

Sri Lankan Psychiatrists Association of Australia  
& New Zealand Incorporated.

[SLPAANZ Inc](#)

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## SLPAANZ NEWSLETTER - Aug 2025

### Issue # 5

## Here is what has happened in the last few months and what's to come!

Welcome to our latest newsletter! We are thrilled to share with you the latest developments in our mission to empower and support psychiatrists of Sri Lankan origin in Australia and New Zealand.

### 🎉 SLPAANZ Social Event 2025!

Our SLPAANZ social event at the Gold Coast RANZCP Congress was an absolute highlight! We had a blast connecting and reconnecting with many of you—new Fellows, families, and old friends.



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It was a privilege to listen to an inspiring speech delivered by our special guest speaker Dr Dinesh Palipana, OAM who shared his remarkable life journey with us.



We also got to enjoy the amazing talents within our community. Thank you to everyone who came and made it a memorable event.









We would like to acknowledge and thank everyone who contributed to make this event a success especially our main sponsor, Kadalla Mortgage Brokers.

**Mark your calendars—Melbourne 2026 is next!**

### **Deepening RANZCP Collaboration**

We also met with RANZCP president Dr Astha Tomar and immediate past president Dr Elizabeth Moore to discuss how SLPAANZ can:

- Align our **mentoring programs** with college initiatives
- Take part in international psychiatry efforts (like ASPIQ)
- Co-host sessions at upcoming **RANZCP and SLCoP conferences**

Exciting doors are opening, and we're ready to walk through them with you!





## Supporting Trainees

We've seen a growing number of Sri Lankan Specialist Registrars (SRs) reach out, hoping to explore training opportunities in Australia. In response, we:

- Liaised with SLCoP regarding exploring training opportunities for SRs
- Plan to do joint CPD events for trainees who are planning to come and those who are already here
- Welcome them into our **WhatsApp trainee support network**
- Link them with state coordinators and mentors
- Plan a new **monthly mentoring program**, kicking off later this year. Please inform us if you are interested in supporting

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## Strengthening Ties with Sri Lanka

During our recent meetings with Dr Sajeewana Amarasinghe (SLCoP president) and Dr Dasanthi Akmeemana (SLCoP president elect), we explored how SLPAANZ can actively support the Sri Lankan mental health system. What's happening?

- We're developing **academic partnerships** with universities in under resourced areas
- Exploring ways members can offer **short-term clinical or teaching input** in those areas
- Supporting CPD access and feedback for trainees in Sri Lanka
- A WhatsApp working group has been formed to further plan and implement these collaborations







## **AGM 2025**

Behind the scenes, we've been preparing for the:

- **AGM on 12th October 2025**

Keep an eye on your inbox—formal AGM notices and opportunities to get involved are coming soon! Please organise to pay your yearly membership. We need your support! Please join the committee and our state coordinators' group.

## **What's Coming Up**

We're planning a full CPD/event calendar for the year ahead:

- A **trainee-focused** CPD session (Q3 2025)

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- A joint **SLPAANZ–SLCoP** CPD event on **transcultural psychiatry** (Q2 2026)
  - Two more local CPD sessions
  - And of course... our much-loved **social gathering** next year in **Melbourne 2026**

As always, we are grateful for your support and spirit. If you'd like to get involved—whether by mentoring, presenting at a CPD session, or helping shape our next event—**we'd love to hear from you.**

Here's to the next chapter, together!

**Warm wishes,**

*The SLPAANZ Committee*

"Connecting Minds, Bridging Nations"

