

ANNUAL REPORT

2023-2024



A scenic view of a coastline with high cliffs and a blue ocean under a clear sky. The foreground shows a sandy and pebbly shore with some low-lying vegetation. The middle ground features a steep cliffside leading down to the water's edge. The background shows a long, flat-topped cliff extending across the horizon.

**ASORC acknowledges
the Traditional
Custodians and Elders
of Country throughout
Australia, and their
connection to land, sea
and community.
We pay our respects to
Aboriginal and Torres
Strait Islander Elders
past, present and
emerging.**

Great Ocean Road coastline, land of the Kulin Nation, Australia



ASORC Board Meeting, February 2024

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ABOUT ASORC



The Australian Society of Rehabilitation Counsellors (ASORC) is the peak professional body representing Rehabilitation Counsellors throughout Australia. Established in 1976, ASORC is a non-party political, non-sectarian and not for profit organisation. ASORC provides:

- a long standing and respected voice for the profession.
- resources, education, mentoring and supervision necessary for members to achieve career advancement and enhanced credibility in the profession and in the community.
- a robust set of Competencies and Code of Ethics.
- access to the latest research and academic commentary through the international ASORC journal, the Australian Journal of Rehabilitation Counselling (AJRC).
- access to a network of similarly skilled and like-minded professionals across Australia.

Rehabilitation Counsellors are Allied Health Professionals who work within a counselling and case management framework, across the biological, psychological and social domains, assisting people with injury, impairment, disability, health conditions and disadvantage, to participate in employment or education, or live independently and access services in the community to achieve their personal, educational and vocational goals.

DISCOVER THE POWER OF REHABILITATION COUNSELLING!

- ✓ Inclusion
- ✓ Optimism
- ✓ Independence
- ✓ Self-esteem

Guiding people towards a brighter future,
where possibilities are endless.



T: 1800 643 155
E: admin@asorc.org.au





“It is wonderful to be part of a great professional body. It offers great opportunities for career development.”

ASORC Annual Member Survey 2024

ASORC Purpose

The purpose of ASORC is to represent, promote and lead the profession of Rehabilitation Counselling and to enhance the professional capability of members to deliver service excellence.

ASORC Goals

Our goals are aligned with our objects as listed in the ASORC Constitution. By striving to meet these objects we will achieve ASORC's mission.

GOVERNANCE

Ensure sound governance through quality assurance, risk management and accountability

Strategies:

- Continue Quality Assurance and Improvement
- Identify, Assess and Manage Risk
- Demonstrate Accountability

REPRESENTATION

Representing members through engagement and advocacy with government and the wider community

Strategies:

- Develop Communities of Expertise
- Engage with Stakeholders and the Community
- Advocate for Rehabilitation Counsellors

VALUE

Create opportunities for members to develop and promote their professional knowledge and skills

Strategies:

- Provide Professional Education
- Deliver Relevant Communications
- Promote and Empower Members

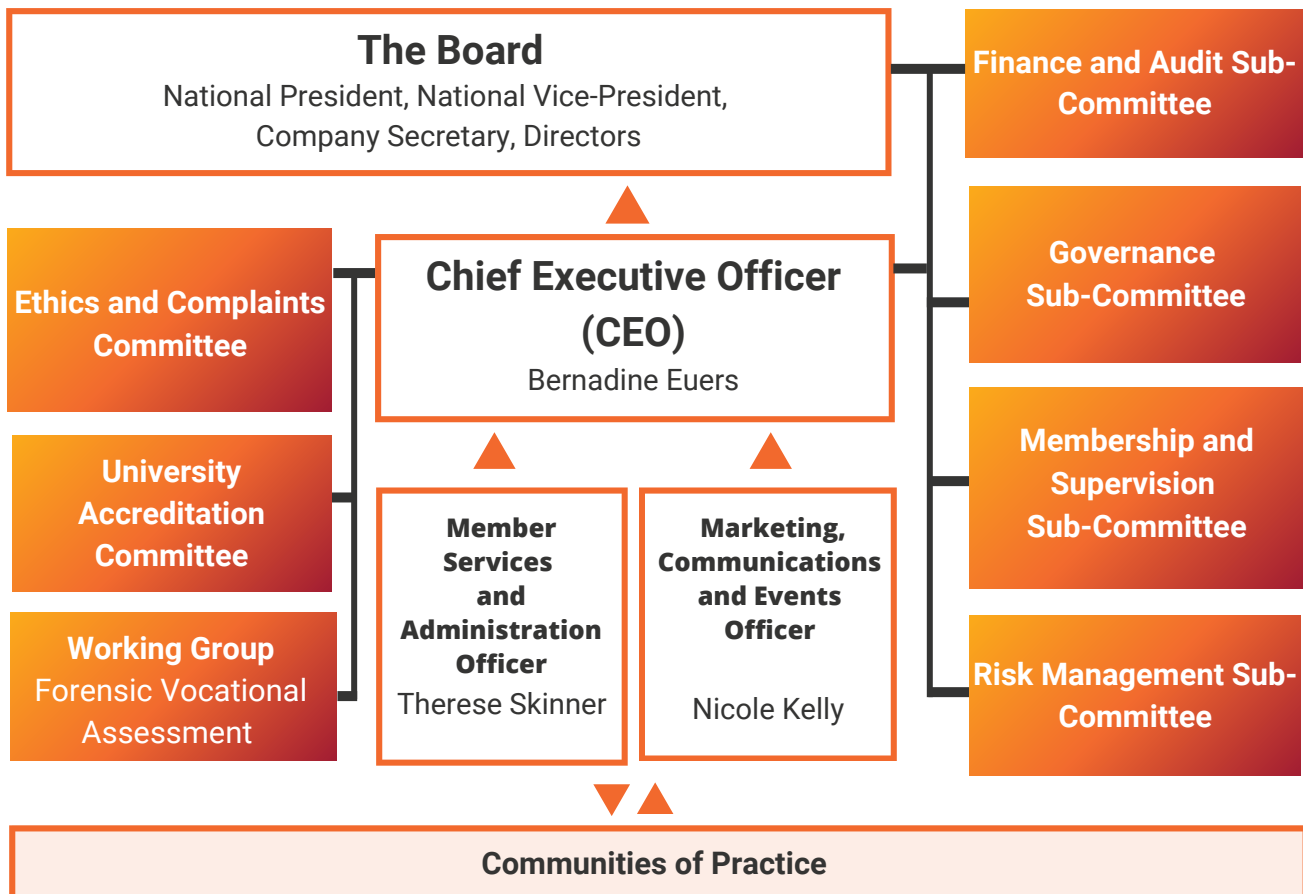
OUR ORGANISATION



ASORC is governed by a Board of Directors which consists of up to nine members. However, for the 2024 (calendar year) there were 10 Directors (following the resignation of two Directors) during the ASORC/RCAA merger transition.

In addition to the Board’s Governance, ASORC is run operationally by a Chief Executive Officer and two staff members; a Member Services and Administration Officer, and a Marketing, Communications and Events Officer.

Independently of the Board, are a number of committees with the CEO and expert representatives. In addition, there are Directors who Chair various sub-committees and Communities of Practice and Working Groups.



ASORC DIRECTORS



DR BORIS FEDORIC

MASRC, MCDAA, Comcare Accredited
B. Biotech (Hons), PhD (Medicine,
MHuServRC

National President, Chair
and Director



**ASSOC PROF.
CHRISTINE RANDALL**

MASRC
B. Health Science (Rehabilitation
Counselling), MHuServRC Hons

National Vice-President
and Director



SCOTT TREVITHICK

MASRC
B. Psychology (Hons)

Company Secretary and
Director



PROF. NICHOLAS BUYS

MASRC
PhD (Philosophy), M. Science, B. Arts
(Hons)

Director



JESSICA CUCCHIARO

MASRC
BPsychSci (Hons), PGDip PsychPrac

Director



**ANNA HOLDER-
GREAVES**

MASRC
B. SocSc (Psychology), MHuServRC
Hons

Director



ALEXA LOCKE

MASRC
Grad Dip (Rehabilitation Counselling),
B. Science in Psychology

Director



DOMINIC MANCA

MASRC
B. Health Science (Rehabilitation
Counselling)

Director



**PROF. LYNDA
MATTHEWS**

MASRC
B. Health Sciences (Rehabilitation
Counselling) Hons1, PhD (Sydney)

Director



DANIELLE MURPHY

MASRC
B. Health Science (Rehabilitation
Counselling)

Director



MELINDA RICE

MASRC
B. Health Science, Grad Dip
(Rehabilitation Counselling)

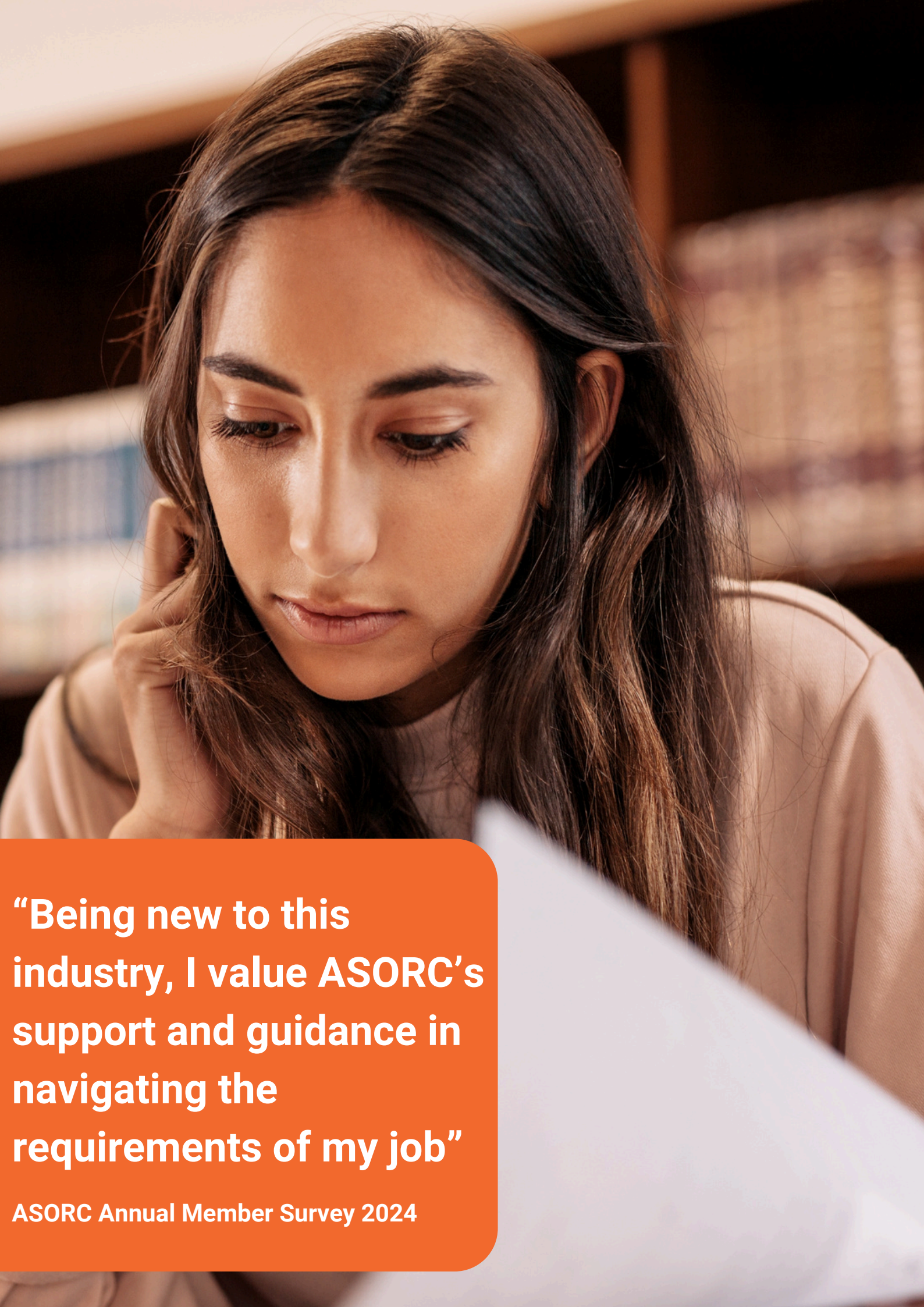
Director



**ASSOC PROF. ROXANNA
PEBDANI**

MASRC
Phd (Counsellor Education), MS
Rehabilitation Counselling, B. Psych)

Director



“Being new to this industry, I value ASORC’s support and guidance in navigating the requirements of my job”

ASORC Annual Member Survey 2024

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



As I reflect on another year in the dynamic environment Rehabilitation Counsellors work in, I am both proud and inspired by the resilience, innovation, and commitment demonstrated by the Rehabilitation Counselling community.

This annual report encapsulates not only our achievements but also the challenges we have navigated together in pursuit of excellence in the profession of Rehabilitation Counselling.

This year we celebrate the merger of ASORC and RCAA which unites our strengths and amplifies our collective voice in representing the Rehabilitation Counselling profession. The merger not only enables us to streamline our efforts but also enhances our capacity to advocate for our members and advance the standards of practice in the field of Rehabilitation Counselling. Together, we are able to foster greater collaboration, provide stronger advocacy and representation, drive innovation in our initiatives, and build resources to enhance professional development. This merger symbolises our commitment to unity and excellence, and we look forward to continuing to build a brighter future for Rehabilitation Counselling professionals. I thank Associate Professor Christine Randall and the RCAA Board for the many hours of work involved in this process.

Throughout this year we have focused on enhancing collaboration among disciplines and key stakeholders, advocating for the vital role Rehabilitation Counsellors play, as part of the allied health workforce, workplace rehabilitation industry, NDIS, DVA and senior leadership roles. We have also focused on advancing policies that support our shared vision of high-quality, safe and accessible healthcare for the diverse range of clients we serve. Our collective efforts have resulted in significant progress towards greater recognition of the role of Rehabilitation Counsellors, a strengthening of the workforce with robust and rigorous standards for the betterment of the industry and improved outcomes for clients.

Some of the highlights this year were:

- Working closely with Fulbright Specialist, Dr Mary Barros-Bailey, international expert on Forensic Vocational Assessment (FVA), to guide the development of the ASORC Forensic Vocational Assessment course, led by Project Co-ordinator and ASORC Fellow Dr Margaret Black and ASORC Director Jessica Cucchiaro.
- Two face to face events in Sydney. Firstly, the ASORC member breakfast with Dr Mary Barros-Bailey discussing Labour Market Analysis, and an afternoon networking event with an FVA panel discussion facilitated by ASORC Director Alexa Locke with panel members Dr Mary Barros-Bailey, Pam Shlemon, Executive Director CRCC and Dr Margaret Black.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



- Certification by the Commission on Rehabilitation Counsellor Certification (CRCC) for the ASORC Forensic Vocational Assessment course.
- The Rehabilitation Counsellors virtual conference in a new one-day format, with over 16 domestic and international speakers.
- Celebrating Rehabilitation Counsellors Appreciation day and member competition
- Strengthening of the Associate membership criteria to raise professional recognition
- Participation in both the National Allied health Conference in Perth and the Workcover WA Conference.

ASORC is proud to deliver Australia's only dedicated conference for Rehabilitation Counsellors. This year the theme was 'Challenge What's Possible', sharing the wisdom and insights from Australian and International experts who presented their research, lived experience and expertise to inspire participants to challenge what's possible and thrive in the dynamic environments in which we work. My sincere thanks to all of the wonderful speakers and the ASORC National Office team for delivering this important benefit for ASORC members.

It is a big commitment to undertake the role of a volunteer Director with many hours of work involved and I thank the current Directors for working so hard for members of ASORC and the Rehabilitation Counselling profession. I also thank Stephen Hughes, ASORC Honorary Fellow and Honorary Counsel. Stephen's enduring guidance and advice is so valuable in navigating the challenges we sometimes face and we thank you Stephen and also celebrate your induction to the Associations Forum Hall of Fame to recognise your services to the industry. Thank you also to ASORC CEO, Bernadine Euers, and the team at National Office for enabling us to accomplish the significant achievements of the past 12 months.

As we look to the future, we remain dedicated to continuing to build professional development opportunities within the scope of practice of Rehabilitation Counsellors, enhance professional capability, promote evidence-based practices, and strengthen our partnerships across the various sectors in which we work.

Thank you to ASORC members for your ongoing commitment to our shared vision and purpose and the vital role you play in shaping the future of Rehabilitation Counselling and delivering safe, high quality services to clients.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Boris'.

Dr Boris Fedoric

ASORC National President

CEO MESSAGE



As you review this Annual Report and the exceptional results achieved over the past year, take time to recognise and appreciate the hard work by volunteer Directors, Fellows and members, and a small team at National Office working together to make this possible. The achievements highlighted underscore our commitment to advancing the vital role that Rehabilitation Counsellors play as part of the allied health workforce and in the workplace rehabilitation industry across the various jurisdictions.

I am immensely proud of the work we continue to do and grateful to our dedicated Directors, Fellows and members who have enabled the achievement of so many goals in the 2023 – 2024 year. The commitment shown by so many of you, who have generously provided your time and expertise for the betterment of the industry, is inspiring and I thank you all.

We have seen a growth in membership of ASORC and strong member retention this financial year and appreciate the increased engagement and feedback in the National Member Survey.

The merger between ASORC and RCAA symbolises our commitment to unity and excellence, and we look forward to continuing to build a brighter future where Rehabilitation Counselling professionals thrive. It is a great privilege to work with such a dedicated, passionate volunteer Board and I am thankful to Directors for the many hours of time they devote to ASORC through the many sub-committees, stakeholder consultations, submissions and participation on working groups for special projects, much of which may go unseen by members.

This year our collaborative efforts have led to enhancing professional development opportunities with the implementation of a new Learning Management System, advocating for policies that support the diverse needs of our community through government consultations and roundtable discussions, impactful partnerships that enhance recognition of the work of Rehabilitation Counsellors, and development of internationally recognised training as a benchmark for the industry to work with a national standard for Rehabilitation Counsellors delivering Vocational Assessments, Forensic Vocational Assessments and Working within a structured biopsychosocial model of care within their scope of practice.

Looking ahead, we remain focused on empowering our members through education and advocacy for the profession of Rehabilitation Counselling across allied health. Together, we can navigate the evolving landscape of healthcare and ensure that the Rehabilitation Counselling profession continues to thrive.

Bernadine

Bernadine Euers
Chief Executive Officer

ASORC & RCAA MERGER



The Australian Society of Rehabilitation Counsellors (ASORC) and the Rehabilitation Counselling Association of Australasia (RCAA) merged on the 12th December 2023 to create a stronger, more unified voice. We thank the Directors of ASORC and RCAA for their dedication and hard work to ensure a seamless transition.

Background

Building on the productive outcomes of collaborations between ASORC and RCAA (since 2021) a merger was proposed, and steps were taken for the two entities to combine to form a single entity. The proposed merger and required changes to the Constitution were approved by members of ASORC at the AGM in November 2023 and subsequently by members of RCAA at a Special General Meeting in December 2023. The merger became official on the 12 December 2023 and the transition processes and administrative requirements to effect the merger followed.

A transitional Board for the merged entity (ASORC) was established with 10 Directors, 5 from ASORC and 5 from RCAA. The first Board meeting was held on 22-23 February 2024 where the strategic priorities were confirmed.

ASORC and RCAA members, who accepted the new Constitution and membership requirements, became Full Members of the merged entity (ASORC) ensuring continuity of their professional recognition.


In May 2024, RCAA held another Special General Meeting where members voted to voluntarily de-register the entity RCAA and this process is now complete.

Future

As a merged entity we are able to progress work that enables the profession to continue to meet the current and future needs of consumers, employers, and the community. We will also be able to better represent the profession in communications with governments, peak bodies, and industry, and will strengthen the profession's voice in education and practice settings as well as working with industry to address Rehabilitation Counsellor labour shortages in Australia.

The ASORC Board of Directors welcomes your participation and engagement in your professional association to help increase education and advocacy for greater understanding and recognition for the Rehabilitation Counselling profession.

We celebrate this historical moment as we move forward together!

A photograph of two men in a professional setting. The man on the right is in focus, wearing glasses and a light-colored sweater, looking towards the left. The man on the left is partially visible, wearing a white shirt. The background is a plain, light-colored wall.

“I value the professional satisfaction and personal reward I get by supporting an important and valuable profession through my ASORC membership”

ASORC Annual Member Survey 2024

THE YEAR IN NUMBERS



1425
members



188K+
website visits



11
professional
development events



1789

LinkedIn
followers



15

submissions

141

new members



145

student members



8

strategic
partnerships



3

communities
of practice

MEMBER UPDATE



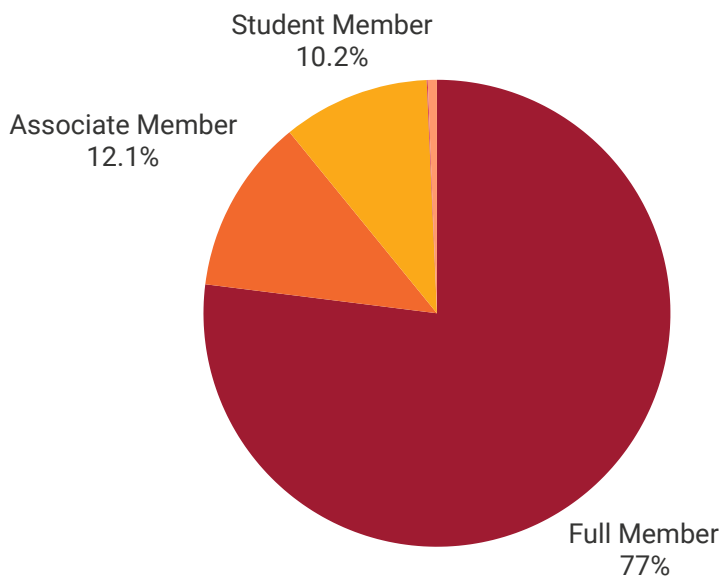
ASORC’s vision and purpose is to enhance the capability of members to deliver service excellence. It is the responsibility of the association to advance the profession and ASORC continuously seeks to improve the professional standards and consistency with respect to pathways to full accreditation to practice as a Rehabilitation Counsellor.

With this in mind, on 1 July 2023, ASORC introduced changes to the membership criteria for the ASORC Associate member category. These changes make it easier for industry stakeholders to understand the pathway to Rehabilitation Counsellor accreditation, and strengthens the pathway to Full membership of ASORC.

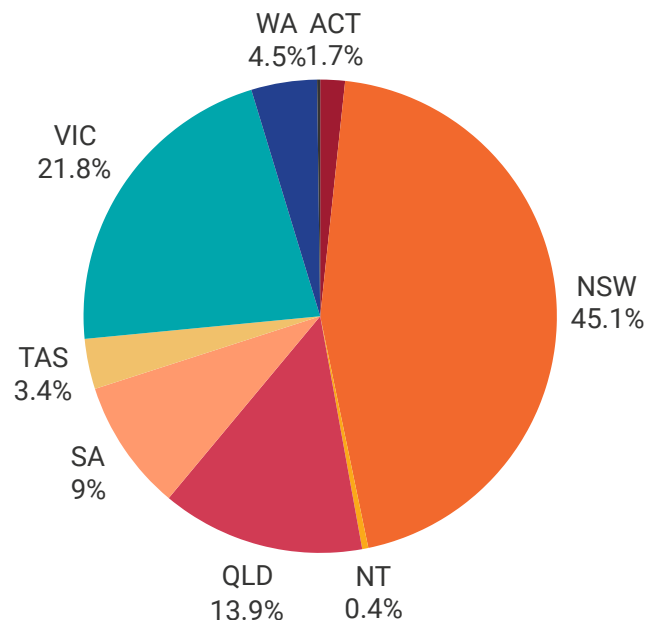
ASORC welcomed 141 new members and 145 student members to the ASORC member community for 2023-24.

We thank all members for your continued support and celebrate the growth in membership this financial year

Members by Category



Members by State



THE YEAR IN REVIEW



SUBMISSIONS



JULY 2023

Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA): *Request for Tender for the provision of Rehabilitation Services (REHAB SOM 22)*

OCTOBER 2023

Allied Health Professions Australia (AHPA): *Unleashing the potential of our workforce – Scope of Practice Review*

NOVEMBER 2023

Department of Veteran's Affairs: *Review DVA fee schedule*

QLD Govt Office of Industrial Relations: *2023 Review into the Qld workers compensation scheme*

JANUARY 2024

Allied Health Professions Australia (AHPA): *Unleashing the potential of our workforce – Scope of Practice Review*

FEBRUARY 2024

Department of Social Services: *DES Reform*

MARCH 2024

Allied Health Professions Australia: *ANZSCO - Unit Group 2531 Counsellors and Psychotherapists*

Allied Health Professions Australia: *Scope of Practice Review and self-regulating health professions*

National Disability Insurance Agency: *2023 - 2024 NDIA Annual Pricing Review*

Workcover QLD: *Allied Health Tables of Costs*

APRIL 2024

Allied Health Professions Australia: *ANZSCO - Unit Group 2531 Counsellors and Psychotherapists - Additional information*

National Disability Insurance Scheme: *feedback and public consultation*

MAY 2024

National Disability Insurance Scheme: *NDIS Taskforce (consultation)*

JUNE 2024

Allied Health Professions Australia: *Unleashing the Health Workforce Scope of Practice Review*

Hon. Heidi Girolamo MLC: *RTWSA Scheme*

KEY MEETINGS & EVENTS



National Allied Health Conference

This conference serves to engage the allied health community and recognises the lasting impact allied health professionals make. This opportunity to elevate the visibility of the Rehabilitation Counselling profession and connect with industry leaders resulted in increased recognition and exposure for the profession and ASORC.



ASORC Director Danielle Murphy



L-R: AHPA staff with ASORC Director Danielle Murphy and an AHPA member

Workcover WA Conference

The Conference provided a unique opportunity to network with peers and industry professionals at Optus Stadium. The dynamic program filled with thought-provoking sessions on innovation, artificial intelligence, triumphing over adversity, and fostering an opportunity mindset was insightful and inspiring. The Conference was a great opportunity to raise awareness of the profession of Rehabilitation Counselling.



ASORC Director Danielle Murphy



ASORC Director Danielle Murphy and ASORC CEO Bernie Euers

KEY MEETINGS & EVENTS

Associations Forum Hall of Fame Award - Stephen Hughes

The Associations Hall of Fame inductees are individuals who have made an outstanding high-level contribution and commitment to the association sector over a long period of time.

We were thrilled to celebrate with Stephen Hughes, who was inducted in the Associations Hall of Fame in November 2023 for more than 30 years of service to associations. ASORC congratulates you on this well deserved recognition.



Stephen Hughes and Associations Forum CEO John Peacock



Allied Health Professional Associations Forum

This forum was an opportunity to network and hear from Allied Health stakeholders. Discussions included a Health Workforce Strategy Update, Australian Government priorities in allied health, the inclusion of Social Workers in General Practice and recognising expertise and specialisation in allied health disciplines.



L-R: AHPA CEO Bronwyn Morris-Donovan, AHPA Chair Antony Nicholas, and ASORC CEO Bernadine Euers



ADVISORY GROUPS



Workcover Tasmania Board - Rehabilitation Advisory Panel



ASORC is represented on the Workcover Tasmania - Rehabilitation Advisory Panel by National President, Dr Boris Fedoric. The Workcover Tasmania Board works with workers, employers, medical practitioners, licensed insurers, self-insurers and others to ensure a fair and equitable workers compensation scheme, good return to work outcomes and safer workplaces for all Tasmanian workers.

La Trobe Uni Rehabilitation Course Advisory Committee



ASORC is represented by ASORC Full Member Loan Tang on the Rehabilitation Course Advisory Committee.



Health Benefits of Good Work (HBGW)

ASORC is a proud signatory to the Health Benefits of Good Work (HBGW) and is represented by CEO, Bernadine Euers, on the Signatories Steering Group.



It Pays to Care Initiative

National President, Dr Boris Fedoric, has contributed to the 'It Pays To Care Initiative' and participated at It Pays To Care roundtables throughout the year. Run by the Australasian Faculty of Occupational and Environmental Medicine (AFOEM), the It Pays To Care roundtable is leading the call to improve health and recovery outcomes and reducing barriers to care for people experiencing work injuries.

COLLABORATIONS



ASORC has had the privilege of collaborating with many industry professionals, academics and regulators over the course of the year, through webinars and conference presentations, and roundtables. We thank each and every one for sharing their knowledge and expertise and for being so generous with their time.

Dr Michael Sullivan, Canada Research Chair in Behavioural Health, McGill University

Cliff Bingham, Assistant Secretary, Labour Market Research and Analysis

Skye Theodorou, co-founder and CEO, upcover

Aunty Norma Ingram, Executive Director, National Aboriginal College

Noni Byron, Managing Director at Prestige Health Services Australia

Dr James Athanasou, Associate Professor, ASORC Fellow

Dr Pam Garton, Managing Director, Abilita

Professor Anthony Hogan, ASORC Fellow

Dr Margaret Black, ASORC Fellow Project Coordinator FVA

Dr Susan Zahn, Director, Education and Training, CRCC

Pamela Shlemon, Executive Director, CRCC

Assoc Prof Christine Randall, Rehabilitation Counsellor, Griffith University

Dr Vanette McLennan, Senior Lecturer in Case Management and Rehabilitation Counselling

Loan Tang, Managing Director, IMS Organisational Consulting

Dr Paul O'Halloran, La Trobe University, Co-Director, Centre for Sport and Social Impact

Kelly Alderson, registered Psychologist, Rehabilitation Counsellor, ASORC Fellow

Dr Mary Barros-Bailey, Fulbright Specialist, Forensic Expert and Rehabilitation Counsellor

Professor Toby Newton-John, Head of School, University of Technology Sydney

Dr Elizabeth Pritchard, Research Fellow, Monash University

Jessica Cucchiaro, Consultant Psychologist

Dr John Baranoff, Lecturer, University of Adelaide

Dr Ross Girdler, Independent Consultant, Forensic Vocational Assessor

Dr Jason Brown, Academic Program Director, The University of Melbourne

Renee Rankin, CEO, Chronic Pain Australia

Amber Shuhyta, Assistant Secretary, Allied Health and Service Integration Branch

Dr Coralie Wales, Community Partnerships Consultant in Health & Social Care

Assoc Prof Michelle Lim, CEO of Ending Loneliness Together

Dr Tristan Casey, Senior Research Fellow, Griffith University

Dr Mary Wyatt, lead Fellow, HBGW Policy Development

Dr Julia Bloom, Lecturer in Rehabilitation Counselling and Case Management, Griffith University



“What I value about ASORC is the professional recognition within the industry and educational opportunities to ensure continued professional development”

ASORC Annual Member Survey 2024

ASORC Forensic Vocational Assessment (FVA) Certification

The Forensic Vocational Assessment (FVA) working group is led by Project Coordinator and ASORC Fellow, Dr Margaret Black, and includes Dr Mary Barros-Bailey (Fulbright Specialist and Forensic Expert), Jessica Cucchiaro (ASORC Director) and Bernadine Euers (ASORC CEO). ASORC has been privileged to work with Dr Barros-Bailey, who has so generously shared her time and expertise to the development of the program. We sincerely thank Dr Margaret Black, Dr Mary Barros-Bailey and Jessica Cucchiaro and the many contributors to the panels and modules. The program is in its final stages and we are proud to announce this course will be certified by the Commission on Rehabilitation Counselor Certification (CRCC).

ASORC Professional Supervision Program endorsement

The ASORC Professional Supervision Program (APSP) is designed to develop the skills and knowledge required of a Rehabilitation Counsellor. The endorsement for the APSP is an important acknowledgement that recognises Workplace Rehabilitation Providers who are delivering high standards of supervision for ASORC Associate members to achieve the competencies required for practicing as a Rehabilitation Counsellor. Supervision under the APSP reflects both current practice and industry requirements, while providing a depth and breadth of experience to enable the member to develop the skills and knowledge required. We congratulate Pinnacle Rehab as the first Workplace Rehabilitation Provider with ASORC Professional Supervision Program endorsement.

Short courses

ASORC will be launching a number of short courses, including Vocational Assessment, Forensic Vocational Assessment and the Biopsychosocial Model. We thank ASORC Director Danielle Murphy and Dr Pam Garton for sharing their insights and expertise in the development of these important courses.

ASORC Learning Management System

ASORC members will soon have access to these exciting new courses via an online Learning Management System (LMS). The ASORC LMS will provide a virtual learning environment that delivers educational courses and training supported with administration, documentation, automation and reporting. ASORC has engaged D2L and their Brightspace platform. Brightspace is a flexible, powerful and customisable learning platform allowing ASORC to develop and offer fit-for-purpose courses to our members.

INTERNATIONAL EXPERTS CONTRIBUTION TO ASORC



In October and November 2023, ASORC welcomed international expert and Fulbright Scholarship recipient Dr Mary Barros-Bailey, and Commission on Rehabilitation Counsellor Certification (CRCC) Executive Director Pam Shlemon to Australia to contribute to the development of the FVA certification in Australia.

Dr Mary Barros-Bailey (PhD, CRC, NCC, CLCP, ABVE/VE, CVE, CCC) is a multilingual Rehabilitation Counsellor and vocational expert with an impressive track record. Her contributions span national and international organisations, including the Commission on Rehabilitation Counsellor Certification (CRCC), where she served as Chair. Dr Barros-Bailey's expertise extends to advising the US Social Security Administration and numerous peer-reviewed publications. She's authored over 130 publications, including a book and textbooks, and presently holds the role of a Fulbright Specialist. ASORC is grateful for the significant and invaluable insights, expertise and guidance so generously shared by Dr Barros-Bailey.

Pam Shlemon is the Executive Director of the Commission on Rehabilitation Counselor Certification (CRCC), a national organisation dedicated to the rehabilitation counselling profession by setting the national standard for certification and to individuals with disabilities by providing leadership and advocacy. Pam is responsible for the strategic direction, vision, growth and performance of CRCC and its brand. ASORC is proud to partner with CRCC for certification of the Forensic Vocational Assessment Course.



L-R Alexa Locke, Pam Shlemon, Dr Mary Barros-Bailey, Dr Margaret Black



L-R Pam Shlemon, Dr Mary Barros-Bailey, Dr Margaret Black, and Aunty Norma Ingram

INTERNATIONAL EXPERTS CONTRIBUTION TO ASORC



ASORC hosted a welcome breakfast on the 20th October 2023, providing members with an invaluable opportunity to engage with Fulbright Specialist and international expert, Dr Barros-Bailey, whose contribution to the development of FVA certification in Australia, has been critical to the development of the program.

On 3 November 2023, ASORC hosted the ASORC's Forensic Vocational Assessment (FVA) Panel Discussion with Dr Mary Barros-Bailey, Rehabilitation Counsellor, Vocational Expert, and Fulbright Specialist; Pam Shlemon, Executive Director, Commission on Rehabilitation Counselor Certification (CRCC); and Dr Margaret Black, ASORC Fellow and FVA Project Coordinator. The panel discussion was lively and insightful and we had many interesting and informative discussions to reflect on.



L-R Dr Mary Barros-Bailey, Pam Shlemon, Dominic Manca, Dr Margaret Black, Bernadine Euers and Alexa Locke (front)

WEBINAR SERIES



28 July

Burnout: An Interactive Webinar

Mark Butler

2023

29 August

Your Insurance Questions Answered

Skye Theodorou

2023

27 September

Healing Waters: Deep Dive into Immersion Therapy

James Martin

2023

29 November

Updates to the NDIS & NDIA for Rehabilitation Counsellors

Mary Hawkins

2023

5 December

Biopsychosocial Approach to Workplace Rehabilitation

Noni Byron

2023

27 February

The Canvas of Care: Exploring Art Therapy

Robert Gray

2024

15 May

ASORC National Virtual Rehabilitation Counselling Conference

2024

11 June

Are you Covered? Insurance cover for Rehabilitation Counsellors

Skye Theodorou

2024

STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS



Vocational Rehabilitation Association (VRA) UK

ASORC continued our previously signed Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Vocational Rehabilitation Association (VRA) UK, the membership body for professionals and organisations working in the VR field in the UK. This creates a platform for ASORC to share and receive resources, and gain a greater insight into international trends within the industry.



Rehabilitation Counselling Association Australasia (RCAA)

ASORC and the Rehabilitation Counselling Association of Australasia (RCAA) were collaborating prior to merging in December 2023, to build and support the best outcomes for the profession of Rehabilitation Counselling. Our collaboration on projects and joint submissions was beneficial to members of both Associations and the future success of the Rehabilitation Counselling profession.



Rehabilitation Medicine Society of Australia and New Zealand (RMSANZ)

An invitation from RMSANZ to interested ASORC members to apply for Associate Membership and take advantage of networking, professional activity, advocacy, and discounts, was taken up by some ASORC members. ASORC collaborates with the Rehabilitation Medicine Society of Australia and New Zealand (RMSANZ) to share events and educational opportunities.



Australian Pain Society

ASORC National President, Dr Boris Fedoric, is the ASORC representative on the Relationships Committee of the Australian Pain Society. This partnership allows ASORC to continue to highlight the work undertaken by Rehabilitation Counsellors for clients with chronic pain.



Allied Health Professions Association (AHPA)

ASORC participates in a number of working groups with AHPA to advance the Rehabilitation Counselling profession within the allied health industry.

STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS



Tasmanian Association of Vocational Rehabilitation Providers (TAVRP)

ASORC has an ongoing Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with TAVRP to share continuing education, professional development, and attendance at events.



Commission Rehabilitation Counselling Certification

ASORC and CRCC have an agreement for certification of the ASORC FVA Course. This international certification will be the first FVA certification in Australia.



Progressive Goal Attainment Program (PGAP)

ASORC has a partnership agreement in place to enable members to secure discounted enrolment rates into PGAP, an evidence-based treatment program for reducing disability associated with pain, depression, PTSD, cancer and other chronic health conditions, led by Dr Michael Sullivan, Research Chair in Behavioural Health at McGill University, Canada.



Mental Health Australia

ASORC is a full member of Mental Health Australia (MHA) supporting their advocacy work to improve the mental health and wellbeing of all Australians. MHA members play a vital role in helping advocate and ensure a united voice is heard in the development of key national mental health reform priorities.



Ending Loneliness Together

ASORC is a member of Ending Loneliness Together. Through a collaborative approach, Ending Loneliness Together is raising awareness of loneliness as a key social, health and economic issue of our time. Representing a national network of organisations who have been working together since 2016 to build the evidence-based tools to address loneliness in Australia.

ASORC's Communities of Practice (CoP) regularly collaborate and discuss issues and opportunities in various Rehabilitation Counselling practice contexts.

The objectives of the ASORC CoP include:

- providing a forum for cooperation to contribute to relevant, existing, and new initiatives
- identifying issues relevant to ASORC and the practice of Rehabilitation Counsellors
- identifying linkages and opportunities for collaborative strategic and technical projects
- contributing to the delivery of Community of Practice projects
- providing updates and report on progress of projects and programs
- advising ASORC on matters relating to the CoP
- enabling Rehabilitation Counsellors to be skilled and knowledgeable providers to the development of education in line with goals for early career and student Rehabilitation Counsellors

ASORC has three Communities of Practice (CoP):

National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) & Disability Employment Services (DES)

- The purpose of the NDIS & DES CoP is to promote best practice and assist ASORC with matters relating to rehabilitation counselling and employment for people with a disability (PWD) with particular emphasis on NDIS participants.

Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA) & Australian Defence Force (ADF)

- The purpose of the DVA & ADF CoP is to promote best practice and assist ASORC with matters relating to rehabilitation counselling within Defence & DVA.

Forensic Vocational Assessment (FVA)

- The purpose of the FVA CoP is to promote best practice and assist ASORC with matters relating to forensic vocational assessment with a particular emphasis on developing education.



“ASORC provides valuable CPD and greater recognition for the profession of Rehabilitation Counselling”

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