APAP NEWSLETTER

| January – 2026 |

To: **Program Directors of IFNA's Approved Anesthesia Programs**
IFNA Officers
IFNA Executive Committee
IFNA Country National Representatives

From: **Rebecca Madsen, APAP Manger**

Happy New Year!

2026 WORLD CONGRESS OF NURSE ANAESTHETISTS:

The 2026 World Congress of Nurse Anesthetists is just around the corner. It will be held in Brisbane, Australia (May 7-9, 2026). I so hope to see you there!

The link to the Congress website is: Home - World Congress of Nurse Anaesthetists
You will find important information regarding registration for the Congress and the scientific program there.

2026 WCNA Koala Competition

How to Enter:

- "Like" the original Koala Competition post on Facebook
- "Like" both the ACPAN and World Congress of Nurse Anesthetists 2026 Facebook Pages
- Comment and tag a fellow anaesthesia nurse or friend on the original Koala Competition post
- Share the original Koala Competition post to your story
- Bonus entry if you follow ACPAN on Instagram

Winning Prize:
The Ultimate Koala Experience in Brisbane, a **personalised WCNA stuffed koala and 1 x complimentary WCNA 2026**

EVALUATION:

To assist anesthesia programs with their evaluation process, the Education Committee has taken on a project to develop a variety of evaluation tools that programs can use, or modify for use, to suit their needs. I have attached these tools to the accompanying email for you to review and use. They include:

- *Student Course-Program Evaluation Tool*
- *Daily Student Clinical Evaluation Tool*
- *Preop Assessment-Anesthesia Care Plan Tool*
- *Record of Clinical Experiences Tool*
- *End of Rotation Evaluation-Assessing Student Clinical Performance Tool*

Additionally, the Education Committee is conducting a survey regarding the appropriateness of the content of the tool entitled "*End of Rotation Evaluation Form Assessing Student Clinical Performance*." The link to that survey is in the accompanying email.

As I mentioned in the last edition of the ***APAP Newsletter***, it is important to remember that a fundamental reason for developing an Anesthesia Program Approval Process (APAP) is to promote quality improvement by ensuring quality assessment.

The design and implementation of a programmatic evaluation process is critical to such an endeavor.

WATCH FOR YOUR INVITATION TO THE PROGRAM DIRECTOR'S LUNCHEON

MAY 8, 2026

BRISBINE, AUSTRALIA

Once again, the *National Board of Certification and Recertification for Nurse Anesthetists (NBCRNA)* in the United States is going to sponsor a luncheon at the WCNA. The director of each APAP approved program will receive an invitation to the event.

As always, we hope to have a lively discussion. The theme of this Years discussion will be "Promoting Quality Improvement in Anesthesia Programs through Evaluation/Assessment processes: Using Evaluation tools."

THE GOAL OF THE APPROVAL PROCESS IS TO ENCOURAGE PROGRAMS TO COMPLY WITH IFNA'S EDUCATIONAL STANDARDS FOR PREPARING NURSE ANESTHETISTS THROUGH AN APPROVAL PROCESS THAT TAKES CULTURAL, NATIONAL OR REGIONAL DIFFERENCES INTO CONSIDERATION.

(Continued)

APAP approved programs must pledge to comply (registration, recognition) or pledge to meet (accreditation) the IFNA Educational Standards. Among those are Standard VIII, the Evaluation Standard. This Standard requires programs to evaluate every aspect of the program – on an ongoing basis - so that the program can determine what is working and what areas need to be improved. It also requires monitoring student progress and success. Last year, the Education Committee and the IFNA Board made a change to the APAP Applications and Applications for Renewal; programs are now required to provide evidence of the evaluations they regularly conduct during the application process.

Specifically, programs must:

- Describe their evaluation process (how the elements of Standard VIII are evaluated)
- Provide current results (data) from completed evaluations that shows that the evaluations (related to each of the elements in Standard VIII) are conducted
- Demonstrate how evaluations are utilized by the program to make positive change within the program.

EDUCATION STANDARDS

Standard VIII. Evaluation:

Regular evaluation of the student's academic and clinical progress is required in order to make adaptation and changes.

Aspects of evaluation should contain:

A. *Achievement of the learning objectives*
A. *Appropriateness of the program's content*
B. *Course administration and venues*
C. *Learning support (theory)*
D. *Adequate clinical practice opportunities*
E. *Learning support (clinical practice)*
F. *Support provided by faculty/teachers*
G. *Achievement of the graduate competencies*

In Memoriam: Betty Horton, PhD, CRNA, FAAN (1936-2025)

It is with great sadness that I tell you that Dr. Betty Horton passed away on December 27, 2025. I have known Betty for 36 years. She was a dear friend. You may know that Betty was the Chair of the IFNA Education Committee and **was instrumental in developing IFNA's Anesthesia Program Approval Process (APAP)** whereby education programs worldwide are approved based on international education standards endorsed by the International Council of Nurses. She was later named the first manager of IFNA's Anesthesia Program Approval Process. Betty and I **Co-Chaired the IFNA/ICN Task Force for the development of Guidelines for Advanced Practice Nursing: Nurse Anesthesia** that were published in 2021.

Betty was a visionary leader - a true hero. Here is a bit more about her career:

Betty graduated from Decatur and Macon County Hospital's School of Nursing and Decatur Memorial Hospital's School for Nurse Anesthetists. She also earned degrees at the University of St. Francis, University of Illinois at Springfield, Case Western Reserve University, and Rush University (PhD in Nursing).

Betty received many professional honors including the Fellowship in the American Academy of Nursing, the American Association of Nurse Anesthetists' (AANA) Helen Lamb Outstanding Education Award, and the Agatha Hodgins Outstanding Leadership Award. She also received the **Hermi Lohnert Award from the International Federation of Nurse Anesthetists**.

Betty was the Nurse Anesthesia Program Director in Decatur for over 20 years. After that, she served as the Director of Accreditation and Education for the American Association of Nurse Anesthetists (AANA) and Council on Accreditation of Nurse Anesthesia Educational Program (COA).

Anesthesia Program Approvals:

The following programs were approved for renewal in November 2025:

- Mount Marty University Graduate Program in Nurse Anesthesiology - Recognition
- Nursing Anesthesia Master Program An-Najah National University, Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences Nursing and Midwifery Department - Registration

Congratulations to both of you!

If you know of a program director who is interested in the IFNA Anesthesia Program Approval Process, detailed information about all categories of approval can be found on the IFNA website. Applications for approval are also posted online for convenient access.

Visit: https://ifna.org/apap/apap-procedures/