingly inspiring.

The conference theme "All for one and one for all" was a great concept to ponder on. As an individual, do your best and also add to the team in order for greatness to be achieved. I especially liked the quote Nicole Vicic stated by Oprah and that is "You are responsible for the energy you bring into a room".

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank NSW OTA for enabling me to attend this conference. It was a fantastic opportunity.