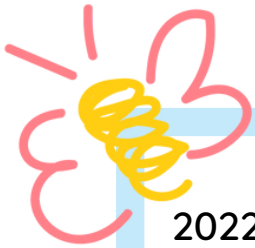


NEWSLETTER

February 2023

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Chairperson Update



2022 was a busy and productive year for the ACLTA. We have been hard at work behind the scenes to help improve how we support you, our members, those working in the profession and those interested in Child Life Therapy. I want to personally thank, each and every one of the ACLTA Executive members for their enthusiasm, collaboration and hard work in making important improvements in 2022. We look forward to this year and working towards our strategic goals. On behalf of the ACLTA, we hope you all had a very Merry Christmas and a safe 2023. As always, please get in touch with us if you have any feedback or questions.

Carlie Alicastro



We want to hear from you..

If you have any additions that you would like to add to our next newsletter we want to hear from you.

Please send these through to email@childlife.org.au

ACLTA Year in Review

2022 was a big year for ACLTA. Here are just a few of the 2022 highlights. We hope to bring you many more in 2023



Executive Committee Changes

In 2022 we welcomed 4 new members to our executive committee as well as 2 new positions. These new positions are Vice Chairperson and National Liaison Officer. Visit our website to check out committee position and profiles. We hope that these new positions will assist in continuing to provide you all with the support required and bring you more highlights in 2023.



ACLTA Website Update

Our ACLTA website has had a complete overhaul and was redesigned. We hope you have all had a chance to explore the new look and have a play with the interactive features.

Our web address remains the same www.childlife.org.au as does our membership portal. We have kept with our existing provider so if you are looking to become a member please follow the link on the site or when you are due to renew your membership please login and renew as you have previously.

ACLTA wants to give a massive shout out to Crystal Oliver for all her creativity and flair with our website revamp! <https://crystaloliver.com.au>

ACLTA Year in Review



Networking Groups

Following on from the success of our networking groups at our 2021 conference, we have hosted a number of networking groups online covering a variety of interest areas. These focus areas were based on feedback from you and we hope those who attended any of these networking opportunities were able to connect with others and take away some valuable learnings and opportunities. We appreciate your feedback on these groups - if you have ideas for future groups please reach out.



Changes to Organisational Structure and Constitution

As our profession continues to grow and we look to form partnerships with organisations to support and enhance the delivery of Child Life therapy services across the nation, it was a priority to relook at our organisational structure this year. The ACLTA was established as an unincorporated association meaning that we were not a legal entity. This posed several problems and required a change. We proposed to our members that we become an incorporated organisation, enabling us to be recognised as a legal entity to ensure we continue to run an effective and successful association

We would like to extend our thanks to all those who voted in relation to our proposal to become an incorporated organisation. We are so grateful to those who took the time to share their thoughts. As part of the voting process, we asked members if they supported our application to become an incorporated organisation, and also if they accepted our new constitution.

100% of voters responded yes to both questions. As such, ACLTA was able to submit the required paperwork to NSW Fair Trading to transition to an incorporated organisation. We look forward to the new possibilities this change in organisational structure will bring to our association.

Therapist Spotlight

IRENE ADAM

**SYDNEY CHILDREN'S
HOSPITAL**

I have been working as a Child Life Therapist at Sydney Children's Hospital for over 25 years!!! Wow !! So much has changed and developed since then!! I am currently working in Haematology/Oncology and the Adolescent ward.

My favourite part of the job is empowering the patients to do amazing things that not many people in general would cope with. Things like radiotherapy, MRI, and many more hospital procedures. Our patients are like superheroes!!!

One thing about Child Life Therapy I wish everyone knew is how much of a difference we make in just one patient and family's hospital journey. If everyone in the world knew this there would be a lot more funding, a lot more education and support and a lot less trauma in the world of the hospitalised child/family!! Imagine if the people of the world such as movie stars, journalists, top 40 richest were all our friends!! Child Life therapy would be supported just as much as the World Cup!!!

I have so many favourite stories to share however one that comes to mind is of a patient that is one of the bravest kids I knew. I had met her with her family on the first day of admission to hospital where she was required to have surgery and have a CVL and reservoir inserted for her upcoming treatment. The Doctors kept paging me saying "Can you also prepare her for?" The parents were unsure in telling her too much as they reported she would 'FLIP'HER LID!" I started with a gentle approach with use of dolls and play and from then on developed a relationship with the patient and family and supported her throughout all of her treatment journey. This included, chemo administered into her reservoir, scans, radiotherapy and so much more!!! She went through so many ups and downs throughout her treatment and was a true superhero in my eyes. She was required to have such extensive treatments and procedures where I don't think many adults would cope with. She was always thankful and happy to play with us!! This patient and family will always be in my heart!!

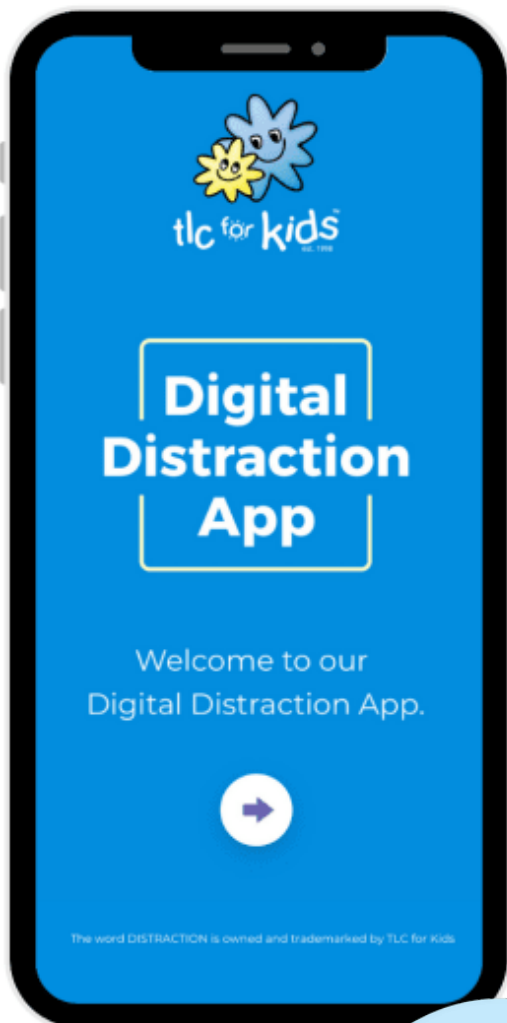
I can honestly say that I would not be in this job for so many years if it wasn't for these true heroes. The reward the kids provide is so special and I truly believe what we do for these kids and families makes such a huge difference!!! I will never get sick of saying this!! It's a job that has always kept me grounded and thankful!!!

Resource Spotlight



TLC for Kids Digital Distraction App

"The Digital Distraction App comprises a variety of games, each with a specific purpose to help distract and reduce fear for a child during a medical procedure or whilst they are under any form of stress or discomfort. We've developed the App to be very user and child friendly. With no ads, signups, or plug-ins, there are many fun and colourful distraction activities to divert children's attention whilst they learn how to use and associate distraction as a tool to improve their mental wellbeing."



"To access the App, simply visit tlcforkids.app from any smart device. It is compatible with iPhone and Android or any phone, tablet etc., that has internet access. No login is required, and you don't have to set up an account or anything like that. It is open for all to use at any time. "

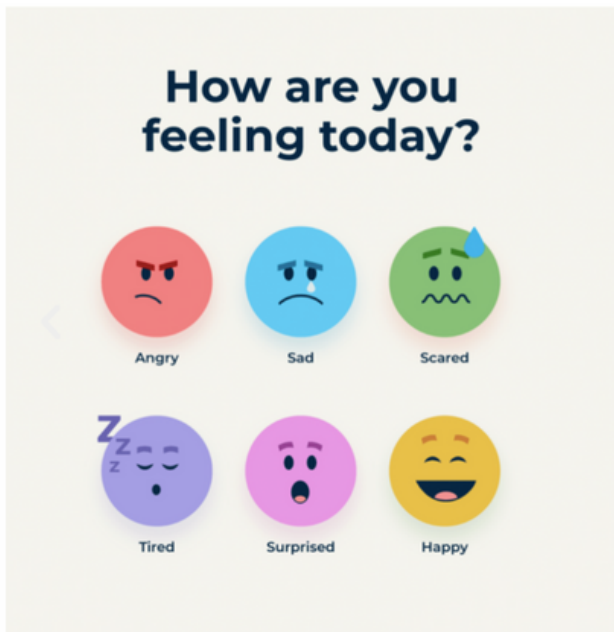
"Each of the games has its own instruction pop up that you can read before playing. There is also a Help page which includes a short description and a video as an example of how to play. "

Information taken from
www.tlcforkids.org.au/app/

Resource Spotlight

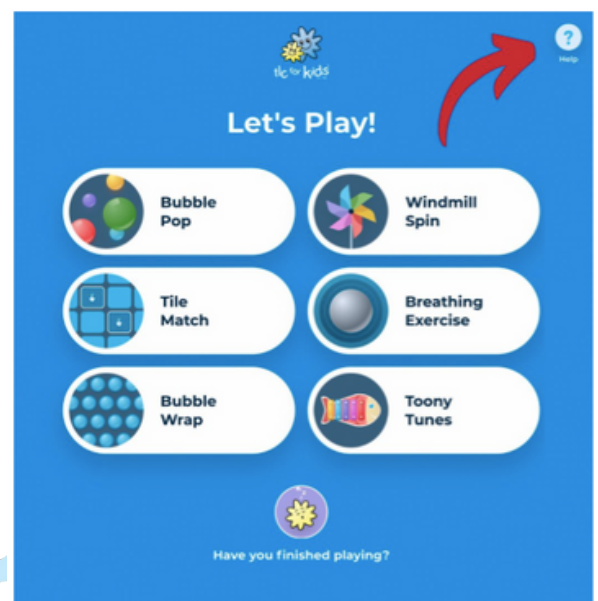


TLC for Kids Digital Distraction App



"Before you begin to play, you will be asked how you are feeling (pick which image best describes your mood). You will then be directed to the game selection page, where you can choose which game you wish to play. Once you have finished playing, you simply click the "have you finished playing" button. It will then ask you to pick the mood you are now in."

"To improve on the App and provide additional content, we ask that people consider leaving feedback after play. This can be done by simply clicking the "Leave Feedback" button at the bottom of the Thank you page. This feedback will prove to be invaluable to the success of the App, and help us towards our goal of providing one of the widest-reaching and most used digital distraction tools in the world."



Information taken from
www.tlcforkids.org.au/app/

Professional Development Opportunities

ACLTA is committed to improving access to professional development opportunities for our members and those interested in the field of Child Life Therapy.

Remember to check out the Professional Development tab on our website where we keep you posted on all our current professional development opportunities.



"CONDUCTING RESEARCH IN CHILD LIFE PRACTICE"

Presented by

Amarens Matthiesen

PhD, CCLS



Presentation available from 10•02•23
LIVE follow up Q&A with Amarens 23•02•23 5pm



FOR FULL MEMBERS

Further information has been emailed to all full members.
Please contact ACLTA via email@childlie.org.au if you have any questions

Professional Development Opportunities



2023 Child Life Conference hosted by the Association of Child Life Professionals (ACLP) in Grapevine Texas, June 15th – 18th 2023.



The 2023 Child Life Conference will give attendees the opportunity to reconnect with friends and peers, make new acquaintances, learn the latest in the field of child life, and enjoy the company of child life professionals from across the world!

10 sessions from the in-person conference will be recorded and made available to purchase on-demand as the All Access Pass.

Visit:

<https://www.childlife.org/professional-development/annual-child-life-conference/2023-child-life-conference>

for more information on registration, cost and conference schedule.



ACLTA CONFERENCE UPDATE

Thank you to all those who completed our survey, sharing their preference for online or in person and also their ideas on themes and topics.

We look forward to hosting our ACLTA conference in **October 2023** and are happy to announce that our conference will be held online. We hope this provides all those interested with the opportunity to present and/or attend.

If you are a current full member and interested in being part of the planning committee we want to hear from you. Please send your interest through to email@childlife.org.au



**ANNOUNCING
CHILD LIFE
THERAPY WEEK
2023**

MARCH 27TH - 31ST

Stay tuned to our socials and your emails for some exciting plans for the week!

In the meantime we look forward to hearing how each hospital is planning to celebrate.