

Strategic Plan 2018-2023



Vision

To lead and foster excellence in neuroscience research, teaching and the application of discovery for the benefit of society.

Mission

To be the peak body of neuroscience in Australia and New Zealand and seen as the leading regional body on an international level. ANS creates opportunities for researchers and serves the intellectual and operational needs of its members.

Supporting research excellence

- Promote Australasian neuroscience nationally and internationally and to lead innovative developments that will help attract funding to the sector.
- Engage in activities that increase knowledge of the brain, the nervous system and its functions.
- Promote excellence in Australasian neuroscience and ensure the quality of our sector's output.
- Support the careers of our members at all career stages.

Promotion of neuroscience

- Promote neuroscience to the broader scientific community, universities, teachers and schools, government, patient advocacy groups, industry and the general public.
- Raise the quality of neuroscience literacy across Australasia.
- Attract talented students into the field of neuroscience research.

Knowledge sharing

- Increase ANS membership base and representation.
- Develop structures to make ANS more efficient and effective.
- Provide a high quality annual conference
- Create high quality events outside of the annual conference and year-round benefits for members.

Excellence

Integrity and Ethics

Inclusiveness

Creativity

Representation

ANS Achievements 2018

● Increased benefits for members

- Reduced annual student membership fees by 57%
- Reduced student registration cost for the 2018 annual conference by \$100
- Registration cost for 2018 conference for full members kept at 2017 rate
- Attracted one hundred new members since Dec 2017
- Awarded first Carer's travel grants for 2018 ANS Brisbane to support attendance of members with parental responsibilities
- Supported the work of specific member groups - Equity and Diversity in membership, Student and Professional/Postdoctoral Member Subcommittees, and developed our Teaching Resources and Animals in Research Subcommittees
- Launched the Australasian Women in Neuroscience group, supported by the Australasian Cognitive Neuroscience Society and ANS Equity and Diversity Committee
- Launched the Elspeth McLachlan Plenary Lecture with the inaugural lecture at ANS Brisbane 2018
- Provided high level training for members via the Australian Course for Advanced Neuroscience (ACAN)
- Expanded opportunities for regional student events
- Developed new online learning materials and engagement tools for school students through the Australian and New Zealand Brain Bee Challenge competitions
- Expanded engagement with teachers
- Engaged Jones Day Lawyers on a pro bono basis to advise on contracts and legal documents

● Promotion of neuroscience

- ANS is a major partner of the Australian Brain Alliance, an initiative of the Australian Academy of Science. Co-chaired by ANS Executive members, Professors Linda Richards and Gary Egan, the Alliance advocates for brain research nationally through engagement with Federal and State Governments and internationally through involvement in the establishment of the International Brain Initiative

● Knowledge sharing

- Negotiated agreements for members to attend international meetings at each organisation's local member rates, including IBRO, SfN and FAONS
- Awarded travel funding to 2 ANS Early Career members to attend FENS 2018 in Berlin

● Improved Society efficiency and professionalism

- Launched the first ANS Strategic Plan 2018-2023
- Improved member, media and general community communications including launching a new webpage and increasing activity on Facebook and Twitter
- Set up an investment fund and brought the Society financial year in line with the July-June financial year
- Developed a large number of new policies and procedures for a range of Society activities