

Connecting regional and rural Australians with quality allergy care



Heather Roberts

CRANA Conference **Perth**
Tuesday 12 May 2026

national **allergy** council



Acknowledgement of country


The National Allergy Council acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of country throughout Australia and their connections to land, sea and community. We pay respect to Elders past and present, and recognise the continuation of cultural, spiritual and educational practices of First Nation peoples throughout Australia.

Presentation overview

- About the National Allergy Council
- Burden of allergy in Australia
- Shared Care for Allergy Program
- Allergy Care and Education Nurse (ACE) pilot
- Connecting Allergy healthcare professionals
- Questions




National Allergy Council Programs



Managing allergies and anaphylaxis in schools and children's education and care



Supporting school-aged kids and young adults living with severe allergy



Protecting people with allergies through an anaphylaxis reporting system



Building connected allergy care through digital health

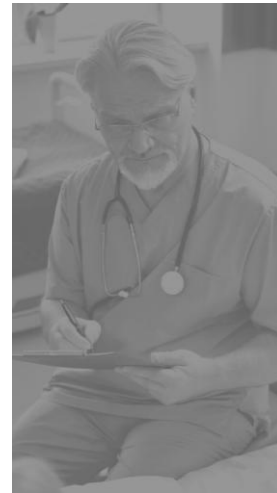


NIP ALLERGIES IN THE
Bub™

Preventing food allergy in babies



Empowering consumers and improving access to quality allergy care



Promoting accurate antibiotic allergy diagnosis and documentation



Improving food allergen management in food service



Burden of allergy in Australia

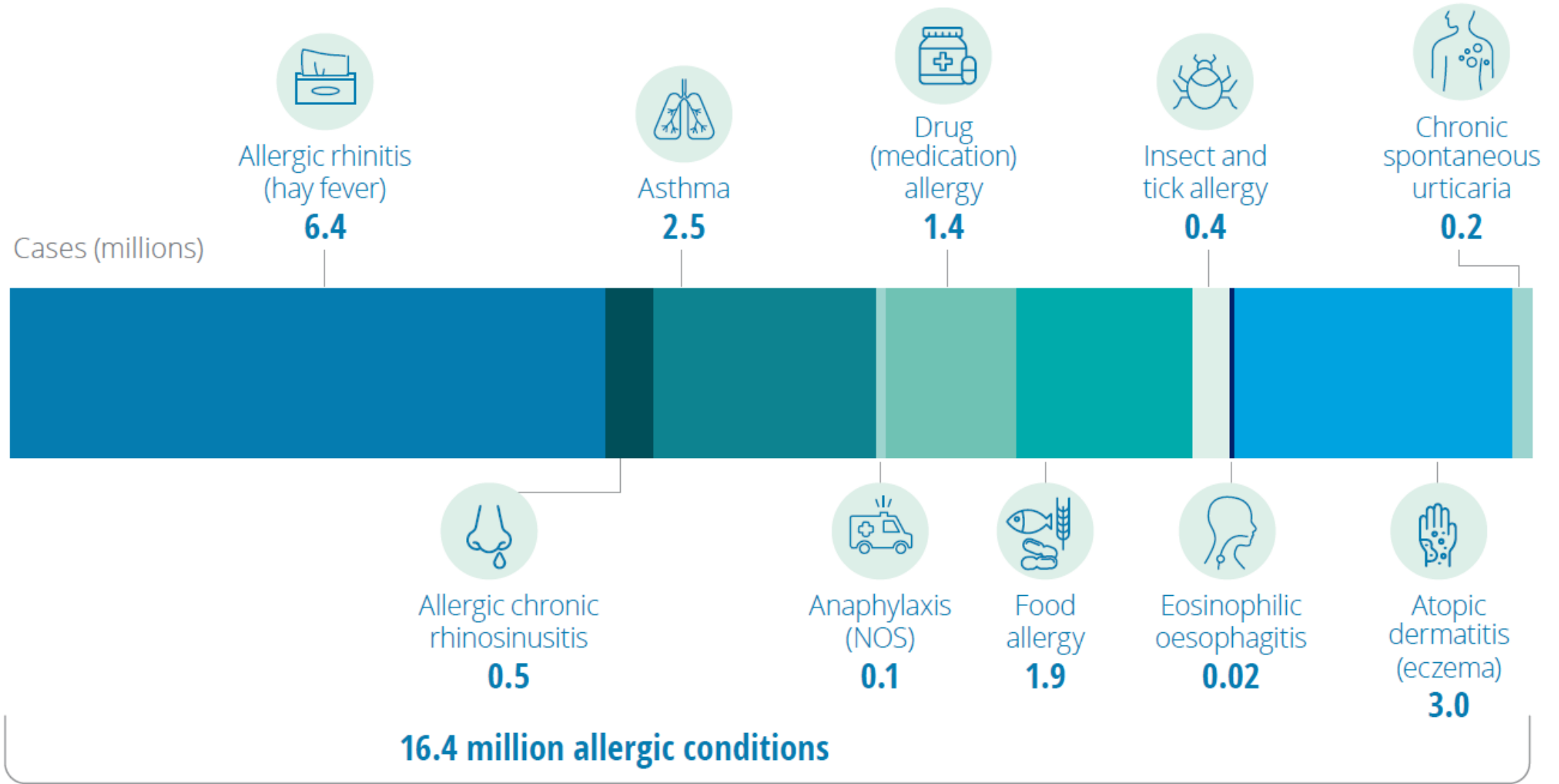
Around **8.2 million Australians** were affected by allergic disease in 2024
...comprising a total of **16.4 million allergic conditions**

30%
of Australians



- Average of 2 diseases/person
- Doubling of those affected since 2007 report





Divide by the number of allergic conditions per person (assumed to be 2*) to estimate the number of people affected

What have we been funded to do?

Improve **access** to quality allergy care for all Australians, particularly people living in **rural and remote** areas

Includes:

- Allergic rhinitis (hay fever)
- Atopic dermatitis (eczema)
- Food allergy
- Insect allergy
- Drug (medication) allergy

national
allergy
council



Our vision for Shared Care



Right care

People with allergic diseases are offered the best care.



Right place

People with allergic diseases can get the best care no matter where they live. They might be seen in person or by telehealth.



Right time

People with allergic diseases are given care when they need it.



Right healthcare professional

People with allergic diseases can find healthcare professionals with the right training. Their healthcare professionals communicate with each other to give the best care.

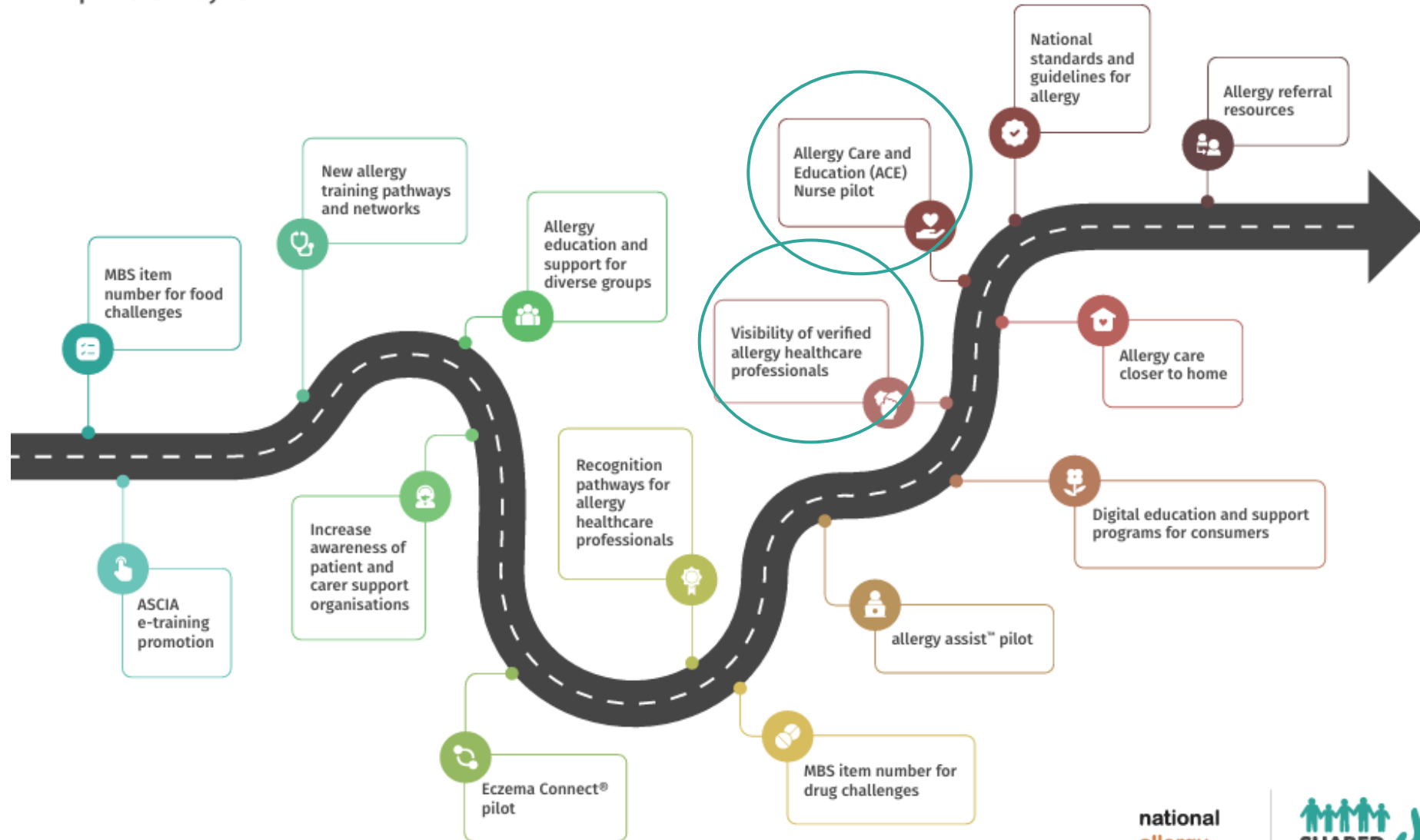
Listening to Australians. Acting on their ideas.

The Shared Care for Allergy project has been shaped by many Australians including people living with allergies and those who care for them, healthcare professionals and community organisations.



Shared Care for Allergy project - Implementation roadmap

April 2025 - May 2026



Allergy training to suit rural needs

Break through existing structures and institutions

Train where you work

Flexible blended learning

Sustaining services long term

Be supported and connected

Our goal...

A connected and supported allergy workforce with local knowledge and context to provide care to people outside the metropolitan area.

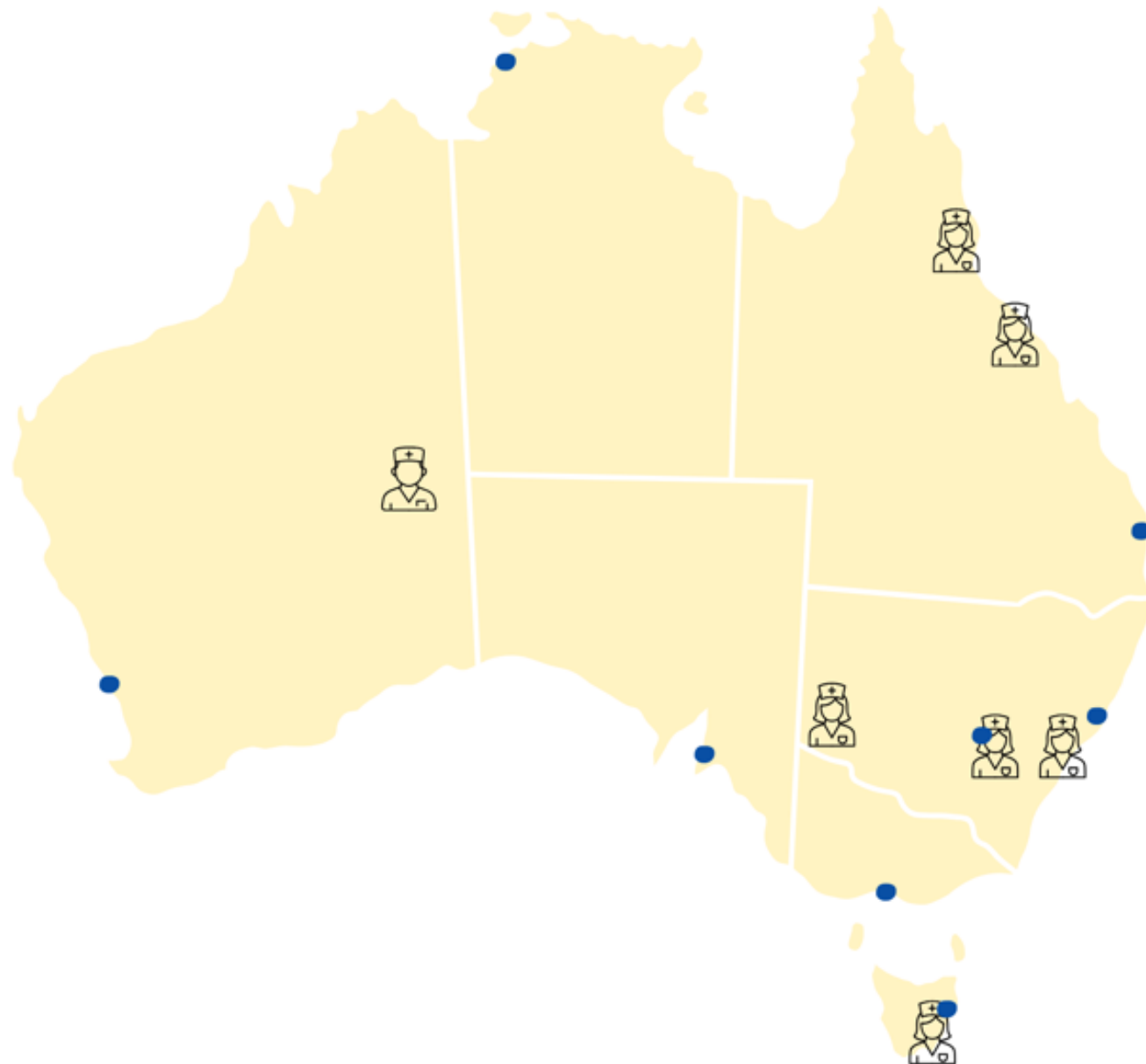
Allergy Care and Education Nurse (ACE) pilot

- Recruit practice nurses working in MM2-MM7 locations (not hospitals)
- 18 month pilot with pre- and post-survey to measure against aims

Aims:

- Increase access to allergy care in regional and rural areas
- Build nurse capability and confidence in recognising and managing allergic conditions
- Improve early intervention and self-management of allergy patients
- Determine if nurse-led allergy education is a viable and sustainable model
- Explore how existing MBS item numbers can support allergy education, and determine if additional MBS item numbers are required
- Inform future policy, funding, and training models for allergy care delivery

ACE Nurse participants n=7



ACE Nurse pilot outline



18-month pilot

- Complete the **Professional Certificate in Allergy Nursing** (Jul – Dec 2025)
 - Well established online course run by University of SA
 - 13 weeks of self-paced content and discussion forums
 - Virtual tutorials: 6 x 1-hour interactive sessions
 - Assessments: Critical analysis, portfolio, test/quiz
 - 3 additional online webinars run by National Allergy Council

- Attend Australasian Society of Clinical Immunology and Allergy (ASCIA) Conference (Sep 2025)
 - Required to attend the Nurses update at the allergy conference

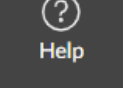
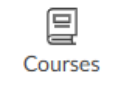
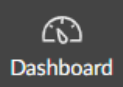
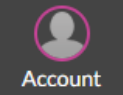
- Set up an allergy education service in their clinic (Jan – Dec 2026)
 - ACE nurses supported by an online ACE Nurse Community of Practice

Community of Practice

- 20 nurses with all state/territories represented
 - 7 trainee ACE nurses
 - 13 experienced allergy nurses
- Presentations with guest speakers on topics
- Online discussions as required
- Can post a case for input from the CoP
- Resource bank of helpful resources
- Support ACE nurses
 - Cases they are unsure about
 - Setting up their clinic

✓ Supported
✓ Calibrated
✓ Encouraged
✓ Sustained





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ACE Nurses Community of Practice

ALLERGY CARE AND EDUCATION (ACE) NURSES



COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE

Welcome to the ACE Nurse Community of Practice!

It's great to have you on board. This is your space to connect, share ideas, ask questions, and learn from others who are passionate about allergy care. Whether you're new to the field or building on your experience, we're all here to support each other as we grow our knowledge and skills.

We look forward to learning and collaborating with you!

PURPOSE

MEMBER LIST

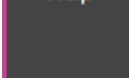
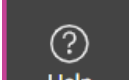
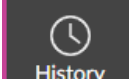
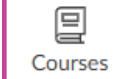
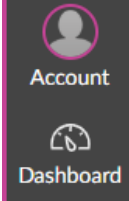
NAC ACE NURSE PILOT

DISCUSSIONS

ONLINE MEETINGS

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ACE Online Discussions

ONLINE MEETINGS

MEETING #1

 Date & Time:
Tuesday
24 March 2026
at 07.00pm (AEDT)
Zoom link [here](#)

MEETING #2

 Date & Time:
Tuesday
9 June 2026
at 07.00pm (AEST)
Zoom link [here](#)



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Help

RESOURCES

If you have a resource that you would like to share on this page, please either post it in the discussion section, or email erin@nationalallergy.org.au

For Health Professionals

[ASCIA website](#) ↗

[How to give adrenaline](#) ↗ (ASCIA)

[Nip Allergies in the Bub](#) ↗ - Information about how to feed babies the common allergy causing foods and how to manage eczema

[Anaphylaxis](#) ↗ resources

[Order A&AA allergy resources](#) ↗ - order online allergy related resources (some printed resources are free)

For Patients

[Allergy & Anaphylaxis Australia National allergy helpline phone number](#) ↗: 1300 728 000

[Allergy & Anaphylaxis Australia](#) ↗ website

[Allergy 250K](#) ↗ - A resource hub for the 250,000 young Australians living with severe allergy

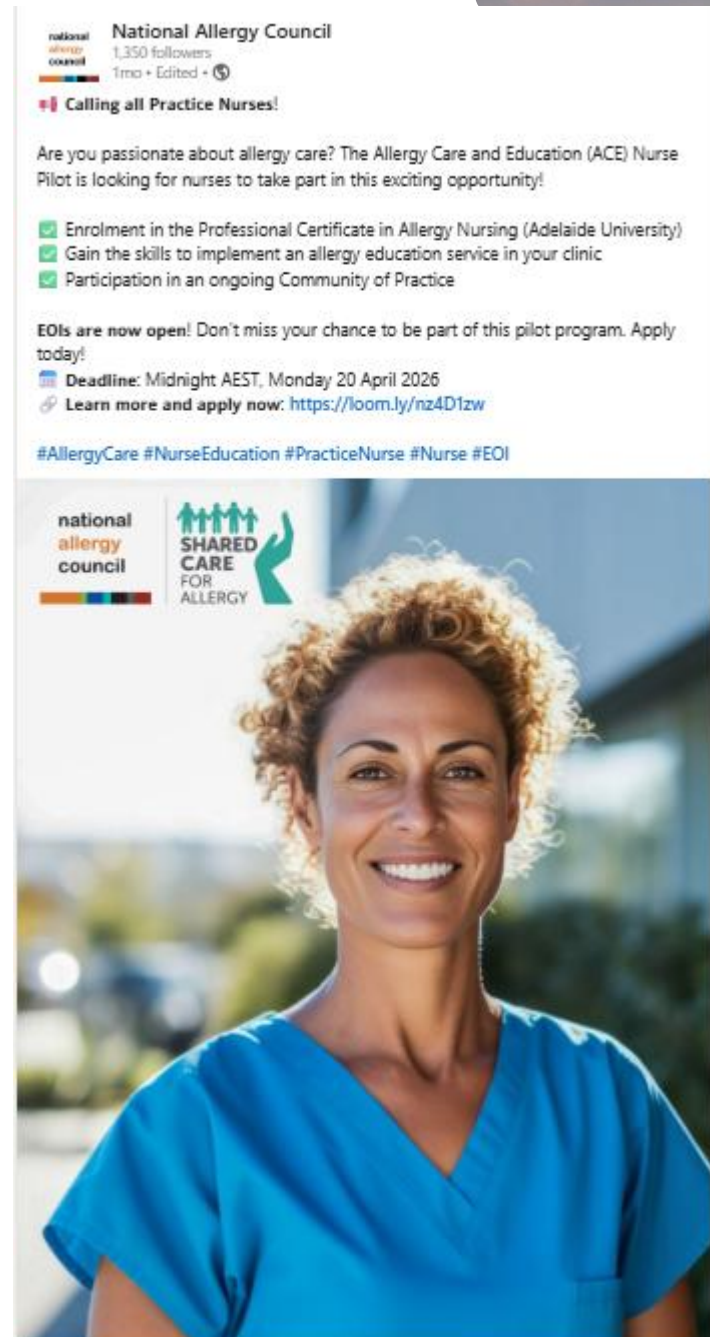
[Nip Allergies in the Bub](#) ↗ - Information about how to feed babies the common allergy causing foods and how to manage eczema

[Allergy Aware](#) ↗ - Information about managing allergies in schools and children's education and care

What's next?

Round 2 intake just closed

- CRANA have helped us promote the EOI for the second intake of ACE nurses
- Allergy Clinical Update for CRANA members – *coming soon*
- Access to Care Guideline for Allergic Conditions



The image shows a social media post from the National Allergy Council. At the top, it says 'National Allergy Council' with '1,350 followers' and '1mo • Edited'. The main text reads: 'Calling all Practice Nurses! Are you passionate about allergy care? The Allergy Care and Education (ACE) Nurse Pilot is looking for nurses to take part in this exciting opportunity!'. Below this are three bullet points: 'Enrolment in the Professional Certificate in Allergy Nursing (Adelaide University)', 'Gain the skills to implement an allergy education service in your clinic', and 'Participation in an ongoing Community of Practice'. It then says 'EOIs are now open! Don't miss your chance to be part of this pilot program. Apply today!' and provides a deadline: 'Deadline: Midnight AEST, Monday 20 April 2026' and a link: 'Learn more and apply now: <https://loom.ly/nz4D1zw>'. At the bottom of the post are the hashtags: '#AllergyCare #NurseEducation #PracticeNurse #Nurse #EOI'. Below the post is the National Allergy Council logo, which includes the text 'national allergy council' and 'SHARED CARE FOR ALLERGY' with a graphic of three stylized figures. The bottom half of the image is a photograph of a smiling woman with curly hair wearing blue scrubs.



Associateship of Clinical Allergy

5 GPs

5 Paediatricians

working in rural and regional areas or areas of unmet need



Coming soon on the National Allergy Council website....

**national
allergy
council**



**Allergy
Care Finder
Australia™**

Allergy Care Finder Australia

Find certified allergy healthcare professionals near you.

|

Suburb or postcode



Allergy specialist

Allergy dietitian

Allergy GP

Allergy nurse practitioner

Allergy Care and Education Nurse

Allergy Paediatrician

Government commits additional funding for peak bodies to help combat allergies

8 April 2026 | By Andrew McLaughlin

Start the conversation



myCRANA | Membership | Education | Workforce Support | Bush Support Line



Weekly Update
with Dallas McKeown
First Peoples Advisor

8 May 2026

Yamma,

Recently, the Federal Government committed \$14.6 million to accelerate national allergy research and public health programs supporting millions of Australians living with allergic disease.

The funding, allocated through to June 2028, enables the National Allergy Council (NAC), a partnership between the Australasian Society of Clinical Immunology and Allergy (ASCIA) and Allergy & Anaphylaxis Australia, and the National Allergy Centre of Excellence, to continue supporting people living with allergic disease through evidence-based prevention, education, training and support initiatives.

The NAC **Shared Care for Allergy Project** improves access to quality care for Australians, particularly in regional areas, by enabling GPs and specialists to work together. As CRANApulse' First Peoples Advisor, I'm a member of the Shared Care for Allergy Project and provide contemporary information relevant to health professionals working in rural and remote locations. A webinar with NAC featuring clinical updates will occur later this year.

Want to learn more about allergies?

1. Complete an ASCIA e-training course

<https://traininghp.ascia.org.au/>

2. Refer patients and carers with allergy to Allergy & Anaphylaxis Australia

3. Subscribe to our newsletters

4. Attend the CRANA Allergy Clinical Update *coming soon*



Thank you – any questions?



SCAN ME

Contact us:

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www.nationalallergycouncil.org.au