



INTERNATIONAL
LEARNING
COLLABORATIVE

Annual Report

April 2025 to March 2026

This is the third formal Annual Report for the International Learning Collaborative Incorporated (ILC Inc.). The report covers the period 1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026.

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2026

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Introduction

This is the third formal Annual Report for the International Learning Collaborative Incorporated (ILC Inc.). The report covers the period 1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026.

Message from the Alison Kitson, ILC Chairperson

In my third year of Chairing the International Learning Collaborative (ILC), I can say with confidence that we have come a long way and have achieved so much in collaboration with our Members. And through our Members we can impact the people we serve, whether they are our patients, clients, our students, our colleagues, or members of our own family and community who need care. I am totally grateful to my hard-working colleagues in the ILC Management Committee and all of you who contribute to the functioning of our organisation to promote person-centred fundamental care across all care practice, education, policy and research.

When the ILC was first established, we made a deliberate decision to use the three words that make up our name as our 'North Star' or roadmap. And so, I want to frame my remarks around those three carefully selected words:

International

In the early days of the ILC we spanned just a few countries. Our ambition has always been to be global, inclusive and diversely represented. This is because we know fundamental care is a universal need across the globe and that health and care professionals and nurses, in particular, have a significant role to play in delivering this service to all who need it across the course of their lives. We have grown the number of countries with ILC members. We still have challenges to attract and support services and organisations in the global South – we are actively looking for opportunities to collaborate with colleagues in South America and Africa and we are working to reduce the language barriers for those for whom English is not their first language. We are keen to understand how we might make ILC Membership easier for those countries with limited access to funds. And we also want to understand the cultural variations in care and fundamental care delivery in India and East Asian countries as they face the challenges of ageing populations and reduced healthcare workforce capacity. We operate on the belief that more unites us than divides us and we enrich ourselves and each other as we collaborate and learn together.

Learning

At our heart, we are a real and virtual place for sharing experiences and learning from each other. This past 12 months we have made serious investment in resource development through our ILC Erik Elgaard Sørensen (EES) Fellows and a new ILC Resource Development Team. We launched the ILC Observatory in late 2025 to create a one-stop-shop for fundamentals of care information, resources and educational materials. We now have a great platform to support our Members with learning resources. We actively embrace lifelong learning principles, and we also acknowledge the central role our patients, clients, and citizens play in helping us be better informed and better collaborators.

Collaborative

We are truly a “collaborative”. We have hundreds of people who contribute their time, their intellect, and their energy to making the ILC work. The Conference Organising Committee and Scientific Panel do an amazing job every year to make the ILC Annual Conference a success. We regularly get more volunteers than we need, but no-one gets left out, with so many jobs needing to be filled to make our Conference such a terrific experience. Our Regional Networks and Special Interest Groups are filled with people who are passionate about improving the way care is delivered, the way future care professionals are trained, and how we implement evidence and innovate in our care. It takes a lot of people to create the movement for change. Thank you for having the courage and the commitment to be on that journey together.

There is a real sense that the ILC is hitting its stride. We have much to do to build our profile internationally and increase the influence we have over care decision-making and resource priorities. But I know that we are making great progress. The next few years will see us grow and be more influential. We are the embodiment of our name!

Prof Alison Kitson, ILC Chairperson

Key Achievements

The 2025/26 year has seen continued growth in membership, engagement, events and resources for members. Since April 2025, the ILC has:

1. Successfully ran the ILC international conference in Italy – Genoa – June 2025
2. Released the 2025 ILC Genoa Statement
3. Successfully presented three Leadership and Mentoring Program (LAMP) Intensive Workshops – in Genoa (Italy), Gold Coast (Australia), and the second of the Canadian LAMP events under the Canadian Institute of Health Research grant won by Sinai Health, in Toronto, Canada.
4. Awarded five scholarships to the Genoa ILC 2025 Conference and LAMP.
5. Worked productively with the ILC Erik Elgaard Sorensen Fellows in Australia (Dr Rebecca Feo) and in Denmark (Assoc Prof Siri Lygum Voldbjerg and Assoc Prof Britt Laugesen) to produce case studies, synthesise evidence, and present workshops at the Genoa ILC Conference.
6. Launched the ILC Observatory – a new set of resources for implementing fundamentals of care
7. Presented a new ILC Member-only webinar, on clinical leadership by Professor Tiffany Conroy.
8. Published three Case Studies on implementation of the FoC Framework in practice and education.
9. Planned and conducted significant preparation for a Global Care Summit to be run in Oxford UK in June 2026.

Strategic Plan

In 2025 the Management Committee worked with the Strategy & Policy Forum and Members to review the 2023-27 Strategic Plan and made some adjustments. New targets were set and strategies refined.

Progress Against Strategic Goals 2023-26

The table below defines the current five strategic goals and reports on progress:

Strategic Goal		Progress
Membership Inclusivity and Diversity:	Achieve a global membership that is inclusive and diverse, with members from care professions, care recipients and their care networks, education providers, policy makers, researchers, and the community.	Membership has grown strongly, with 25 Organisation Membership. (see later for details) Individual membership is now a minor component of our overall Membership base through organisations.
Collaboration:	Create opportunities for collaboration, engagement, research, and discourse on fundamental care between care professionals and with people who receive care.	Annual ILC Conference 2025 reached 247 attendees (increase of 30% from 2024) Introduced more concurrent sessions during the 2025 Conference Regional Networks well established with Member engagement & attracting non-Members Three Special Interest Groups working effectively Strategy & Policy Forum providing strategic advice and direction Connect members across the globe with common interests and for sharing experience
Global Champions:	Create a global community of fundamental care champions and advocates to lead transformation for fundamental care.	Three Leadership and Mentoring Program (LAMP) in 12 months – total of nine LAMP delivered to date Mentoring of over 80 Fundamentals of Care projects globally to date 305 LAMP Alumni to date (100 new Alumni added)
Influence:	Influence policy organisations, care providers, educational institutions, and government agencies globally to enable transformation for fundamental care.	Ongoing citations for the ILC Statements – Aalborg 2019, Oxford 2022, Maine 2023, Oxford 2024, Genoa 2025 Guest editorials and opinion articles Speaking engagements promoting FoC Engagement with over 50 national and international nursing and care organisations to prepare for a Global Care Summit, Oxford 2026
Value:	Create value for members so they can effectively engage in transformation for fundamental care.	Six ILC Connected to Care podcasts released One Webinar Erik Sorensen Fellows creating resources on FoC Launched the ILC Observatory

Strategic Goal		Progress
		Introduced new Organisation Member introductory event

2025/26 Initiatives and Achievements

2025 ILC International Conference, Genoa Italy

Dates: 16-17 June 2025

Location: Genoa Italy and Virtual

Theme: Global Collaboration, Local Action for Fundamentals of Care Innovation

The International Movement for Nursing and Allied Health Leadership and Patient Advocacy

- Two Days in CENTRO CONGRESSI CBA, Genoa, Italy
- 222 In person attendees
- 25 Virtual attendees
- 17 countries represented
- 30 oral presentations
- 74 posters
- 3 concurrent Workshops – Education, Clinical, Research

Overall, excellent feedback was given in person and via our post-conference survey. The survey was filled out by 94 attendees.

- 67% survey respondents would recommend the conference to a friend or colleague.
- 77% rated the presentations as very good or excellent

As with past years, attendees most liked the opportunity to network with likeminded colleagues and left the conference feeling inspired. Attendees noted the collaborative environment and quality of presentations. The workshops had particularly positive feedback this year.

Conference Organising Committee:

Dr Giuseppe Aleo (Italy)

Prof Kirsten Lode (Norway)

Prof Annamaria Bagnasco (Italy)

Alison Marchbank (UK)

Dr Monica Bianchi (Switzerland)

Prof Ingrid Poulsen (Denmark)

Asst Professor Gianluca Catania (Italy)

Prof Loredana Sasso (Italy)

Assoc Prof Getty Huisman-Dewaal (Netherlands)

Dr Berit Sunde (Sweden)

Prof Eva Jangland (Sweden)

Dr Milko Zannini (Italy)

The ILC Support Team were: Kathy Mott, Gen Moss and Lara Delbene

Erik Elgaard Sørensen Foundation Fellowship Program

Named in recognition of the contribution of Professor Erik Sørensen, from Denmark, the ILC Fellowship Program develops ILC resources and tools for Members. Dr Rebecca Feo, Flinders University and Associate Professors Sir Lygum Voldbjerg and Britt Laugesen (Aalborg University Hospital) are the three current Fellows. Outputs and activities from the Fellows included:

- 6 published Case Studies on implementation of fundamental care
- A published Scoping Study on FoC in education
- Delivery and refinement of the LAMP
- Leadership of the ILC Conference Scientific Panel
- Contributions to all Special Interest Groups, Regional Networks and the Strategy & Policy Forum
- Development and delivery of the ILC Conference Workshops
- Supporting the development of the ILC Observatory resources
- Planning and background research for the inaugural 2026 ILC Global Care Summit (Oxford June 2026)

Strategy & Policy Forum

Convenors: Prof Mette Groenkjaer (Denmark), Prof Susan Weeks (US), Dr Clair Merriman (UK)

The Strategy & Policy Forum is the key policy group within the ILC. Four meetings were held from April 2025 to March 2026. The two year term of the Members of the Strategy & Policy Forum was extended for a further year to June 2026 to enable consolidation of the current group and to attract new Members (casual vacancies). New Members who joined were:

- Rhonda Babine (USA)
- Amy Stafford (USA)
- Sarabeth Silver (Canada)
- William Mundle (Canada)
- Kate Wilkinson (Canada)
- Laurie Grealish (Australia)
- Jane Wilson (New Zealand)

Highlights included:

- Development of the ILC 2025 Genoa Statement
- Implementation advice for the ILC 2024 Oxford Statement
- Advising on development of the ILC Observatory for learning materials and information on FoC
- Contributing to the ten year review of FoC progress (2016-26)
- Advocacy and opinion leader activities, links with international care professional organisations
- Contributing to the planning of the 2026 ILC Inaugural Global Care Summit
- Advised on an ILC Quality Assurance System development process

Membership details are in Appendix 1.

Research Special Interest Group

Convenors: Prof Mette Groenkjaer (Denmark), Dr Marianne Saragosa (Canada)

The aim of the Research SIG is to support the conduct and dissemination of a coherent research programme within the ILC in order to improve knowledge of, and the evidence base for, fundamental care. There were 149 registered members for the SIG.

The Research SIG met on four occasions. Highlights included:

- Debate and discussion on research methods for assessing impacts of FoC interventions
- Planned and delivered the 2025 ILC Conference Research Workshop
- Connected researchers to discuss methods and research collaborations

The ILC wishes to acknowledge the efforts of Professor David Richards (Norway), for his support in forming the Research SIG and leading the group for the first two years.

Education Special Interest Group

Convenors: Prof Annemarie Dowling-Castronovo (USA), Dr Alison Marchbank (UK)

The aim of the Education SIG is to support collaboration, resource and method development for valuing, prioritisation and implementation of teaching fundamental care across all health professional and carer educational activity internationally. There were 122 registered members for the SIG.

The Education SIG met on four occasions. Highlights included:

- Explored examples of successful integration of FoC into nursing curriculum
- Discussed teaching methods for relationship building
- Planned and delivered the 2025 ILC Conference Education Workshop

Clinical Practice Special Interest Group

Convenors: Dr Rebecca Pulford (UK), Dr Margaret Cahill (Australia), Dr Rhonda Babine (USA), Dr Sarabeth Silver (Canada), Dr Birgitte Lerbaek (Denmark)

The aim of the Clinical Practice SIG is to support collaboration, resource and method development, for valuing, prioritisation and integration of fundamental care in health, aged and community care services across the globe. There were 143 registered members for the SIG.

The Practice SIG met on three occasions. Highlights included:

- Contributed to development of practice resources in the ILC Observatory
- Planned and delivered the ILC 2025 Conference Practice Workshop
- Contributed to the design of a new FoC implementation kit

Asia-Pacific Regional Network

Facilitators: Dr Cathleen Aspinall (Australia), Sandy McLean-Cooper (NZ), Dr Bobbie Pene (NZ)

The Asia-Pacific Regional Network met on four occasions. There were 143 people registered as part of the Regional Network.

Europe, Africa, Middle East Regional Network

Facilitators: Prof Mette Groenkjaer (Denmark), Maiken Holm Kaldal (Denmark)

The Europe, Africa, Middle East Regional Network met on four occasions. There were 182 people registered as part of the Regional Network.

The Americas Regional Network

Facilitators: Dr Devin Carr (USA), Dr Lianne Jeffs (Canada), Nely Amaral (Canada)

The Americas Regional Network met on four occasions. There were 109 people registered as part of the Regional Network.

Marketing and Communications

The key marketing objectives during the 2025/2026 financial year were achieved:

- Maintained the currency and content of the ILC website
- Maintained communication with Members and ensured engagement remains high
- Successfully promoted and held the ILC Conference in Genoa Italy & Leadership and Mentoring Programs in Genoa, Australia and Canada
- Helped to grow the organisational and individual member numbers
- Facilitated the launch of the ILC Observatory

Membership

Individual ILC membership numbers steadily increased over the past financial year. The table below shows the numbers as of April 2026. Organisational membership continued to increase.

Organisation	Country	Membership Places
Category	Country	Individuals with Member Benefits
Individual		122
Student		21
Founding Partner Organisation		
Aalborg University Hospital (FP)	Denmark	250
Flinders University (FP)	Australia	250
Maine Medical Centre (FP)	USA	250
Health New Zealand (FP)	NZ	250
Sinai Health (FP)	Canada	250
UCN - University College Northern Denmark (FP)	Denmark	250
Uppsala University (FP)	Sweden	250
Organisation Members		
Gold Coast Hospital	Australia	100
QEI Hospital	Australia	100
MINDA Inc.	Australia	100
Peninsula Health Group	Australia	100
Monash University	Australia	100
Psychiatry Unit, Aalborg University Hospital	Denmark	100
Midt Denmark Region	Denmark	100

Amager Hvidovre Hospital	Denmark	100
Regional Hospital North Denmark	Denmark	100
Københavns Professionshøjskole	Denmark	20
North Zealand Region	Denmark	100
Medical University of Lausitz – Carl Thiem	Germany	100
University of Genoa	Italy	100
Malmo University	Sweden	100
Uppsala University Hospital	Sweden	9
Essex NHS Trust	UK	100
Exeter University	UK	100
Oxford University NHS Trust	UK	100
Nurse Maude	New Zealand	100
Oceania Healthcare	New Zealand	100
University of Auckland	New Zealand	100

FP = Founding Partner

* Founding Partners have access to an uncapped number of member places

Financial Performance

The International Learning Collaborative (ILC) closed the 2026 financial year 1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026) in a sound and stable position. At year end, the organisation held \$AUD50,931 in cash and carried forward a retained surplus of nearly \$AUD23,000, an amount lower than the previous year, but indicating significant investment in Fellowships, and a new Resource Development Team.

During the year, operations generated revenue of \$AUD509,000, which is a 15% increase from the previous year.

The ILC maintained financial stability and honoured its commitment to continue to develop value for Members, with the formation of the ILC Resource Development Team.

Looking ahead, the outlook is strong. Membership revenue goals are ambitious in FY27, underpinned by a growing pipeline of new organisational members and consistent pricing. Conference activities are also tracking well, with ticket sales and cost management expected to land on budget.

ILC remains committed to careful financial stewardship while strategically investing in areas that drive meaningful impact for our community.

The Financial Report is in Appendix 2.

Appendix 1 Strategy and Policy Forum Membership as at March 2026

Name (First)	Name (Last)	Country	Regional Network/Representation
Therese	Avallin	Sweden	Europe, Africa, Middle East
Siri Lygum	Voldbjerg	Denmark	Europe, Africa, Middle East
Britt	Laugesen	Denmark	Europe, Africa, Middle East
Margrét	Guðnadóttir	Iceland	Europe, Africa, Middle East
Clair	Merriman	UK	Europe, Africa, Middle East
Alison	Marchbank	UK	Europe, Africa, Middle East
Eva	Jangland	Sweden	Europe, Africa, Middle East
Asa	Muntlin	Sweden	Foundation member
Yvonne	Wengstrom	Sweden	Foundation member
Getty	Huisman-de Waal	Netherlands	Foundation member
Mette	Grøenkaer	Denmark	Foundation member
David	Richards	Norway	Foundation member
Birgitte	Lerbaek	Denmark	Practice SIG
Sylvie	Rey	Canada	Americas
Rhonda	Babine	USA	Americas
Amy	Stafford	USA	Americas
Annemarie	Dowling-Castronovo	USA	Americas
Sarabeth	Silver	Canada	Americas
Kate	Wilkinson	Canada	Americas
William	Mundle	Canada	Americas
Susan	Weeks	USA	Foundation member
Nely	Amaral	Canada	Foundation member
Lianne	Jeffer	Canada	Foundation member
Jane	Merkley	Canada	Foundation member
Devin	Carr	USA	Foundation member
Marianne	Saragosa	Canada	Research SIG
Andreia	Cost da Silva	Portugal	Management Committee
Joanne	Murray	Australia	Asia/Pacific
Maria Alejandra	Pinero de Plaza	Australia	Asia/Pacific
Jane	Wilson	New Zealand	Asia/Pacific
Laurie	Grealish	Australia	Asia/Pacific
Cath	Aspinall	Australia	Asia/Pacific
Rebecca	Feo	Australia	Asia/Pacific
Alison	Kitson	Australia	Foundation member
Tiffany	Conroy	Australia	Foundation member
Jenny	Parr	New Zealand	Foundation member

Debra	Jackson	Australia	Foundation member
Karleen	Thornton	Australia	Management Committee

Appendix 2 Financial Reports Year Ending 31 March 2025

You can find the financial reports [here](#).

Our Founding Partners



The ILC wishes to thank our Founding Partners who have enabled the initial development of the ILC and continue to invest in growth and innovation to benefit all ILC Members.



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