



## Allergy & Anaphylaxis Australia (A&AA) Annual Report

1 July 2020 – 30 June 2021

Allergy & Anaphylaxis Australia (A&AA) is Australia's leading national patient support organisation for individuals with allergic diseases and those that care for, or about, them. As advocates for individuals with allergic disease, in 2015 we partnered with the peak medical body, the Australasian Society of Clinical Immunology and Allergy (ASCIA) to launch the [National Allergy Strategy](#). A&AA, alongside ASCIA continues to share current, evidence-based information to improve the health and wellbeing of people with allergic disease.

A&AA has a dedicated [Board of Directors](#) who generously share their time, knowledge and expertise to progress the mission and purpose of A&AA. The committed Allergy & Anaphylaxis Australia Board continues to have regular meetings to optimise governance and provide strategic advice and direction.

Our [Medical Advisory Board \(MAB\)](#) continues to have both paediatric and adult clinical immunology/allergy specialist representation from across Australia. MAB members review resources containing medical information for accuracy ensuring A&AA resources are consistent with ASCIA's evidence-based information.

A&AA has the equivalent of 4.9 full time staff members with the CEO being the only full-time employee. We have six part-time and three casual staff members. We are grateful to our in-kind supporters who share knowledge and expertise to help improve the quality of life of those living with allergic disease and their families.

A&AA continues to receive support from donors and sponsors who generously provide funds to assist A&AA in progressing its charitable mission. Our sponsors and in-kind supporters can be found [here](#).

### National Progress

A&AA and ASCIA through our partnership in the National Allergy Strategy await the Hon Greg Hunt, Minister for Health's response to the 2020 [Walking the allergy tightrope](#) report and recommendations made by the Standing Committee led by Mr Trent Zimmerman MP.

In June of 2021, members of the National Allergy Strategy and the Centre for Food and Allergy Research travelled to Canberra's Parliament House to meet with Minister Greg Hunt and several other ministers/advisors to advocate for improved care of people with allergic disease as outlined in the above-mentioned report. The team also progressed an event in Parliament House to help

increase awareness of allergic disease amongst staff and the public. Numerous media interviews were conducted bringing attention to the needs of people living with allergic disease.

A&AA welcomed the opportunity to forward a submission on the terms of reference of the [House of Representatives parliamentary inquiry into approval processes for new drugs and novel medical technologies in Australia](#).

### **Federal Government Funding Support**

A&AA continues to receive federal government funding through the Health Peak Advisory Body programme. A&AA has continued to provide required reports detailing performance and outcomes to the Department of Health and Ageing according to the reporting schedule. A&AA has lodged an application for a further three years of funding and we are awaiting the government's response as the current funding agreement comes to an end in June 2022.

### **The Australasian Society of Clinical Immunology and Allergy (ASCIA)**

A&AA continues to work closely with the peak medical society for allergic disease in Australia. We have representatives on their many committees and regularly review information (both new information and existing resources) for both health care professionals and people living with/managing allergic disease. The partnership we have with ASCIA allows A&AA health educators to remain current in their knowledge and advice for people living with allergic disease.

Although there was no ASCIA conference in September 2020 because of the Covid-19 pandemic, there continued to be weekly and sometimes daily communication to remain abreast of issues including advice on Covid-19 and vaccination. A&AA provided input on the information for consumers that is on the ASCIA website, and we also continued to refer people with allergic disease to the ASCIA information on vaccination.

A&AA has representation on the following ASCIA committees:

- ASCIA Anaphylaxis Committee
- ASCIA Insect Allergy Committee
- Drug Allergy Committee
- ASCIA Paediatric Committee
- ASCIA Education Committee
- ASCIA Nurses Committee
- ASCIA Dietitian Committee

### **National Allergy Strategy (NAS) – A&AA and ASCIA partnership**

A&AA and ASCIA, along with key stakeholders', continue to progress the NAS. A&AA CEO remains co-chair of the NAS, as the representative of and advocate for people with allergic disease for this Australian Government Department of Health funded project. Several consumer representatives are on the NAS Steering Committee and A&AA consumer representatives' co lead the various projects while others are on working groups.

In September 2020 Minister for Health Greg Hunt MP launched the NAS four newly developed free online courses "All about Allergen for Hospitals" for different hospital staff needing to understand

food allergen management. A&AA was heavily involved in the development and launch of the hospital e-training and supporting resources. The launch led to many media interviews assisting in the promotion of the free new resources.

A&AA assists in leading the NAS 250K teen allergy support group chats and zoom meetings and 250K young adult support group chats held in alternate months. A&AA lead part of the NAS peer mentor training allowing young people to support their peers as they approach teen years and then up to age 16. Seven peer mentors have been trained and they now assist in leading some of the teen chats. While 250K camps have been postponed because of the pandemic, a fun-day for pre-teens and teens was held in Perth with up to twenty young people with food allergy spending a memorable day together doing fun activities and learning about self-management of food allergy and emergency treatment.

A&AA CEO presented on an Australian Digital Health Agency /Nationals Allergy Strategy webinar to help educate Australians with allergic disease on importance of, and how to use, My Health Record.

A&AA is co-chair and has project lead representation on the following National Allergy Strategy projects:

- Steering Committee
- NAS Food Allergy Prevention Project (Nip Allergies in the Bub – project lead)
- NAS Food Service Project (All About Allergens – project lead)
- NAS Food Service Project (All About Allergens for Schools – project lead)
- NAS Food Service Project (All About Allergens for Hospitals– project lead)
- NAS Drug Allergy Project
- NAS 250K Youth Project – project lead
- NAS School and Early Childhood Education and Care Project – project lead
- NAS Australian Digital Health Agency (ADHA) project – project lead

A&AA shares knowledge and expertise that helps provide the basis for the way forward with the NAS keeping the health and wellbeing of people with allergic disease as the focus. A&AA's network of members/subscribers, contacts, supporters, sponsors and colleagues has allowed us to draw on the knowledge, expertise and good will of many to progress the National Allergy Strategy.

More information on the work and outcomes of the National Allergy Strategy is available on the [website](#).

### **Member/Subscriber Growth**

A&AA continues to use its social media following of almost 60,000, its 1300 telephone support line, website, member and subscriber email communication to encourage and then compile feedback on matters that inform our consultations with the Australian Government. We progress these consultations through A&AA and NAS initiatives. Areas of consultation include: - optimal care of patients living with allergic conditions including atopic dermatitis, allergic rhinitis, allergic asthma, food, insect and medication allergy. Key topics include COVID-19 care of those living with allergies; access to appropriate eczema treatments, access to adrenaline injectors including an alternative adrenaline injector; food allergy prevention and food allergy treatments, food allergen labelling, safer food service, severe allergy management in teens and other priority needs.

During the reporting period (on September 21, 2020) A&AA implemented Salesforce® customer relationship management software, which is the foundation to move into an enhanced digital future. A&AA also moved to a subscriber model on September 21, 2020. Having the ability to subscribe without necessarily becoming a member has lowered barriers to participation and engagement. More people now have direct access to credible information to guide allergy management. Only members are formally recognised in the constitution and can vote on formal matters in relation to the company. We will continue to consult with and seek the opinion of all who engage with us on issues relating to our advocacy and support work for people living with allergic disease. Resources and support services will remain open to all Australians. The voice of members and now subscribers, will remain our focus in shaping our work.

Due to COVID-19, A&AA moved all its education and outreach online. The staff also worked from home during most of the reporting period. While working from home staff continued to respond to 1300 support line calls and answer social media and email queries.

	30 June 2020	30 June 2021	Growth
Member	5,554	5,583	
Subscriber	0	1,946	
<b>Total Member/Subscriber</b>	5,554	<b>7,529</b>	<b>35.6%</b>
<b>Social Media Followers</b>	58,448	60,053	2.8%

### NewsFacts e-newsletter

A&AA shares quarterly electronic newsletters with our members and subscribers. We include news items, research, important updates, new resource information, member stories, recipes and more. Since October 2020 A&AA has been using new newsletter software. The newsletter is still sent as an email, however the newsletter is no longer stored on the A&AA website in an e-newsletter format. Individual stories from the e-newsletter can now be found on the new [Allergy Matters blog](#) and other sections of the website depending on the subject area of the article.

The open rate for our emailed member newsletters during this period averaged 26%.

### Food Allergy Week (FAW) 23 - 29 May 2021

A&AA focussed on safety when eating out and shared information with both the food service sector and people with food allergy. Numerous media interviews were progressed. The lead story on safer food service aired on Network 10, The Project. Bravely, Nicola Anderson whose husband died as a result of food served in food service was interviewed for the segment. Many other news stories/articles/radio interviews were shared during the week of awareness raising. Key industry stakeholders assisted in sharing messaging and social media posts through the week with us

reaching almost 2.5 million people with our information and resources. We also had another 274 people subscribe to Allergy & Anaphylaxis Australia.

A&AA progressed two virtual support group meetings on eating out with food allergy during FAW.

## Food Industry

A&AA continues to work with food industry, legislators, regulators, the Allergen Bureau, The Allergen Collaboration, The Australia Food and Grocery Council, the Australian Measurement Institute, the Australian Institute of Food Science and Technology for Australians with food allergy and their carers to have improved access to safer food.

A&AA is pleased with the changes in food legislation relating to Plain English Allergen Labelling (PEAL). Consumers can expect the changes to improve understanding of food labels allowing better informed food choices to come into play in 2026 although many food manufacturers are already making changes.

A&AA collaborated with several key organisations in producing a [Consensus Statement for Food Allergen Management](#) in Packaged Foods and Food Service in Australia and New Zealand. The statement speaks to responsibilities of consumers, packaged food manufacturers and those working in food service establishments.

A&AA continues to work closely with Food Standards Australia New Zealand (FSANZ) to alert consumers with food allergies to allergen related food recalls. In this reporting period there were thirty-nine food allergen related food recalls for seventy-three individual food products. The food recalls were communicated to all of A&AA's registered members and subscribers in a timely manner via direct email, despite many being actioned out of business hours. For the safety of those who are not A&AA members, the information on each food recall was placed on A&AA's Facebook page and [A&AA's website as a Food Alert](#).

A&AA also issued four allergen notices on behalf of the food manufacturers who had communicated changes to allergen ingredient content including precautionary allergen labelling statements with us. A significant enhancement to our capabilities, as a result of the new newsletter software and CRM software mentioned above is the ability for members and subscribers elect to only receive information relating to allergens of interest. This personalisation helps to ensure that food recalls and alerts are of relevance when they land in our members and subscribers inbox.

A&AA continues to represent people with food allergy on several food industry related working groups. We have also presented or been involved in numerous food industry initiatives including:

- Food Allergy Management Symposium (FAMS) presented on the topic 'Consumer View - Managing food allergy in 2021 and beyond' in May 2021
- Food Allergy Management Symposium (FAMS) presented on the topic 'Peanut in cashew – a consumer perspective' in May 2021
- Australian Institute of Food Science and Technology (AIFST) webinar on the topic of [Food Allergy and Anaphylaxis – A Fact of Life](#) in May 2021
- Australian Institute of Food Science and Technology (AIFST) [International Women's Day webinar and panel discussion](#) on 9/3/2021 presented on the topic 'Choose to Challenge'.
- A judging panel for the AIFST Allergen Bureau 'Julie Newlands Award' for best practice food allergen management in Australia in June 2021

- ILSI Europe Food Allergy Expert Group Quantitative Risk Assessment virtual meeting
- [Environmental Health Australia live chat about food allergy during Food Safety Week 2020](#)

A&AA forwarded [submissions](#) to Food Standards Australia New Zealand and Codex Alimentarius Commission during the reporting period. Food allergen specific submissions lodged by A&AA included:

- Irradiation as a phytosanitary measure for all fresh fruit and vegetables
- Beta-amylase from soybean (Glycine max) as a processing aid (enzyme)
- Review of the Food Standards Australia New Zealand Act 1991
- Application A1186 Soy leghemoglobin in meat analogue products
- Rapeseed protein isolate as a novel food
- Codex - General Standard for the Labelling of Pre-packaged Foods (CXS 1 1985)

## **Covid-19**

A&AA continues to work alongside ASCIA and the Australian/state/territory governments to disseminate current Covid-19 advice and information for people with allergic disease and their carers. A&AA reminded people to be vigilant about management of risk of anaphylaxis and to treat allergic reactions according to instructions on their ASCIA Action Plan despite fear of Covid-19 and the need for hospitalisation. A&AA encouraged people to maintain usual health appointments if possible and gave people guidance on use of telehealth.

A&AA shared information on eczema management as some people's eczema was exacerbated because of increased hand washing and sanitising, wearing of masks and stress. People with allergic disease needed to be reassured that they were not immunocompromised and that they needed to take all medications as prescribed, including for asthma and allergic rhinitis.

As Covid-19 vaccination progressed in Australia, we received an increase in calls and emails and decided to invite ASCIA members, two clinical allergy/immunology specialists with expertise in vaccination, to present a [live webinar on Covid-19 vaccination](#) and answer questions asked by attendees. This recorded webinar was then uploaded to the A&AA website and several social media posts made people aware it was available. A third-year medical student from Western Sydney University worked 3 days a week with A&AA for a five-week period in May/June 2021 as part of his Medicine in Context placement. He was tasked with obtaining ethics approval so we could write an abstract for two poster presentations for the September 2021 ASCIA Conference. One of the posters was focussed on how patient support organisations can assist with getting accurate information to those with allergic disease during a pandemic.

We also shared information on the influenza vaccine and people with egg allergy.

A&AA assisted returning travellers living with severe food allergies in possibly acquiring hotel quarantine exemptions or self-catering facilities because of the risk of being served food containing allergens. Those with more difficult to manage food allergies (such as milk, egg and/or wheat allergy), those with multiple food allergy and those with food allergy and other health conditions (such as eating disorders, severe anxiety) were assisted in applying for exemption, however others in hotel quarantine were also assisted so they could obtain appropriate food and safer care while in quarantine. We have provided expert advice on request to some government departments

managing hotel quarantine. There have been several reported anaphylaxis emergencies in hotel quarantine and many near misses where despite disclosing their allergy, people were given the food they were allergic to but did not consume it.

A&AA continues to house the HealthDirect [COVID-19 SYMPTOM CHECKER](#) in a prominent location on the A&AA website so that consumers who live with allergies have the tools to help them seek medical care when appropriate.

### **Medications for allergic disease**

A&AA continues to advocate for the registration and Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) listing of alternate adrenaline autoinjectors in Australia. People at risk of anaphylaxis and their treating doctors should have the ability to choose which device is best suited to their needs.

A&AA worked closely with Allergy Concepts in preparation for the September 2021 launch of Anapen® in Australia. A thorough update on the pending availability of Anapen® of A&AA's website and hard copy resources was conducted and resources created to help with patient and health professional education in preparation for the launch of Anapen® which is used differently to EpiPen®.

A&AA made the following Pharmaceutical Benefits Advisory Committee (PBAC) [submissions](#) during the reporting period:

- [SYMJEPI® adrenaline \(epinephrine\) injector application](#)
- [Anapen® adrenaline \(epinephrine\) autoinjector application](#)
- [Dupilumab \(Dupixent®\) for severe, uncontrolled asthma](#)
- [Budesonide/Jorveza for Eosinophilic Oesophagitis](#)
- [Building a more robust medicine supply - Proposals to help prevent, mitigate and manage medicine shortages](#)
- [Upadacitinib \(Rinvoq\) for Eczema](#)
- [Baricitinib \(Olumiant\) for Eczema](#)

### **Research**

A&AA's knowledge and expertise continues to be sought for research projects from conceptualisation through to execution. Researchers often ask A&AA for assistance in recruitment for research studies and we are then also often involved in translating the findings of research as we have the largest database of members/subscribers for allergic disease and the largest trusted social media presence.

A&AA has contributed to and assisted in sharing NAS surveys on management of the risk of anaphylaxis in schools and early childhood education and care settings. We also contributed to the development and distribution of a survey on oral immunotherapy (OIT) as a possible treatment for food allergy. A&AA has been invited to be an associate investigator on several planned OIT studies where grant applications have been submitted to National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC), Medical Research Future Fund (MRFF) and private foundations. A&AA also worked with a researcher from Melbourne University on a food allergy and COVID-19 wellbeing study.

A&AA CEO continues to supervise a PhD student at the University of Western Australia, progressing a scoping project on anaphylaxis and anaphylaxis registries globally.

A&AA is a member of the Tick Induced Allergies Research and Awareness (TiARA) Committee, providing consumer input into this research and awareness project.

Below is a snapshot of research studies that have been promoted through A&AA to encourage participation:

- [Monash University Food allergy COVID-19 Wellbeing Study](#). A&AA contributed to the development of the survey.
- [University of Western Australia and the National Allergy Strategy Surveys on Management of Anaphylaxis in Schools and Early Childhood Education and Care \(ECEC\)](#) A&AA contributed to the development of the survey.
- [Murdoch Children's Research Institute survey "Oral Immunotherapy \(OIT\) as a Possible Treatment for Food Allergy"](#). A&AA contributed to the design and development of the proposed research.
- [Telethon Kids Institute: The PrEggNut Study](#)

### **Advocacy, support and information**

A&AA continues to provide support for people that make contact either via phone, email, social media or face to face. All requests for information and support are managed by health professionals trained in the management of allergic disease. The majority of our enquiries continue to be focused on food allergy management however we are receiving an increasing number of enquiries on vaccinations as well as other allergic conditions including eczema, allergic rhinitis, and insect and drug allergy.

A&AA continues to provide evidence based, best practise advice and information on living with allergic disease primarily through the website, NewsFacts newsletter and social media platforms - Instagram, Twitter and Facebook.

During the reporting period A&AA placed a notice on its website to alert consumers about what to do in an emergency. This notice appears on the website when someone logs on for the first time and then every 90 days after that. This was developed in response to a number of calls received by the A&AA health educators by people experiencing anaphylaxis who should be calling triple zero and not A&AA.

A&AA has conducted many media interviews in this reporting period compared to the decrease through the previous year as a result of Covid-19. As the lead patient support organisation in allergic disease, A&AA is often called for comment on news items/articles and new research related to allergic conditions.

Support group sessions were held online via Zoom (numbers for these events were all capped at 30 registrations to allow for interaction). The support meetings were not recorded to protect the privacy of the participants. Virtual support group meetings were held for VIC, NSW and WA members and social media followers. Separate support meetings were also organised for adults at

risk of anaphylaxis, parents/caregivers of children under 5 years with severe food allergy and those with insect allergies. Those that registered were from across Australia.

Earlier this year A&AA engaged with Western Sydney University with first year medical students spending a day learning about the work of A&AA. Medical students were given tasks to progress, involved in meetings and had discussions with health educators so that they could understand the role of patient organisations in helping people with chronic disease.

**A&AA worked with government departments to share knowledge and expertise including input into:**

- Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) Medicine Shortages Champions Group
- TGA Sulfites and Gelatin in Medicines
- Food Standards Australia New Zealand (FSANZ)
- TGA Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) Consumer Information for PBS Listing Working Group
- Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care - Acute Clinical Care Standard Committee
- FSANZ Rapeseed/Mustard Communication Working Group
- FSANZ Meeting re: Consumer communications for the new Plain English Allergen Labelling legislation 13/4/21
- Codex Alimentarius Commission Working Group on Food Allergen Labelling

A&AA also participated in the:

- FSANZ Act review workshop (Consumer and Public Health)
- FSANZ Recall detection meeting follow up from allergen collaboration meeting about peanut contamination of cashew in the Australian food supply.
- TGA virtual workshop on medicine shortages and communication with consumers
- PBS Process Improvements and revised cost recovery arrangements – Information Forum

A&AA continues to work with workplaces, both government and non-government to improve management of employees with allergic disease including the risk of anaphylaxis in workplace settings.

A&AA is a member of the Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care Acute Anaphylaxis Clinical Care Standard - Working Group which met at least three times during the reporting period. Many documents were reviewed between meetings in the lead up to the public consultation when A&AA also lodged a formal submission.

**A Snapshot of some other important initiatives:**

A&AA in collaboration with CFAR, ASCIA and the National Allergy Strategy presented a webinar on [food allergy prevention and anaphylaxis in your baby](#) for World Allergy Week in June 2021.

A&AA CEO attended Global Atopic Dermatitis Virtual Advocacy Meetup.

A&AA was also represented on the Swinburne University working party on Reaccreditation Project: Course in First Aid Management of Anaphylaxis for the Department of Education and Training (DET).

A&AA also contributed to the Swinburne University reaccreditation project for the course in Verifying the Correct Use of Adrenaline Autoinjector Devices. This course is for the Department of Education and Training (DET) in Victoria.

A&AA participated in a University of NSW Stakeholder Advisory Group – “Who knows what’s in your medicine? Assessing the awareness of excipients in medication and the overlooked consequences for public health in Australia”.

A&AA met with the NSW government regarding tick borne disease include tick and mammalian meat allergy.

A&AA continues to work with the Murdoch Children’s Research Institute on possible software applications to assist people with allergy management.

**A&AA undertook the following education of health professionals:**

- A&AA CEO presented via zoom to Maternal and Child Health Nurses from the City of Dandenong in Victoria on the topic of Allergy Prevention and Eczema in babies in April 2021
- A&AA had a stand the virtual Australian College of Dermatologists conference. The virtual stand highlighted patient resources that A&AA offers to health professionals attending the conference in April 2021.
- A&AA wrote an article for general practitioners for the [Medical Republic Magazine on Infant feeding and the timely introduction of food allergens](#) for allergy prevention.
- A&AA participated in Clinical Takeaway Podcasts with Dr David Lim for HealthEd. Topic: [Adults with newly diagnosed food allergy](#)

A&AA created, refreshed, updated and distributed the following resources through its digital channels to subscribers/members. Information on new/updated resources was shared through emails (EDMs) to members and subscribers, electronic newsletters and social media for all Australians.

**Over the past 12-month period, A&AA created, refreshed, updated and distributed the following resources:**

- online Question and Answer session with Health Management Educators and the A&AA CEO titled “[Transition from Primary to High School](#) “. This session was recorded, captioned and uploaded to the A&AA website as a resource.
- several webinars in the [Feeding my child with food allergy](#) series presented by expert allergy dietitians. These webinars have been captioned and uploaded to the A&AA website:
  - *How can I teach my child to eat well?* presented by Dr Merryn Netting APD
  - *IgE Cow’s milk Protein Allergy - Part 1* presented by Ingrid Roche APD
  - *Non- IgE Cow’s Milk Protein Allergy – Part 2* presented by Ingrid Roche APD
  - *Managing Egg Allergy* presented by Dr Merryn Netting APD
  - *Managing Eosinophilic Oesophagitis (EoE) presented by Dr Vicki McWilliam APD*
  - *Understanding FPIES (Food Protein Induced Enterocolitis Syndrome) presented by Kathy Beck APD*
- webinar on [Allergic Rhinitis \(hay fever\) and Allergen Immunotherapy](#) presented by Professor Connie Katelaris
- hard copy and downloadable brochure for people needing to understand more about allergic rhinitis “[Is your Allergic Rhinitis \(Hay Fever\) difficult to manage? Have you heard about immunotherapy?](#)”

A&AA reviewed/developed the below resources freely available to all.

- NEW: Chef Card: 9 Individual [Tree nut translations added to A&AA chef card resource.](#) [Individual names of tree nuts were translated into 21 languages](#) to assist those with tree nut allergies to safely eat out when travelling to non-English speaking countries
- NEW: [Allergy Matters Blog](#) on the A&AA website
- UPDATED: [Eating out with Food Allergy Brochure](#)
- Help sheets for [young people who live with allergies](#) and [their carers/parents](#) to cope with allergy related anxiety.
- Managing Food Allergies Starter kit – emailed free of charge to subscribers
- Video: [Anapen administration](#)- this video supports the new adrenaline injector being brought into the Australian market.
- Video: [How to position a child or adult having a severe allergic reaction \(anaphylaxis\)](#) (co-branded with National Allergy Strategy)
- Video: [How to safely remove a tick](#) (co-branded with National Allergy Strategy and TiARA)
- [Video: Signs of an Allergic Reaction \(3 versions\)](#)
- Chef Card: Business Cards
- [Video: EpiPen administration](#)

A&AA worked closely with the NSW Food Authority to update and refresh the co-branded resource [Be Prepared Be Allergy Aware](#) booklet, which is housed on the NSW Food Authority website. This resource has been updated to include new guidance on the FSANZ Plain English Allergen Labelling (PEAL) legislation, as well as a refresh of the information (including a new case study). This resource is designed to assist food service businesses in NSW with responsible food allergen management.

#### **Staff development and training:**

**To maintain best-practice and up to date knowledge, A&AA CEO and Health Educators undertook the following training:**

- Online training on Presenting on Screen
- Centre for Food and Allergy Research (CFAR) training days. These sessions provided updates on the latest in food and allergy research in Australia.
- The newly registered adrenaline injector Anapen®
- JAK inhibitors to treat atopic dermatitis
- Use of a newly PBS approved drug for severe eczema (Dupixent®), so that those reaching out to A&AA could be advised about available treatment options appropriately.
- Update on a new product for infants which aims to help parents introduce the common allergens to their babies.
- On the new Australian Plain English Allergen Labelling (PEAL) legislation.
- Anxiety Management. The training was online and presented by a registered psychologist.
- “Evidence-based approaches for optimal Allergen Immunotherapy (AIT) outcomes: Focus on patient engagement” to upskill in the latest evidence on this treatment for environmental allergens.
- Venom immunotherapy webinar for health professionals.

## **Conclusion**

Allergy & Anaphylaxis Australia continues to inform, educate, support, listen to and advocate on behalf of people living with allergic disease to improve their quality of life. The team works tirelessly to communicate evidence based/best practice information to all Australians whether they live with allergy or need to understand allergy. We work closely with health professionals and the general public to decrease confusion, improve health literacy, dispel myths and improve care.

As the trusted charity for allergy support and a health peak advisory body for the Australian Government, Department of Health our knowledge and expertise on a wide range of issues, is often sought. The increase in prevalence of allergic disease is challenging as the number of people needing support increases.

We look forward to continuing our work to improve health and wellbeing and reduce the risks associated with anaphylaxis, understanding risk can never be removed. We continue to share information on optimal care of allergic disease states. With a focus on emergency care of anaphylaxis, we support people who experience life threatening emergencies and those that have lost loved ones to anaphylaxis.

Allergic disease is chronic and for the most part there is no cure. A&AA will continue to support Australians in accessing the most appropriate care to reduce the impact on their quality of life. We look forward to the outcome of the Parliamentary Inquiry report and await Minister Greg Hunt's response on recommendations made by Trent Zimmerman MP and members of the Standing Committee for the Parliamentary Inquiry into Allergies and Anaphylaxis in 2020.

25<sup>th</sup> November 2021