

Introducing ECONA



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Early Career Optometrists
NSW/ACT

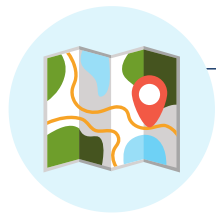
Who are we?

ECONA, or Early Career Optometrists NSW/ACT, was established in 2019 to act as a conduit between Optometry NSW/ACT and our younger members.

Each member of the ECONA committee is dedicated to supporting and engaging with ECOs (early career optometrists) in their first ten years after graduation – an essential period in the life of any professional for becoming established and building a network.

The main ECONA committee has nine members: Margaret Zhong, Jack Phu, Phoebe Wong, Daniel Rafla, Lowana Littlechild, Suhyun Kweon, Lauren Hutchinson, Nancy Liu and Jingyi Chen. There are also a number of subcommittees that focus on specific areas of engagement and support.

Subcommittees



Regional engagement sub-committee

We work to ensure that the voices of regional ECOs are heard by their peak body: Optometry NSW/ACT. As regional ECOs ourselves, we understand the unique opportunities provided by rural and regional practice as well as the challenges faced by ECOs working in these areas, including limited access to ongoing clinical education as well as social and professional isolation. We are here for you, and will work to find solutions to these challenges.

- Lowana Littlechild, Lauren Hutchinson, Kathy Qiu, Tyson Xu, Acyel Al-Alosi, Wendy Saw



Scope of optometry sub-committee

We are committed to the long-term viability and career satisfaction of Australian optometrists through evolving and promoting the scope of optometry practice. This can happen through increased clinical scope such as expansion of therapeutics, as well as through broadening career pathways. We work towards this through first understanding your needs, then tailoring resources and CPD events to meet them. We also work to strengthen relationships with key industry stakeholders including universities.

- Jack Phu, Nancy Liu, Alex Koutsokeras, Kerry Ho



Student engagement sub-committee

We aim to engage with optometry students as we understand that transitioning from student to practitioner can be challenging. We are committed to meeting the needs of students through guidance towards securing your first job (including offering independent contract advice) as well as networking and mentoring opportunities.

- Sue Kweon, Phoebe Wong, Judy Nam, Jingyi Chen



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Growing the future of optometry



Corporate engagement sub-committee

Corporate employees and franchisees have unique challenges and are often lacking in independent advice around contracts, entitlements and managing the balance between meeting KPIs and ethical practice. That's where we come in. We want to hear your concerns first hand so we can work with the resources of Optometry NSW/ACT to provide you with support tailored to your employment needs.

- Daniel Rafla, Jingyi Chen, Ivy Kol, Nicholas Tran, Elie Jaajaa

Want to get involved?

If you graduated as an optometrist within the past ten years and you're a member of Optometry NSW/ACT, you automatically qualify for support from ECONA.

We hold many events throughout the year, including educational and social, created with ECOs in mind. Find updates on our social media pages or on the Optometry NSW/ACT website.

Not a member of Optometry NSW/ACT?

There's never been a better time to join.

Membership is free for final year students and for your first 6 months post-grad. After that, you can enjoy a further 12 months at our special Recent Graduate rate. Best of all, for 2020-21, we are offering 50% discount on all membership fees. Call or email us for further details.

Connect with us



Optometry NSW/ACT



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