



Annual Impact Report 2026

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This Annual Report is based on the Minutes of the National Allergy Council Annual General Meeting held on Thursday 20 August 2026 7.00 - 7.30pm AEST, via video conference.

About allergic disease in Australia



1 in 3
Australians are affected by allergic disease ⁽¹⁾



One of the fastest growing chronic conditions in Australia ⁽¹⁾



\$18.9 billion
cost each year in financial losses ⁽¹⁾



\$44.6 billion
further costs each year in wellbeing losses ⁽¹⁾



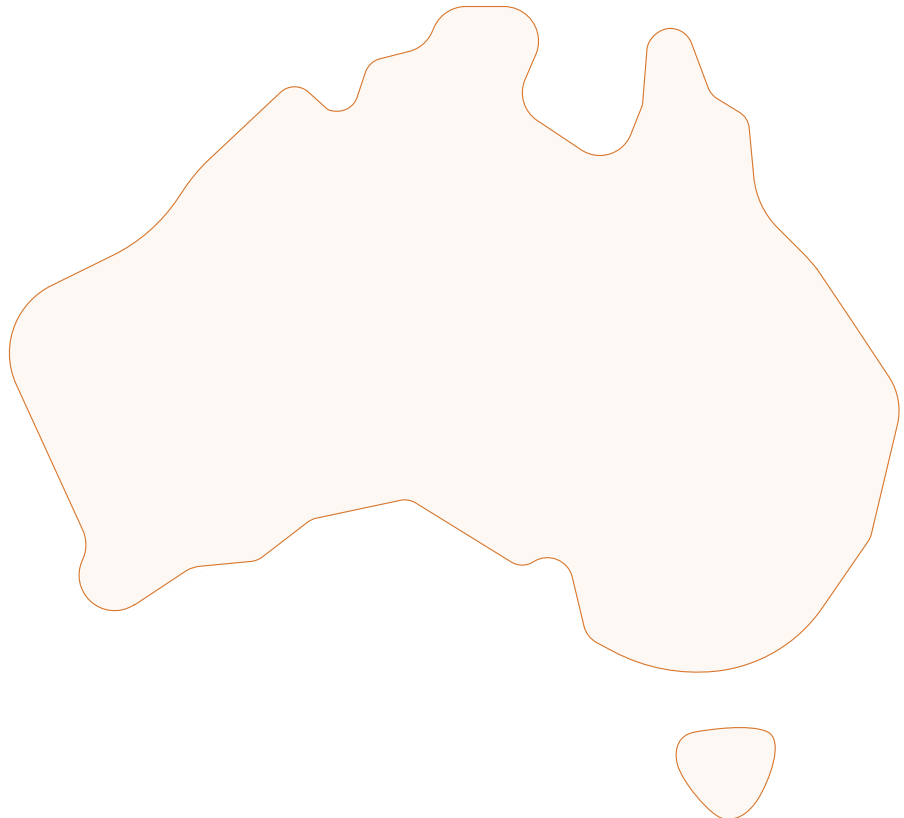
1 in 10
babies have a confirmed food allergy ⁽²⁾



1 in 20
adults report having a medication (drug) allergy ⁽³⁾



1 in 4
Australians have allergic rhinitis (hay fever) ⁽⁴⁾



About the National Allergy Council

The National Allergy Council is a partnership between the Australasian Society of Clinical Immunology and Allergy (ASCIA) and Allergy & Anaphylaxis Australia (A&AA), working in consultation with key interest holders.

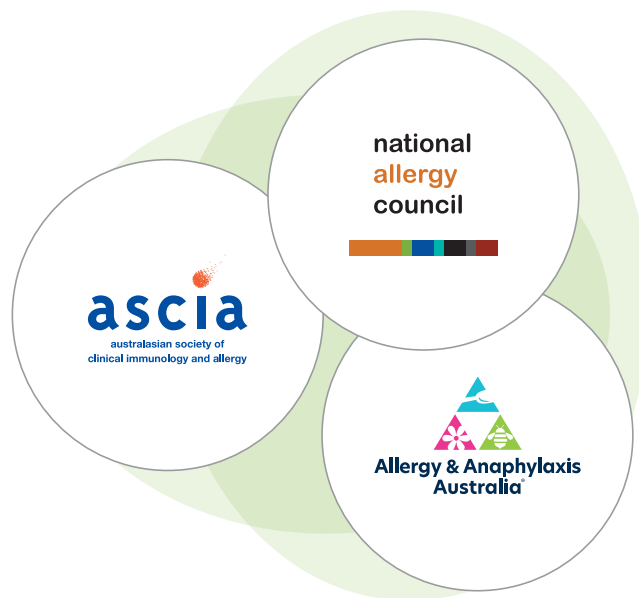
The National Allergy Council is responsible for implementing the National Allergy Strategy, which guides the work needed to be undertaken to improve the health and wellbeing of Australians living with allergic disease, including reducing the burden on individuals, carers, healthcare services and the community.

Our vision

Driving change to reduce the impact of allergic disease for all Australians.

Our purpose

To deliver evidence-based public health initiatives, education, training and support, in consultation with key interest holders, to improve the health and wellbeing of people with allergic disease.



Our people and structure

Our Board

As a partnership between ASCIA and A&AA, the National Allergy Council Board of Directors comprises two directors nominated by ASCIA (Clinical Professor Michaela Lucas and Dr Melanie Wong) and two directors nominated by A&AA (Ms Maria Said AM and Mr Michael Linehan).

Our Advisory Committee

The National Allergy Council programs each have a program co-lead from ASCIA and A&AA. The National Allergy Council Advisory Committee is comprised of these program co-leads and a representative from the National Allergy Centre of Excellence (NACE).

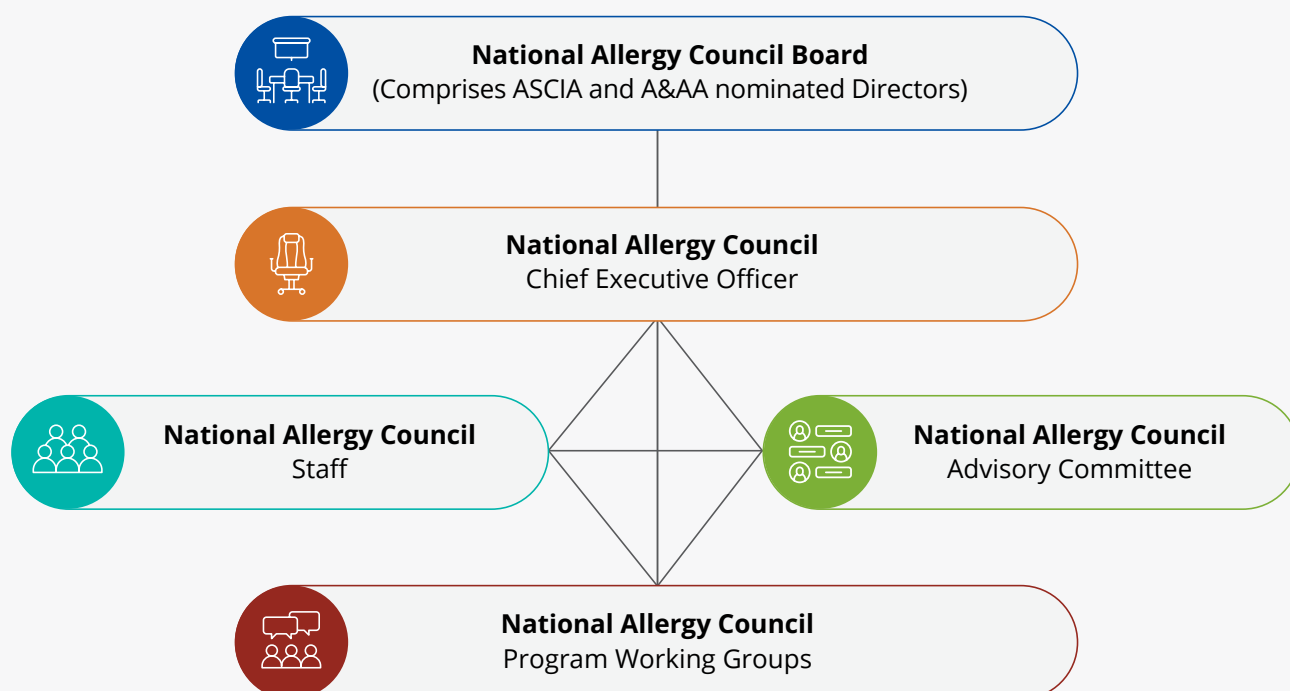
The National Allergy Council Advisory Committee Co-chairs are Clinical Professor Michaela Lucas (representing ASCIA) and Maria Said AM (representing A&AA).

Representing ASCIA on our Advisory Committee are Dr Vicki McWilliam, Dr Melanie Wong, Dr Preeti Joshi, Briony Tyquin, Dr Brynn Wainstein, Dr Katie Frith and Dr Pravin Hissaria.

Representing A&AA on our Advisory Committee are Maria Said AM, Sally Voukelatos, Kylie Hollinshead, Dr Wendy Freeman, Vikki Jayewardene and Tiffany Ma.

Representing the NACE on our Advisory Committee is Professor Kirsten Perrett.

Visit the National Allergy Council website for further information about our [organisation](https://nationalallergycouncil.org.au/about-us/organisation).



Our 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
allergy through
an anaphylaxis
reporting system



Building
connected
allergy care
through
digital health



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

Our impact

In the past year...



190.5 million
people reached
globally through
media, social media
and online content



85,182
food service staff
trained with life-
saving food allergen
management training



75
young people with
severe allergies
attended a life changing
Allergy 250K camp



5,771
in-person interactions
through conferences
and events



142,470
program bookmarks
delivered (excluding
conferences)



167,916
Nip Allergies in the
Bub website sessions



890
people registered
for webinars



46,852
allergy aware resource
hub website sessions



1.3 million
social media
impressions



8,475
social media
followers



1,942
people reached
directly (subscribers)



1,007
active contributors



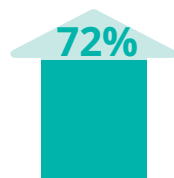
954,975
website sessions



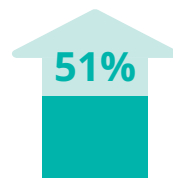
523,169
video views



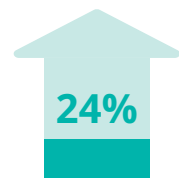
increase
in people reached
globally through
media, social media
and online content



increase
in people registered
for webinars



increase
in video views



increase
in website sessions

Key program highlights



Allergy 250K program

The National Allergy Council launched the [Allergy 250K program](#) in 2017, based on national engagement with young people who told us that they wanted to be part of a community to support them. Allergy 250K was chosen by them, for them.

A major focus of the Allergy 250K program has been the school-aged kids and young adult camps which have been running since January 2019. Since then, we have conducted 14 camps (eight school-aged kids camps and six young adult camps) and two school-aged kids' fun days. These camps have connected young people with each other and also connected them with Allergy 250K peer mentors and allergy health professionals. Evaluation of these camps shows that they have a significant impact on camp participants, increasing their confidence to talk about and manage their allergies, particularly their food allergies. The camps also provide the opportunity for us to liaise with onsite catering staff about best practice management of food allergies, which they can implement for all camps, such as school or community camps, not just the Allergy 250K camps.

After 10 years of delivering positive outcomes, the Allergy 250K program will move to Allergy & Anaphylaxis Australia (A&AA). This transition is a result of the many years of hard work that the National Allergy Council team have invested in this program, to a point where it is a proven concept and needing to transition into a permanent place of delivery. As the peak consumer body, A&AA will be its permanent home.

The Allergy 250K program continues to be funded by the Australian Government Department of Health, Disability and Ageing including the school-aged kids camps, young adult camps and the peer mentor program.

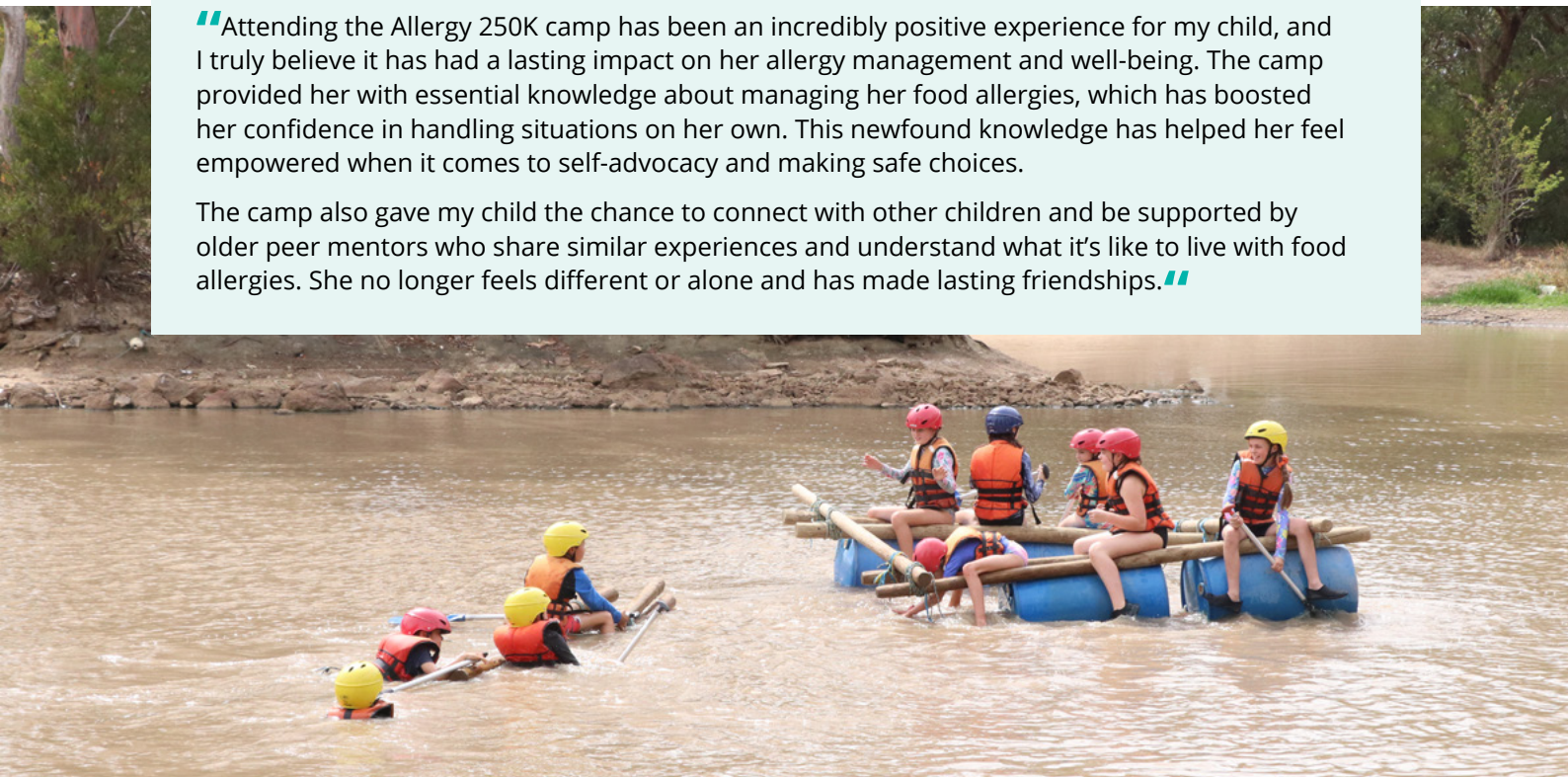
Pictured: Young adults, school-aged kids, staff and volunteers at the Allergy 250K camp in Adelaide, March 2026.



Testimonial from a parent of an Allergy 250K camp participant

“Attending the Allergy 250K camp has been an incredibly positive experience for my child, and I truly believe it has had a lasting impact on her allergy management and well-being. The camp provided her with essential knowledge about managing her food allergies, which has boosted her confidence in handling situations on her own. This newfound knowledge has helped her feel empowered when it comes to self-advocacy and making safe choices.

The camp also gave my child the chance to connect with other children and be supported by older peer mentors who share similar experiences and understand what it's like to live with food allergies. She no longer feels different or alone and has made lasting friendships.”



The Mystery of School Island curriculum game

In June 2026 we launched [The Mystery of School Island](#) online curriculum game, to support young people still at school. The game is designed primarily for students in years 6 and 7 and aims to raise awareness about food allergies. The game was developed as young people repeatedly told us that they wanted their friends to know about their food allergies, but they did not want to be the ones to tell them. This online game is available free of charge to access and provides the opportunity for all students in years 6 and 7 to be educated about food allergies. The game is the first of its kind, combining allergy education in an online game format that aligns with the national, New South Wales and Victorian school curriculums.



Pictured: Example of a young person playing the Mystery of School Island online curriculum game.



allergy assist®

allergy assist® is an online education and advice platform for general practitioners (GPs) and Rural Generalists. Since launching this new service in February 2025, more than 870 general practitioners and rural generalists have registered with the [allergy assist®](#) platform. Initially established to GPs and Rural Generalists in regional, rural and remote areas, the service was extended to support metropolitan GPs as well.

As an education and advice platform developed in partnership with the Australian College for Rural and Remote Medicine (ACRRM), we have expanded the education resources available and have offered quarterly webinars, presented by our team of adult and paediatric clinical immunology/allergy specialists.

The aim of the initiative is to improve access to quality allergy care for people in regional and rural areas, reducing their wait for specialist input. Doctors can submit deidentified cases to seek guidance from a clinical immunology/allergy specialist within 48 hours on the next steps for a patient. There has been a strong uptake by GPs and Rural Generalists in regional, rural and remote areas, reflecting two thirds of registrations. Forty percent of the requests for advice through the platform relate to patients with a potential food allergy.



Allergy Care and Education Nurse Pilot (ACE Nurse Pilot)

In 2025, the National Allergy Council supported seven nurses from regional, rural and remote Australia to complete the Professional Certificate in Allergy Nursing through the University of South Australia. As part of the [ACE Nurse Pilot](#), these nurses have joined a National Allergy Council Community of Practice that will support them to apply their knowledge and skills, providing education to patients with allergic conditions in their region.



Allergy Aware Schools and Children's Education and Care program

The [Best Practice Guidelines for Anaphylaxis Prevention and Management in Schools and Children's Education and Care \(CEC\) Services](#) (including out of school hours care) have been updated and are now available on the [Allergy Aware resource hub](#), along with the updated tools and checklists.

The 2026 update to the Best Practice Guidelines includes:

- guidance about use of all adrenaline devices available in Australia.
- information on how to conduct an anaphylaxis drill.
- information and tools to assist schools and CEC services with risk assessment when planning off site activities such as school excursions, camps and interstate or overseas travel.
- a recommendation that students on oral immunotherapy treatment for food allergy have this documented on their individual anaphylaxis care plan.

Recommendations related to requirements for teachers or staff members responsible for making and serving food to complete All about Allergens online food allergen management training have been strengthened. This is because knowing how to avoid exposure to known food allergens is important to manage risk for food-related anaphylaxis.



Digital communication of allergy program

This year, we developed a [Best practice guideline for the recording, transfer and access of allergy information in electronic health records](#). The guideline will help us work towards more accurate documentation of people's allergies to ensure their safety and better health outcomes. The development of this guideline is particularly important for people with drug (medication) allergies and in situations where the patient is unable to speak for themselves. The National Allergy Council continues to work with the Australian Digital Health Agency and the Sparked community to improve electronic health records and contribute to education materials for healthcare professionals and consumers.



Food allergy aware program

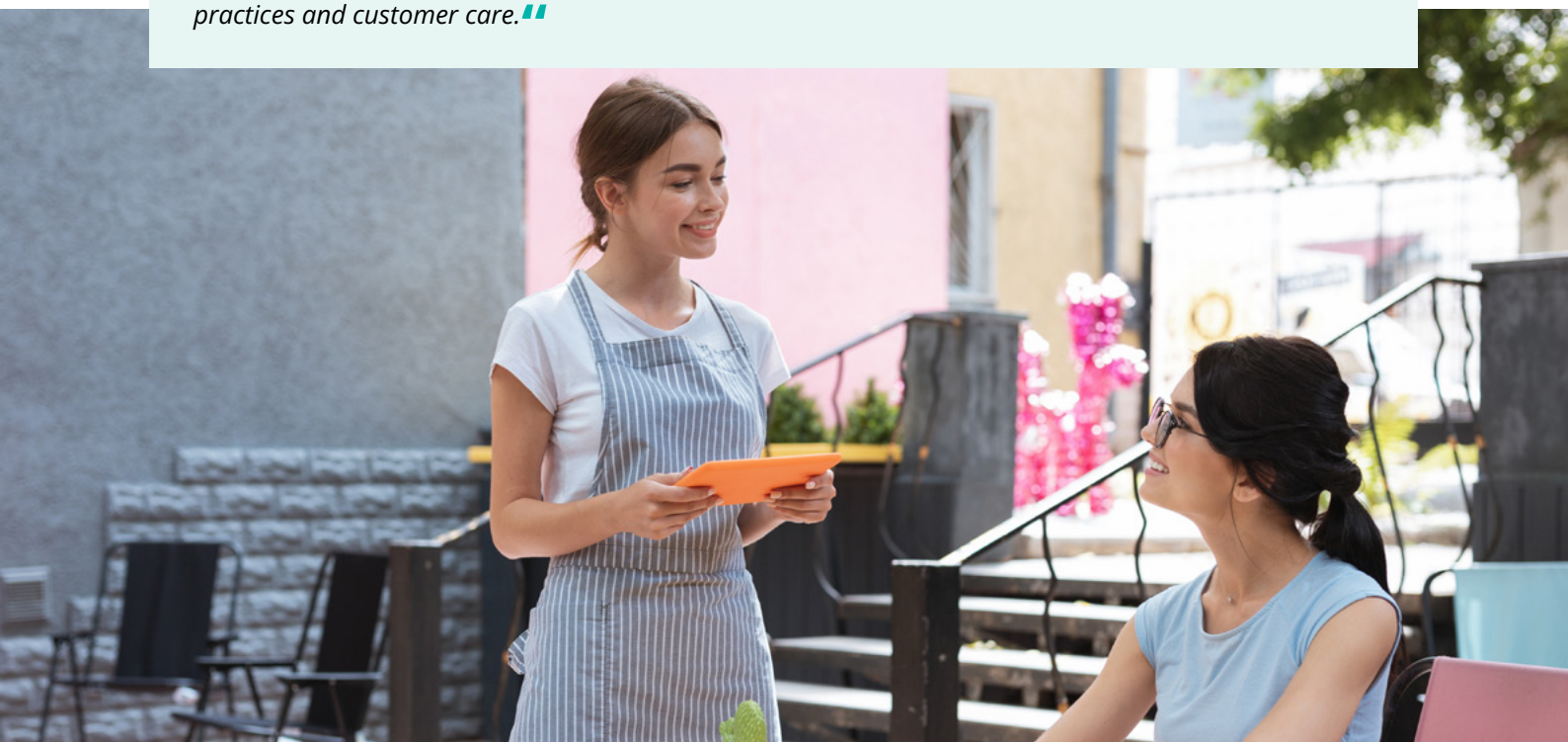
A key focus of the National Allergy Council has been the development of a Best practice guideline for food allergen management in food service. We have engaged in a nationwide consultation of key interest holders including consumers, to develop a guideline that will support people in food businesses who serve consumers living with food allergy.

In 2025 we updated the All about Allergens General Food Service course and the All about Allergens Cooks and Chefs course. We have also progressed the development of three new courses due for release in late 2026. These courses have been developed based on an identified need and support our philosophy that managing food allergies is a shared responsibility. The new courses in development are for three key audiences - Food Service Dietitians; Small Food Manufacturing Businesses; and Food Safety Inspectors (supporting Authorised Officers, Environmental Health Officers and Food Safety Auditors). Other new resources include a [Kitchen Handbook](#) developed specifically for cooks and chefs working in children's education and care (CEC), as well as a companion course for this important sector, developed in partnership with Victoria's Healthy Eating Advisory Service.

The National Allergy Council has expanded its reach in the food service sector over the past year, engaging with food service providers working across all sectors of food service, including hospitality, camps, hospitals, aged care, schools and CEC services. Through presenting and exhibiting at key conferences and engaging with peak bodies, we have increased awareness and completions of the All about Allergens online training courses. The National Allergy Council has also led key advocacy work in precautionary allergen labelling guidance, and the updating and expansion of the [Australian and New Zealand Consensus Statement on Food Allergen Management](#) with the support of key interest holders.

Testimonial from an All about Allergens training participant

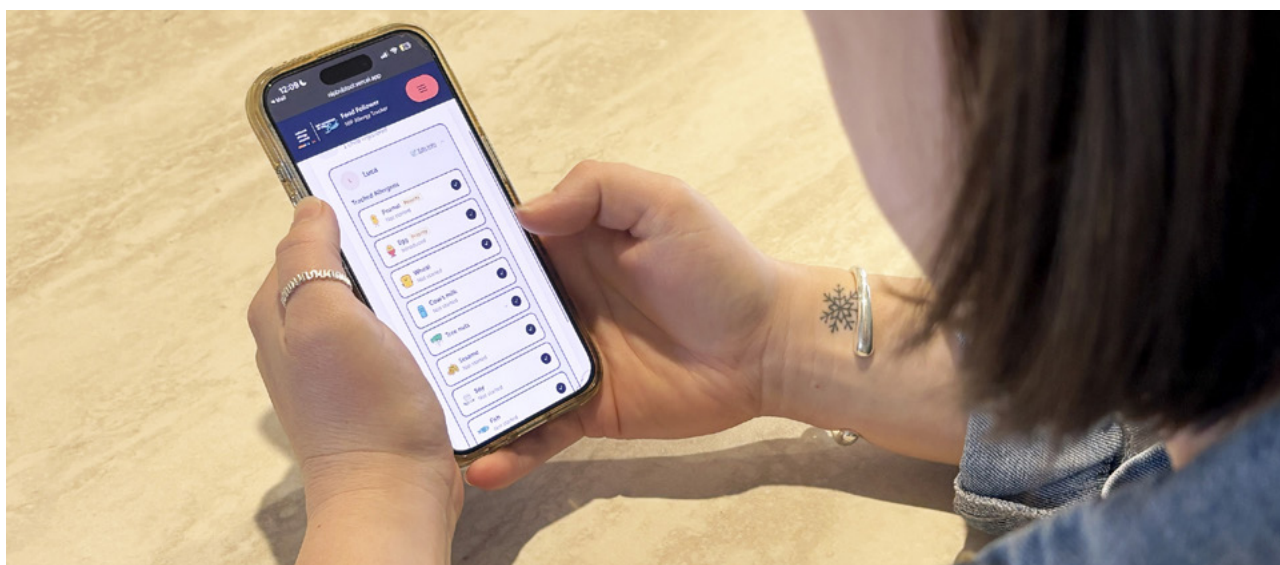
“I found this course very informative and practical. It provided a clear understanding of food allergies, the importance of preventing cross-contamination, and the responsibilities of food service staff in keeping customers safe. The examples and questions helped reinforce key information and made the learning easy to understand. Thank you for providing a valuable course that supports better food safety practices and customer care.”





Nip allergies in the Bub program

In June 2026 we launched the Nip allergies in the Bub [Food Follower App](#). This free online app allows parents to track the common food allergens they offer to their baby as well as ongoing feeding of the food allergen. The online app supports current best practice feeding, providing parents with information relevant to their baby's feeding development and allows them to customise food allergens based on their family's usual diet. The Food Follower App also has other useful functionality options, such as allowing the parent who created the account to share the child's feeding information with others, such as partners, carers and health professionals.



Pictured: A parent using the online Nip allergies in the Bub Food Follower App.

Showcase: The strength of collaboration

In January 2026, the updated [ASCIA guideline: Infant feeding for food allergy prevention](#) was published in an international journal. The updating of this guideline was undertaken as a collaboration between the National Allergy Council, the Australasian Society of Clinical Immunology and Allergy (ASCIA) and Allergy & Anaphylaxis Australia (A&AA) and the National Allergy Centre of Excellence (NACE).

How did we work together? All organisations contributed to setting the scope of the guideline and the use of the AGREE II tool to underpin its development. The NACE completed a review to provide the evidence base where published evidence existed which also underpinned a living evidence review for food allergy prevention. The National Allergy Council led a Delphi process to obtain consensus on recommendations where published evidence was lacking. In parallel, the National Allergy Council conducted focus groups with parents and healthcare professionals to learn where people were accessing information and what resources were needed.

The completed guideline underpinned the updating of the ASCIA food allergy prevention e-training and supporting resources as well as the advice provided by A&AA's National Allergy Helpline. The guideline and the focus groups informed the updating of the National Allergy Council's [Nip allergies in the Bub website](#) and the development of the online [Food Follower App](#) which included a public health campaign rolled out via social media.

This work undertaken together, has ensured an evidence-based approach using a validated tool to underpin healthcare professional and consumer guidance and education alongside a public health approach to food allergy prevention.

Co-chairs' Report

Thank you for attending the 2026 National Allergy Council Annual General Meeting.

This year has been an important year for the National Allergy Council as it is the final year of our initial four-year funding grant from the Australian Government Department of Health, Disability and Ageing. We were pleased to receive a subsequent funding grant for an additional two years (2026-2028) from the Australian Government Department of Health, Disability and Ageing as we, the National Allergy Council, the Australasian Society of Clinical Immunology and Allergy (ASCIA) and Allergy & Anaphylaxis Australia (A&AA) continue to implement programs to improve the health and wellbeing of people with allergic disease in Australia.

The partnership between ASCIA and A&AA forms the National Allergy Council. This partnership between the peak national medical and patient organisations for allergy through the National Allergy Council keeps us focussed on improving the quality of life of people living with often chronic allergic conditions. We have clinicians and consumers, working together to achieve common goals.

Our board members are passionate, dedicated people who, as representatives of ASCIA and A&AA, support Dr Sandra Vale, National Allergy Council CEO and National Allergy Council staff to continue to implement the National Allergy Strategy.

The funding provided to the National Allergy Council from the Australian Government includes funding support for ASCIA and A&AA. With synergy, we work across all programs communicated in the National Allergy Strategy for the best possible outcomes. We are achieving together, what we couldn't achieve alone.

ASCIA continues to progress education and training activities predominantly for health professionals and schools and childcare, and A&AA provides support to people living with allergic disease and those who care for or about them. The National Allergy Council scopes, develops and progresses critical program work to improve care. ASCIA, A&AA and the National Allergy Council work collaboratively to progress important, much needed initiatives in a meaningful way. Our work together, ensures we implement appropriate strategies and optimise the impact of the work we do.

As a partnership, we also work collaboratively with the National Allergy Centre of Excellence to ensure an evidence base underpins our programs.

Working together allows us to magnify our impact as we continue to implement initiatives to improve the health and wellbeing of people with allergic disease.

Clinical Professor Michaela Lucas and Maria Said AM

National Allergy Council Co-chairs and Directors

Finance Report

This report is based on the audited National Allergy Council Ltd financial report which covers the period ended 30 June 2026.

The National Allergy Council received funds this financial year from:

- Department of Health under Year 4 of a 4 year contract
- Australian Digital Health Agency under an agreed Ad Hoc contract
- Tuition funds from the successful launch of the Associateship of Clinical Allergy (ACA) Course.

The National Allergy Council has seen a profit of \$11,976 for this financial year. The National Allergy Council saw a considerable delay in the funding for Year 1 however their team have made strides in progress of the grant with Year 4 showing the largest catch up which has been impressive and showcased in the financial report.

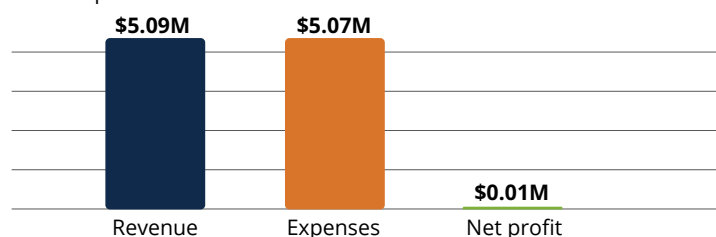
National Allergy Council Profit & Loss

Total revenue
\$5,086,664

Total expenses
\$5,074,688

Net profit
\$11,976
0.24% margin

Revenue vs. expenses



Net profit represents 0.24% of total revenue for the period.

For the period ended 30 June 2026 the National Allergy Council holds a cash at bank position of 2,594,796 along with equity of \$440,842.

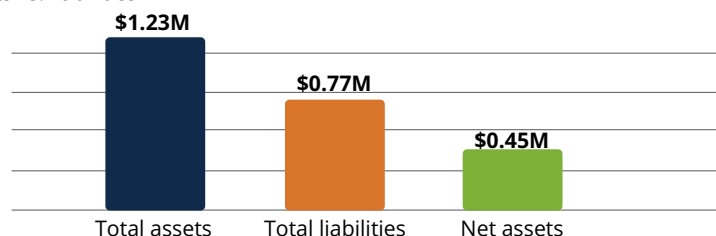
National Allergy Council Net Asset Position

Total assets
\$1,227,302

Total liabilities
\$774,484
Current \$758,184 - Non current \$16,300

Net assets (equity)
\$452,818
36.9% of total assets

Assets vs. liabilities



Net assets (equity) represents total assets less total liabilities (current and non-current).

The financial outlook for the National Allergy Council in 2026-2027 is strong due to many measures that have been put in place and continue to strengthen;

- New 2 year contract with the Australian Government Department of Health, Disability and Ageing.

Krista Wood

National Allergy Council Operations & Finance Manager

Chief Executive Officer's Report

Over the past year the National Allergy Council has progressed the implementation of many initiatives through our programs, with funding from the Australian Government Department of Health, Disability and Ageing.

We continue to work closely with the Australasian Society of Clinical Immunology and Allergy (ASCIA) and Allergy & Anaphylaxis Australia (A&AA), our partner organisations, ensuring we provide consistent and evidence-based information and resources. We continue to collaborate with the National Allergy Centre of Excellence, translating research findings into effective programs.

Over the past year the National Allergy Council has released some exciting new novel resources:

- The free Mystery of School Island online curriculum game has been designed for students in years 6 and 7 to help raise awareness about food allergies and support young people living with food allergy. For more information read page 9.
- The free Nip allergies in the Bub online Food Follower App allows parents to track the common food allergens they offer to their baby as well as ongoing feeding of the food allergen. For more information read page 13.

The partnership between ASCIA and A&AA, continues to be a key strength of the National Allergy Council. Other strengths of the National Allergy Council include our broad consultation processes and the inclusion of mechanisms to evaluate our programs. We aim to publish about our programs in the coming year.

The end of this financial year marks the end of a four-year contract with the government and the beginning of another two-year contract. With that, we will see some changes to program delivery, with the Allergy 250K program moving to A&AA. However, we remain strong advocates for this program and target audiences, and we look forward to seeing this program continue and expand, under the leadership of A&AA.

The National Allergy Council relies on many healthcare professionals and consumers to support our programs as volunteers:

- To the Allergy 250K peer mentors, you are the heart of the Allergy 250K program, and we thank you for engaging with the program and supporting the young people who attend the school-aged kids and young adult camps.
- To the many healthcare professionals who have helped the National Allergy Council to conduct the Allergy 250K camps, we thank you for giving up your weekends to make an important difference in the lives of the young people who engage with the camps.
- To the many healthcare professionals and consumers who have contributed to our working groups and consultations, thank you. It is vital that we have your input to identify the needs and ensure those needs are met.
- To the National Allergy Council Directors and Advisory Committee, we thank you for your passion and your generosity with your time and expertise.

The National Allergy Council has a change of leadership at this AGM. I would like to sincerely thank Clinical Professor Michaela Lucas, our outgoing ASCIA nominated Co-chair and welcome Dr Michael O'Sullivan. Whilst Michaela is stepping down as Co-chair and Director, we look forward to Michaela's continued involvement in the National Allergy Council through our Advisory Committee. With change comes opportunity and we look forward to working with Michael in his new National Allergy Council Director role.

Finally, I would like to acknowledge the National Allergy Council staff who are all dedicated to ensuring we develop and deliver programs that make a difference.

Dr Sandra Vale (PhD)

National Allergy Council CEO

Thank you

Volunteers

We gratefully acknowledge the many healthcare professionals and consumers who volunteer their time to support the National Allergy Council's work. Whether it is reviewing a document, being a member of a working group or attending an Allergy 250K camp, we simply could not achieve the successful outcomes we do, without those contributions, large or small.

Partners and collaborators

We are also grateful to our partnership organisations – ASCIA and Allergy & Anaphylaxis Australia – who work closely with us and our main collaborator, the National Allergy Centre of Excellence (NACE).

The National Allergy Council is also grateful to the many organisations who have collaborated with us over the past year.

Funding

The National Allergy Council receives funding from the Australian Government Department of Health, Disability and Ageing to implement the National Allergy Strategy. Without this funding, the National Allergy Council programs would not be able to progress.



Pictured: Allergy 250K peer mentors at the Allergy 250K school-aged kids camp in Adelaide in March 2026.

References:

1. Deloitte Access Economics 2025, Costly Reactions: The economic and social cost of allergic disease in Australia, Report for the Australasian Society of Clinical Immunology and Allergy (ASCIA) and the National Allergy Council. <https://www.allergy.org.au/ascia-reports-economic>
2. Peters RL, Soriano VX, Allen KJ, Tang MLK, Perrett KP, Lowe AJ, Wijesuriya R, Parker KM, Loke P, Dharmage SC, Koplin JJ. The Prevalence of IgE-Mediated Food Allergy and Other Allergic Diseases in the First 10 Years: The Population-Based, Longitudinal HealthNuts Study. *J Allergy Clin Immunol Pract*. 2024 Jul;12(7):1819-1830.e3. doi: 10.1016/j.jaip.2024.03.015. Epub 2024 Apr 8. PMID: 38597846.
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4. Australian Bureau of Statistics. (2022). National Health Survey. ABS. <https://www.abs.gov.au/statistics/health/health-conditions-and-risks/national-health-survey/latest-release>.



Pictured: Allergy 250K peer mentors and school-aged kids at the Allergy 250K school-aged kids camp in Adelaide in March 2026.

Contact information

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[Contact us](#)

Websites

nationalallergycouncil.org.au
preventallergies.org.au
allergy250k.org.au
foodallergytraining.org.au
foodallergyaware.org.au
allergyaware.org.au

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national allergy council



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