



Australian Society of Dermal Clinicians (ASDC)  
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## **AGM 2021 - Secretary Report**

As another term comes to a close, it is my pleasure, as General Secretary, to be presenting this report on the activities of the ASDC over the past financial year. The goal of my report is to provide a brief overview of the ASDC's meetings, education, and memberships. I note that this report will provide information from 1/04/2020 - 31/03/2021, in line with our Association's financial year.

### **MEETINGS**

The committee has held nine online Monthly Meetings and one face to face Strategic Planning Day back in August of 2020. Attendance by the committee was relatively consistent and reached quorum the majority of the time, which meant that we could continue to plan and achieve milestones set out each month. We also held a Special General Meeting for members in April and November 2020, where we briefed and updated members on our strategic plans and pursuits.

### **EVENTS**

Due to the COVID 19 pandemic, our face to face events had to be postponed. We had hoped to come back with something remarkable in 2021. Still, it wasn't to be, so we have continued our online presence virtually where possible and look forward to organising our networking events sometime soon in the future.

We would love to see more attendance and support from our members across our Annual and General meetings to receive your feedback and insight into our pursuits.

### **EDUCATION AND CAMPAIGNS**

Email and social campaigns have been driven regularly, most of which link to events, updates, meetings, and webinars. These campaigns encourage members to visit our website or member portals to provide current resources and relevant information on our industry. This year has continued to feature the following:

1. Access to AUSMED, giving members the opportunity for continued professional development.



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2. Links and resources on the latest COVID 19 updates and information.
3. Blog posts within our website's member's section, which are also home to ASDC newsworthy position statements and scientific reviews  
<https://www.dermalclinicians.com.au/members>.
4. EBSCOHOST and PUBMED journal database access which is home to over 1,300 journals.
5. Seasonal ASDC newsletters, updating members on what we are doing and what upcoming events and webinars are being held.
6. Presentations and webinars where content is uploaded to our AUSMED system, where members can watch later.
7. Job vacancies and opportunities within the industry.

## MEMBERSHIPS

This year we tested processing memberships solely via an online platform. After trying this system, we have decided to further streamline this process to suit our committee and membership needs and will continue to work on this through the 2021-2022 term.

The main thing to report with memberships would be that:

- We still have monthly or yearly membership payment options to help with the affordability of memberships.
- We are now able to implement the March to March timeframe for memberships that we initiated in 2019. However, we had to accommodate some of the hardship allowances we supplied during the COVID 19 pandemic, so many memberships weren't renewed until after 30/06/2021. For example, we had to adapt for the following:
  - The extension provided for lapsed memberships until 30/06/2020
  - The pause for memberships renewals for three months 31/03/2020 - 30/06/2020
  - The extension provided to memberships for those who renewed during the pandemic - membership expiry 30/06/2021 for those members *only*.

Member portals will remain open to all past and present members until the end of the AGM 08/08/2021. So we encourage all those who have yet to renew to do so. After the AGM, we will be removing all lapsed members from our forums and website, so we encourage all those with lapsed memberships to reapply if you wish to continue to have access to our site and resources.



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All things considering, our memberships remained stable over the last financial year and were consistent with the previous year's numbers. However, we did see a considerable drop in Full Member numbers and an increase in Student Member numbers. It has been delightful to see all of our endorsed programs encouraging membership from their students, which we continue to welcome on board as they pursue their careers as dermal clinicians.

We hope to continue to see an increase in memberships over the coming year. We strongly encourage our members to actively continue promoting and supporting colleagues to sign up for the ASDC. In addition, in the coming membership term, as per Part 3, division 1, clause 8.6 of our constitution, we will be formally addressing all members that qualify as Fellow Members of the ASDC. We will keep members updated with this information.

**Table A** below outlines the members of the ASDC as they were during March 2021 as a comparison to the previous year. Keep in mind our COVID hardship allowances would have influenced the accuracy of paid members, which will be better represented in the financial report and future Secretary reports.

**TABLE A**  
**ASDC Memberships as of March 2021**

Type of Membership	03/2020	03/2021
Full Member	76	53
Associate Member	18	18
Industry Member	6	15
Student Member	36	55
Life Member	2	2
Honorary Member	1	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>139</b>	<b>144</b>
Pending	-	-



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## CHALLENGES

It is a given to note that COVID 19 has continued to be one of our biggest challenges this year, as we continue to navigate our way around how this can impact our lives and our industry. Even so, we continue to thank all our members and committee board for their continued support.

On another note, we found that the transition to having our memberships online hasn't worked exactly as we had hoped, so we are continuing to work behind the scenes to make this process as streamlined and efficient as possible. We appreciate your patience as we continue to work on this.

We are also monitoring how often our journal databases are being used by members so that we can determine if this is financially viable for our Association. We strongly encourage all members to make the most of the resources as they do come with a cost and we do hope for them to be utilised to their full capacity. This will be something we continue to review

We would also love to hear and see some more from our members in terms of supplying feedback and in attending our meetings. Considering the numbers in our membership, we are not getting anywhere near this in attendance or feedback which is quite disappointing as we do rely on input and instruction from our members with our future goals.

All in all, I look forward to a productive 2021/2022 term, and to continue sharing with you all of the Association's future endeavours, educational support and events. Thank you to all our members, affiliates, sponsors and colleagues for all of your support over the last year, please take care of yourself as we navigate through these times.

Warm regards,  
Mariana Vukic  
ASDC General Secretary