

40 years of ADEA

the history of Australia's leading
organisation in diabetes
education and care



Your trusted partner in diabetes care

A message to our members

I hope you feel that same sense of pride and excitement that we do here in the National Office as we celebrate the fortieth anniversary of ADEA. It has been your dedication and hard work every day over the past four decades that have improved diabetes education and care for those who need it most. Your work has propelled diabetes education into the future, set new higher standards of excellence in care and improved the lives of many thousands of Australians living with diabetes.

I look forward to leading ADEA into the future with you, our members, as we strive for the best possible diabetes education and care. Thank you for your commitment to excellence.



Susan Davidson
ADEA CEO

1981: Inaugural ADEA meeting

In 1981, a small group of health professionals met in Sydney, united in their aim of developing a recognised standard of diabetes education and care in Australia.

“The time had come, Jan insisted, for the establishment of an organization catering for the professional expertise and specific needs of the Diabetes Educators.”

Our founders were leaders in their recognition of the importance of diabetes education amongst health-care professionals. Their dedication paved the way for greater understanding and recognition of the issues faced by people living with diabetes and the health professionals providing diabetes care.

Image: founding member Jan Alford about the establishment of ADEA, excerpt from ADEA Newsletter, September 2001

AUSTRALIAN DIABETES EDUCATORS ASSOCIATION

NEWSLETTER

NO. 1

JULY '82

FIRST EDITION



1982: making strides

Within a year of formation, ADEA had significant developments underway. 1982 saw the creation of the state and territory branches, which were to define the governance and administration of the organisation over the following decade.

In '81 it all begun, when,
There was movement into Sydney
For the word had got around
That an ADEA would be formed there that day.
So, all the educators gathered to the fray.

above: text from ADEA Newsletter December 1991

In the same year, our newsletter was launched, widening our outreach and opening a line of communication and news between members and branches.

on the left: ADEA's first newsletter, from July 1982

1986: Credentiailling

Our members perceived a major gap in diabetes education and care. Finding themselves providing diabetes services without formalised training, accreditation, or recognition, they sought change.

Recognising the need for formal professional diabetes accreditation, in 1986 our members voted overwhelmingly for the development of an accreditation course.

The term Credentiailled Diabetes Educator was first used in 1986, together with the introduction of Credentiailling courses, and officially became trade-marked in 2000.

on the right: ADEA photo collage from the 1990s

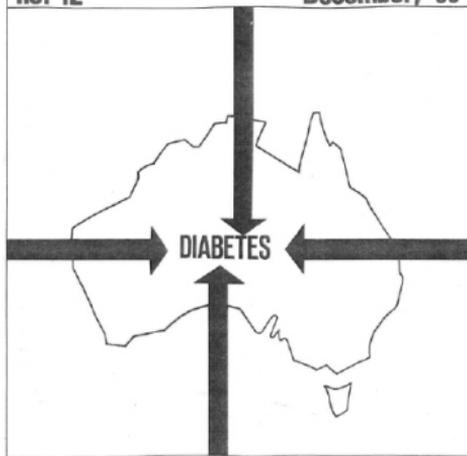


Australian Diabetes Educators Association

NEWSLETTER

no. 12

December, '85



centering on education

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1988-1995: Course development

The National Curriculum was launched in late 1988, marking the beginning of our pioneering diabetes educator credentialling system. Two courses run by Sydney hospitals were formally recognised by ADEA in 1989, in 1992 two accredited courses were recognised in Victoria, and another in Brisbane in 1994. In 1995, a collaboration between University of Technology Sydney and Royal North Shore Hospital and St Vincents Hospital created the first accredited tertiary course resulting in a formal qualification in diabetes education.

Today there are seven ADEA accredited courses operating from six university campuses in five of the eight Australian states and territories, offering graduate certificates in diabetes education and care both online and in-person.

on the right: ADEA photo collage from the 1990s

1991: Establishing the national secretariat

As our membership grew, we evolved. Driven by their passion and commitment, founding members ran ADEA in their personal time, sending correspondence from living room floors and hand-posting correspondence.

In 1991, the national secretariat was established – the beginnings of today's centralised and bustling national office.



1981 — 1991

...TOWARD THE YEAR 2001

*above: previous version of the ADEA logo
on the right: ADEA photos from 1991-2001*





2006: Mentoring Program established

The ADEA Mentoring Program was launched in 2006, providing support to members who are working to achieve ADEA CDE status and to support CDEs transitioning to new roles in diabetes education. By pairing an accredited CDE (mentor) with an applicant (mentee), knowledge, understanding and skills are shared between both parties to enhance CDE practice.



*above: previous version of the ADEA logo, used from 1982-2014
on the left: ADEA photos from 2001-2010*

2015: Launching the ADRF

ADEA and then Minister for Health, the Hon Sussan Ley MP, launched the ADEA Diabetes Research Foundation at Old Parliament House, Canberra.

Our research foundation provides people living with diabetes and their carers with evidence-based education and care, to create knowledge, support people with diabetes, and improve quality of life and economic outcomes.



*above: ADEA Diabetes Research Foundation logo
on the right: ADEA photos from 2011-2021*





2021: 40 years of ADEA

Today we celebrate forty years of membership, education, and quality diabetes care. Our ongoing focus on education and empowerment has been instrumental in the greater recognition of the skills and expertise of Credentialed Diabetes Educators and the field of diabetes care.

Coming from a diverse range of health professional backgrounds, our members have always been passionate and driven, and we continue striving today for our best future. As we commemorate our achievements over the past forty years, we reflect on the contributions that our founders and members made. It is our members who have shaped our story, every step of the way, and it is our members who will drive the next forty years of excellence in diabetes education and care.

on the left: ADEA photos from 2011-2021

ADEA Honorary Life Members

Awarded to those who demonstrate outstanding
and innovative contribution across diabetes and the
disability sectors:

Jan Baldwin	Ruth Colagiuri
Lesley Cusworth	Judy Reinhardt
Edwina Macoun	Erica Wright
Gillian Harris	Maureen Unsworth
Jan Alford	Kaye Neylon
Helen Turley	Gloria Kilmartin
Patricia Dunning	Michelle Robins
Coral Shankley	Shirley Cornelius
Bettine Wild	George Barker
Rhonda Griffiths	Jayne Lehmann
Ann Morris	Patricia Marshall
David Irvine	Tracey Aylen

on the right: Honorary Life Membership recipients over the years



Gloria Kilmartin receiving her Honorary Life Membership in Christchurch at the 2007 ASM.



2006 Award winners (L to R): Kaye Neylon, George Barker and Judee Bryant.



Australian Diabetes Educators Association

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