



# adsna

AUSTRALIAN DAY SURGERY NURSES ASSOCIATION INC



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Published three times a year by



a division of Cambridge Media

10 Walters Drive, Osborne Park WA 6017

Tel (08) 6314 5222

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# Day Surgery Australia

Official journal of the

Australian Day Surgery Nurses Association Inc

July 2011

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# Representing Australian day surgery nurses on the IAAS, an international platform. What a privilege and what does it mean to nurses here in Australia?

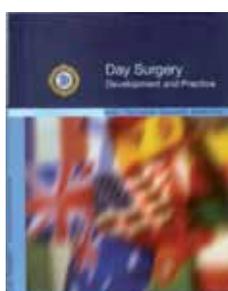
Wendy Adams • MRCNA



## What is the IAAS?

The International Association for Ambulatory Surgery (IAAS) was founded in 1995 and is a registered charity in Belgium. Its main aim is to promote the worldwide development of high-quality ambulatory surgery (day surgery).

The foundation of the IAAS coincided with its first international congress in Brussels. Since then, biennial congresses have been held at different venues around the world. The IAAS has also been involved in promoting the practice of ambulatory surgery at many national conferences in Europe, North and South America, Australasia, Asia and Africa. Politically, the IAAS has lobbied organisations such as the national governments, the European Union, the World Health Organization, and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development on the benefits and management of ambulatory surgery. In addition, they published a book in 2006, called *Day Surgery Development and Practice*, which is available from ADSNA.



## Who is on the IAAS General Assembly?

Only one body representing day surgery can be nominated as a full member from each country. The General Assembly meets in May every year and the Executive of the General Assembly meets in October every year. The following organisations represent their countries:



Australian Day Surgery Council (ADSC)



Ambulatory Surgery Center Association (ASC)



Belgian Association of Ambulatory Surgery (BAAS)



British Association of Day Surgery (BADs)



Danish Association of Day Surgery (DSDK)



Dutch Association of Day Care & Short Stay (NVDK)



Finnish Ambulatory Anaesthesiologists  
Suomen Päiväkirurgiset Anestesiologit (SUOPA)



French Association of Ambulatory Surgery (AFCA)



German Association for Ambulatory Surgery (BAO)



Hong Kong Association of Ambulatory Surgery (HKADS)

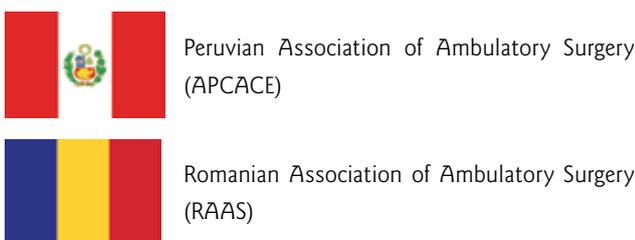


In addition, organisations can join as Associate members or Corresponding members and are permitted to attend the General Assembly as observers.

**ASSOCIATE MEMBERS**



**CORRESPONDING MEMBERS**



**My first experience of day surgery at an international level**

was when I was partially sponsored by my employer to present a paper at the IAAS Congress in Geneva, 2001. What a positive experience! The chance to hear and meet surgeons, proceduralists, anaesthetists, nurses and administration staff from all over the

world and listen to their issues and concerns was mind-blowing, eye-opening and reassuring that Australia was on track! This gave me the momentum and vision to be more involved in day surgery, both at a state and national level here in Australia.

**My first IAAS General Assembly meeting**

The General Assembly meets the day prior to every international conference and because ADSNA is an Associate member of the IAAS, I was able to attend the meetings while I was the President of ADSNA. My first meeting was in Boston, 2003, and I have had the privilege to represent ADSNA at the General Assembly in Spain in 2005, Amsterdam in 2007 and Brisbane in 2009. Once Dr Lindsay Roberts, a founding member of the Australian Day Surgery Council (ADSC) and one of the two representatives for Australia on the IAAS retired in 2009, I was appointed by the ADSC to replace him from 2010.

**So what is the big deal?**

It is the first time that a nurse from Australia represents Australia on the international day surgery platform. In addition, the current President of ADSNA can now attend as an observer, so in Copenhagen it was fabulous that both Michelle Hambridge and I were able to be there to represent you all.

**What happened at the General Assembly in Copenhagen?**

We were advised that there were 864 delegates registered to attend the Congress in Copenhagen, 37 of whom were Australians (when only 22 attended from the UK and nine from the USA). Needless to say, they were impressed that we had travelled so far and Hugh, Michelle and I were proud to be Australians!

A report was given by every country represented regarding day surgery. It appears there are very similar issues throughout the world including funding, especially free-standing day surgeries not receiving as much funding as the overnight facilities that have day surgery patients.

However, there were differences between countries as to whether the day surgery patients were from the private sector compared with the public sector. For example, Germany and Spain reported that the majority were performed in private, while Denmark reported that the majority were performed in public facilities.

There were also major differences between what is considered appropriate for day surgery. Laparoscopic cholecystectomies and tonsillectomies are routine in Europe and the USA while not routine in Australia.

The IAAS is assisting with the Data Day Surgery Project. This project aims at closing the gaps in data, information and knowledge concerning day surgery in Europe. Such knowledge will be invaluable for an evidence-based design of day surgery systems of care. The