

National Asthma Council Australia

Celebrating 35 Years

For 35 years, the National Asthma Council Australia (NAC) has been the trusted national authority on asthma care.

Since its inception as the National Asthma Campaign in 1989, the NAC has led key initiatives to improve the management of asthma and decrease asthma mortality rates in Australia.

Here, we reflect on some of our key accomplishments.

1989

The National Asthma Campaign was formed to combat the high number of annual asthma deaths. 'Could it be asthma?' was the first national public campaign.

1990

NAC formally launches the publication of its first national treatment guidelines, the Asthma Management Plan, later called the *Asthma Management Handbook*.

1990s

Developing a National Strategy. In the mid-1990s, the NAC initiated and led the creation of the National Asthma Strategy, culminating in the release of the National Asthma Strategy Implementation Plan in 1999.

1992

NAC's *Cost of Asthma* report is a landmark report on the economic impact of asthma in Australia.

1995

NAC publishes the first edition of the *Spirometry Handbook*.

1999

Asthma: A National Health Priority. Recognising the need for government commitment to advance asthma care, the NAC began rallying support in the late 1990s to establish asthma as a national health priority. This effort culminated in 1999 with asthma declared a National Health Priority Area, leading to significant government funding for asthma programs for the first time.

2000

NAC becomes a founding member of the International Primary Care Respiratory Group (IPCRG).

2002

NAC's health professional asthma education program launches with A-Teams established in five states.

2006

NAC creates Sensitive Choice® to empower consumers to identify asthma and allergy-aware products.

2009

NAC works with the United Nations Environment Programme on CFC-free inhaler awareness, after playing a key role in Australia's phase out.



35

2012

NAC launches Asthma Buddy, the online version of its asthma action plan.

2014

Seventh edition of NAC's national treatment guidelines is published online as the *Australian Asthma Handbook*.

2015

The *Hidden Cost of Asthma* report, co-commissioned by NAC estimates the cost of asthma to Australia at \$28 billion per year.

2018

NAC partners with key bodies to lead development of the National Asthma Strategy 2018.

2020

A webinar series is added to the NAC's asthma education program.

2022

NAC converts Australian Asthma Handbook *Selecting and Adjusting Asthma Medication for Adults* and *Adolescents* diagram into chart for use by health professionals.

2024

Reducing the environmental impact of asthma treatment is released as the first statement from the NAC to help health professionals make choices that can reduce asthma symptoms and help the environment.

2017

NAC develops world-first treatment guidelines for thunderstorm asthma.

2019

NAC publishes a major update to the Australian Asthma Handbook.

2021

NAC is chosen to implement the IPCRG 'Asthma Right Care' program in Australia.

2023

NAC as part of the Victorian Government's Improving Childhood Asthma Management (ICAM), launches the ICAM Education Program.

2025

The NAC publishes new advice: 'Anti-inflammatory treatment from day one for adults and adolescents' and undertakes comprehensive update of the Australian Asthma Handbook.