

Induction of Fiona Bolton as a Life Member of the
Australian Association of Stomal Therapy Nurses
at the AASTN Annual General Meeting, Melbourne, Australia. 30th April 2025.

Fiona is dedicated, hardworking, a strong leader, advocate for stomal therapy and an incredible Stomal Therapy Nurse. She generously shares her extensive knowledge and skills in the field of Stomal Therapy. Fiona is forthright, always totally committed to the job in hand, passionate about Stomal Therapy Nursing, concerned about the future of our specialty and always thinking of ways to encourage new Stomal Therapy Nurses. She has spent countless hours volunteering her time and talents in administrative, teaching and leaderships roles and is well deserving of AASTN life membership.



Fiona has been a Stomal Therapy Nurse and full member of the AASTN for 30 years. Her contribution to the AASTN, at both a state and national level, has been enormous. Fiona has successfully and proactively held the positions of:

State positions

- SA State President 1996-1998
- Board Member Ostomy Association of SA 2020-present
- State Education Subcommittee
- Organiser & Convenor of Ostomy +/- Wound Resource Person Course conducted annually/biannually from 2017 – 2020.

National positions

- AASTN Executive Secretary 1998-2000
- AASTN Executive Vice President 2003-2005
- AASTN Executive Treasurer 2005-2007
- Conference Convenor AASTN conference Adelaide 2005
- Conference Convenor WCET International Congress Adelaide 2012
- National Education and Professional Development Subcommittee Chairperson 2008-2016
- AASTN Executive President 2021-2023 and APETNA Chairperson 2021-2023

As the AASTN Executive President, Fiona had an essential role in the recent review of the governance structure, operations, finances, and strategy for the AASTN and working to achieve optimal performance for the organization.

In 2002, Fiona successfully completed the AASTN credentialing process, providing national professional recognition of achievement within an advanced Stomal Therapy Nurse's role. She continued to achieve recredentialing status in 2005, 2008, 2013 and 2016.

Fiona was the successful recipient of the Australian Association of Stomal Therapy Nurses SA Branch Biennial Shelley Simper Award in 2006, awarded biennially to an outstanding achiever in the field of stomal therapy nursing within South Australia, and in 2023 jointly received the AASTN Research Grant

for study *'An evidence-based risk assessment Tool for parastomal hernias: Evaluating face validity for translation into practice'*.

In 2023, Fiona received the **Excellence in Practice Award** at the SA Nursing and Midwifery Awards – an award that recognizes the outstanding performance of a Registered Nurse working in South Australia. This exceptional accolade further supports Fiona's attributes and contribution to the field of Stomal Therapy nursing, nursing practice, her colleagues, and the care of her patients. For a Stomal Therapy Nurse to be the recipient of this award, allowed Fiona to showcase this amazing specialty, sometimes not fully understood by others in healthcare.



Fiona is now the Treasurer of the World Council of Enterostomal Therapists (WCET) accepting the role much earlier than anticipated without lead-in time due to the illness of the previous treasurer. She embraced the challenge with her usual enthusiasm and strong commitment. Having an Australian on the WCET Executive Board, puts Australia on the international ET nurse map and continues a tradition of Australia's involvement with WCET since its inception. Fiona was also the coordinator of the planning committee for the very successful WCET congress held in Adelaide in 2012 – a congress still highly praised and spoken of by the delegates who attended.



Fiona is and has been a mentor to many Stomal Therapy Nurses. She is always approachable and happy to assist anyone when needed. She provides vital guidance to newly qualified STNs and, as a clinical preceptor, she acts a role model, provides learning opportunities, and ensures that practice is evidenced based for the nurses completing their Graduate Certificate in Wound, Ostomy and Continence Nursing Practice. She never asks for recognition but absolutely deserves it.



Royal Adelaide Hospital Stomal Therapy Nursing Class 1994



AASTN Education and Professional Development Subcommittee 2009