



national allergy council

Annual Impact Report 2025

nationalallergycouncil.org.au

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This Annual Report is based on the Minutes of the National Allergy Council Annual General Meeting held on Wednesday 6 August 2025 8.00 - 8.30pm AEST, via video conference.

About allergic disease



30%
of Australians are affected by allergic disease ⁽¹⁾



7%
annual increase in anaphylaxis deaths between 1997 and 2013 ⁽²⁾



1 in 10
babies in Australia have a confirmed food allergy ⁽³⁾



1 in 4
Australians report having a medication allergy ⁽⁴⁾



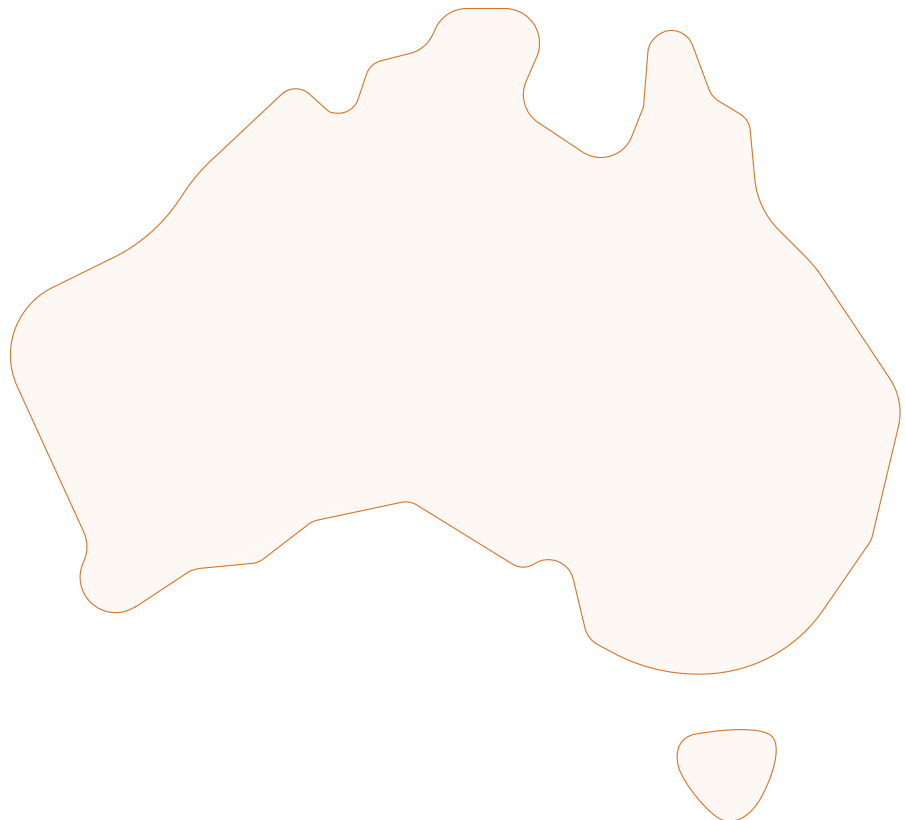
1 in 4
Australians have allergic rhinitis (commonly known as hay fever) ⁽⁵⁾



12
Australians die from bee or wasp stings each year ⁽⁶⁾



250,000+
young Australians are at risk of anaphylaxis ⁽⁷⁾



About the National Allergy Council

The National Allergy Council is a partnership between the Australasian Society of Clinical Immunology and Allergy (ASCIA) and Allergy & Anaphylaxis Australia (A&AA), working in consultation with key interest holders.

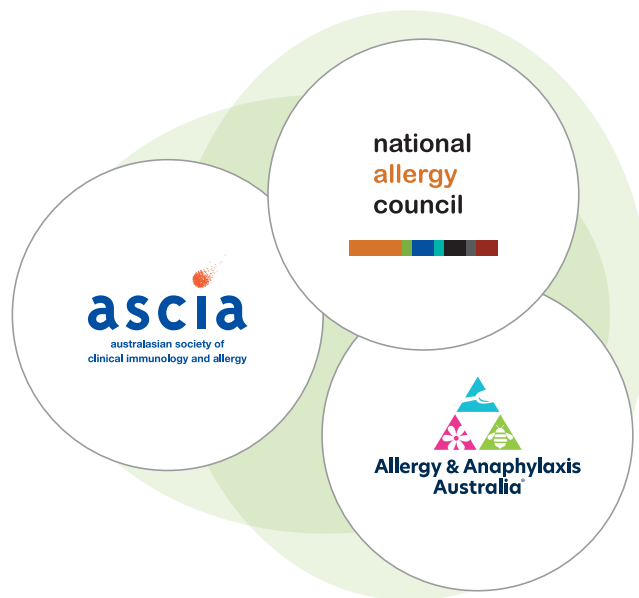
The National Allergy Council is responsible for implementing the National Allergy Strategy, which guides the work needed to be undertaken to improve the health and wellbeing of Australians living with allergic disease, including reducing the burden on individuals, carers, healthcare services and the community.

Our vision

Driving change to reduce the impact of allergic disease for all Australians.

Our purpose

To deliver evidence-based public health initiatives, education, training and support, in consultation with key interest holders, to improve the health and wellbeing of people with allergic disease.



Our people and structure

Our Board

As a partnership between ASCIA and A&AA, the National Allergy Council Board of Directors comprises two directors nominated by ASCIA (Clinical Professor Michaela Lucas and Dr Melanie Wong) and two directors nominated by A&AA (Ms Maria Said AM and Ms Madeleine Young).

Our Advisory Committee

The National Allergy Council programs each have a project co-lead from ASCIA and A&AA and our National Allergy Council Advisory Committee is comprised of these project co-leads and a representative from the National Allergy Centre of Excellence (NACE).

The National Allergy Council Advisory Committee Co-chairs are Professor Michaela Lucas (representing ASCIA) and Maria Said AM (representing A&AA).

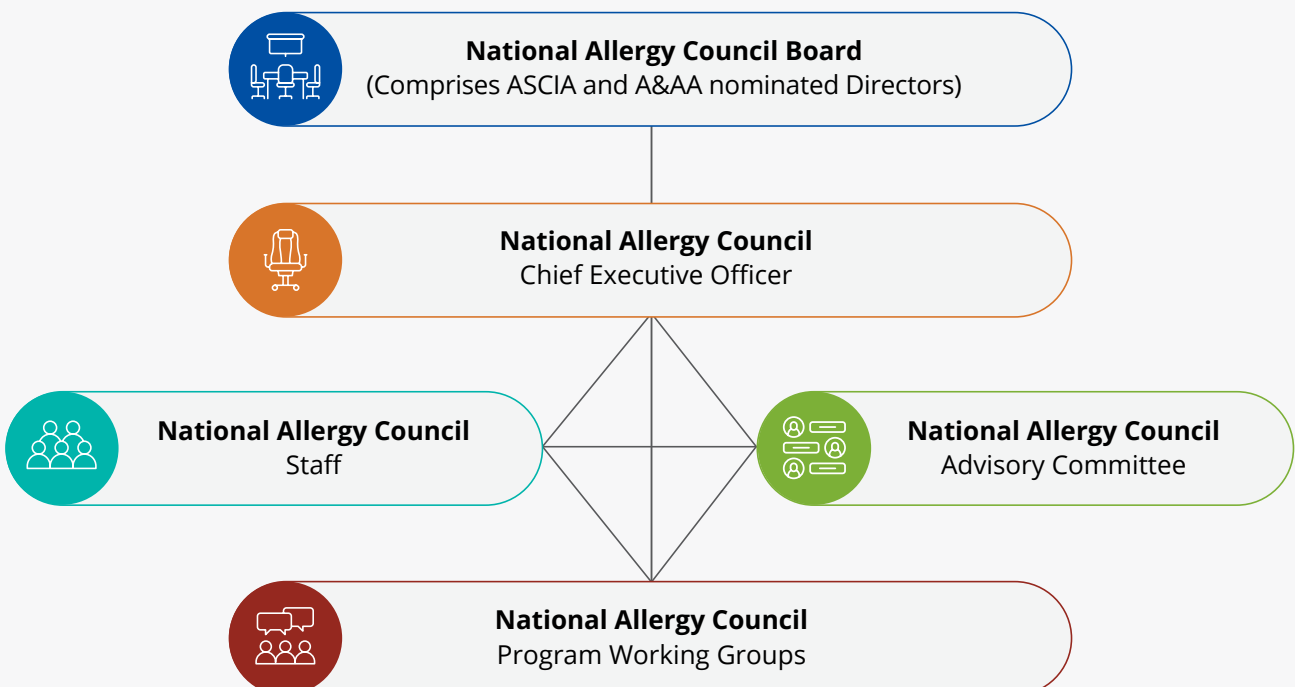
Representing ASCIA on our Advisory Committee are Dr Vicki McWilliam, Dr Melanie Wong, Dr Preeti Joshi, Briony Tyquin, Dr Brynn Wainstein, Dr Katie Frith and Dr Pravin Hissaria.

Representing A&AA on our Advisory Committee are Maria Said AM, Sally Voukelatos, Kylie Hollinshead, Dr Wendy Freeman, Vikki Jayewardene and Tiffany Ma.

Representing the NACE on our Advisory Committee is Professor Kirsten Perrett.

Dr William Smith was project co-lead for the Drug allergy and Digital health programs up until April 2025.

Visit the National Allergy Council website¹ for further information about our [project co-leads](#).



¹ <https://nationalallergycouncil.org.au/about-us/project-leads>

Our programs



Managing allergies and anaphylaxis in schools and children's education and care



Supporting school-aged kids and young adults living with severe allergy



Protecting people with allergy through an anaphylaxis reporting system



Building connected allergy care through digital health



Preventing food allergy in babies



Empowering consumers and improving access to quality allergy care



Promoting accurate antibiotic allergy diagnosis and documentation



Improving food allergen management in food service

Our impact

In the past year...



75.5 million
people reached globally through media, social media and online content



85,121
people trained with life-saving food allergen management training



101
young people attended a life changing Allergy 250K camp or fun day



6,300
in-person interactions through conferences and events



99%
of All about Allergens course completers achieved a pass



154,956
program bookmarks delivered (excluding conferences)



158,387
Nip Allergies in the Bub website sessions



517
people registered for webinars



50,269
allergy aware resource hub website sessions



1.5 million
social media impressions



7,435
social media followers



1,454
people reached directly (subscribers)



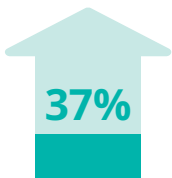
162
active contributors



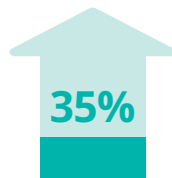
769,395
website sessions



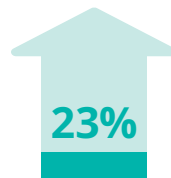
346,034
video views



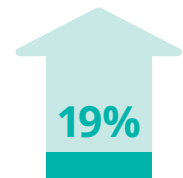
increase
in social media impressions



increase
in orders for National Allergy Council program bookmarks



increase
in website sessions



increase
in social media followers

Key program highlights



allergy assist®

In February, the National Allergy Council launched allergy assist®, an education and advice platform to support general practitioners (GPs) and rural generalists developed in partnership with the Australian College for Rural and Remote Medicine (ACRRM). The aim of this initiative is to improve access to quality care for people in regional and rural areas, reducing their wait for specialist input. Doctors can submit deidentified cases to seek guidance from a clinical immunology/allergy specialist within 48 hours. A panel of four clinical immunology/allergy specialists respond to these case enquiries, which helps doctors provide best practice management and support locally (where possible), and appropriate referral where required. The platform also hosts learning content including education cases, mini modules and webinars.

[Learn more.](#)



Pictured: Hon Ged Kearney MP at the launch of allergy assist® in Melbourne, February 2025.



Associateship of Clinical Allergy

In February, the National Allergy Council commenced the pilot of the Associateship of Clinical Allergy course which is a 2-year, part-time course specifically designed for GPs and paediatricians working outside major cities wanting to extend their skills in allergy medicine. The pilot is an education and training initiative supported by ASCIA to improve access to quality allergy care for patients in regional areas. A faculty of clinical immunology/allergy specialists, allergy GPs and allergy paediatricians have worked with the National Allergy Council to develop and deliver this course to 10 regional doctors. Once the Associateship trainees complete the course, they will continue to be supported through the Rural and Regional Clinical Allergy Network also established by the National Allergy Council. [Learn more.](#)



Allergy 250K camps and peer mentor program

The National Allergy Council continues to provide Allergy 250K camps for young people living with severe allergies, particularly food allergies. In March this year, the Allergy 250K school-aged kids camp was expanded to include a day attendance option for 8 and 9 year olds to increase the opportunities for young children to engage with the program and increase their confidence to attend a full overnight camp in the future. The Allergy 250K school-aged kids camp in March 2025 brought together 32 school-aged kids and 12 peer mentors with severe allergies.

The National Allergy Council peer mentor program is an important part of the Allergy 250K program. Peer mentors understand what it is like to live with food and other severe allergies and can share tips on how they managed school, eating out, parents and peers. Peer mentors who have received training participate in the school-aged kids camps. Their presence on camp is commonly reported by participants as a key reason why they enjoyed the camp. The Allergy 250K young adult camps aim to support and connect adults living with severe allergy and provide ongoing sustainability to the Allergy 250K peer mentor program. At the Allergy 250K young adult camp in July 2024, five new Allergy 250K peer mentors were recruited and trained. [Learn more.](#)

Pictured: Young adults and school-aged kids at the Allergy 250k camp in Adelaide, March 2025.





Testimonial from a parent of an Allergy 250K camp participant

“Attending the Allergy 250K camp has been an incredibly positive experience for my child, and I truly believe it has had a lasting impact on her allergy management and well-being. The camp provided her with essential knowledge about managing her food allergies, which has boosted her confidence in handling situations on her own. This newfound knowledge has helped her feel empowered when it comes to self-advocacy and making safe choices.

The camp also gave my child the chance to connect with other children and be supported by older peer mentors who share similar experiences and understand what it’s like to live with food allergies. She no longer feels different or alone and has made lasting friendships.

An additional significant benefit came when my daughter returned to the same camp venue that previously hosted 250K as part of her school camp.

Thanks to the prior experience with the staff from Allergy 250K Camp, the catering team was already well-versed in managing food allergies. They were knowledgeable and prepared to cater to my daughter’s dietary needs. They were able to identify unsafe menu items and work with us to find suitable alternatives. As a result, she was able to eat meals at camp alongside her friends. It was reassuring to know that the staff not only understood her needs but were also committed to providing a safe and inclusive environment for all children with allergies.

Overall, the Allergy 250K Camp has made a tremendous difference in my child’s life, both in terms of education and confidence. I highly recommend it to any family looking for a supportive and empowering experience for their child with allergies. ”



Food allergy aware program

The National Allergy Council has expanded its reach in the food service sector over this past year, engaging with food service providers working across all sectors of food service, including camps, hospitals, aged care/residential care, schools and children's education and care services. Through presenting and exhibiting at key conferences and engaging with peak bodies, we have increased awareness and completions of the All about Allergens online training courses. The National Allergy Council has also led key advocacy work and the updating and expansion of a consensus statement relating to food allergen management and precautionary allergen labelling guidance with the support of other key interest holders. [Learn more.](#)

Testimonials from All about Allergens training participants

“The length and content of this online training is just right. All possible information and practical examples to every theory was well explained and demonstrated. Well done.”

“Very easy to understand. Clear videos explaining in good detail on how to correctly handle situations and foods. Loved everything on here so thank you.”



Pictured: National Allergy Council staff exhibiting at the Food & Hospitality Queensland conference in Brisbane, August 2024.



**Digital
Communication
of Allergy**

Digital communication of allergy program

This past year has seen the National Allergy Council actively engaged in the Sparked community – a community working to fast-track the improvement of communication of health care information. The National Allergy Council has contributed to clinical discussions and continued to advocate for the inclusion of critical information to accurately communicate a person's allergy information. We also continue to work directly with the Australian Digital Health Agency to contribute to education materials for healthcare professionals and consumers. [Learn more.](#)

Co-chairs' Report

Thank you for attending the 2025 National Allergy Council Annual General Meeting.

This year has been an important year for the National Allergy Council with regards to implementation of the National Allergy Strategy through the funding from the Australian Government Department of Health, Disability and Ageing.

Previously we have been progressing national consultation for many of our projects and this past year has seen the National Allergy Council progress to implementation. We have worked closely with the Australasian Society of Clinical Immunology and Allergy (ASCIA) and Allergy & Anaphylaxis Australia as our partner organisations. We have also worked collaboratively with the National Allergy Centre of Excellence to ensure there is an evidence base to the National Allergy Council work.

The funding provided to the National Allergy Council from the Australian Government Department of Health, Disability and Ageing, also provides funding support for ASCIA and Allergy & Anaphylaxis Australia. ASCIA is funded to progress education and training activities, and Allergy & Anaphylaxis Australia is funded to provide support to people living with allergic disease and those who care for them. Allergy & Anaphylaxis Australia also receives operational funding through the government via funding to the National Allergy Council.

Being funded in this way, supports the three organisations working collaboratively and progressing work in a meaningful way to ensure we implement appropriate strategies and optimise the impact of the work we do.

Professor Michaela Lucas and Maria Said AM are Directors and Co-chairs of the National Allergy Council and Dr Melanie Wong and Madeline Young are Directors. Our board members are passionate and dedicated people who support the National Allergy Council alongside the National Allergy Council CEO and staff.

Our strength is the partnership between ASCIA and Allergy & Anaphylaxis Australia – a partnership between clinicians and consumers, working together to achieve a common goal – and as such our board has two ASCIA nominated representatives and two Allergy & Anaphylaxis Australia nominated representatives.

Working together allows us to make greater strides forward as we work towards implementing initiatives to improve the health and wellbeing of people with allergic disease.

Professor Michaela Lucas and Maria Said AM

National Allergy Council Co-chairs and Directors

Finance Report

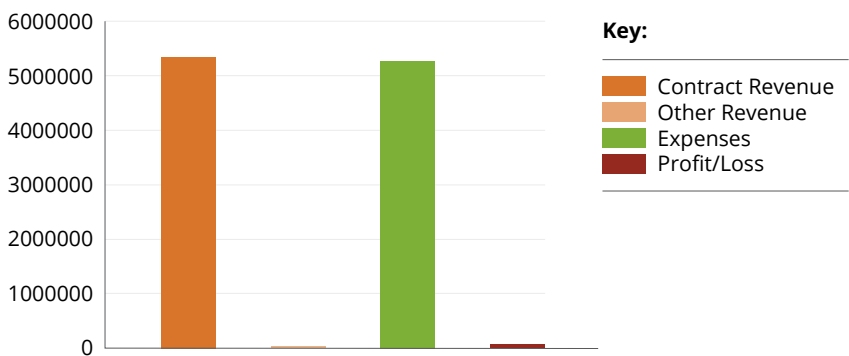
This report is based on the audited National Allergy Council Ltd financial report which covers the period ended 30th June 2025.

The National Allergy Council received funds this financial year from;

- Department of Health under Year 3 of its 4 year contract
- Australian Digital Health Agency under an agreed Ad Hoc contract
- Australasian Society of Clinical Immunology and Allergy (ASCIA) under their EOI process
- Tuition funds from the successful launch of the Associateship of Clinical Allergy (ACA) Course.

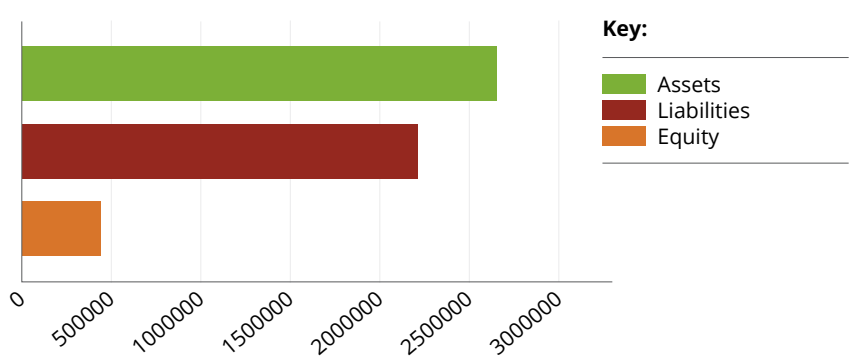
The National Allergy Council has seen a profit of \$68,555 for this financial year. The National Allergy Council saw a considerable delay in the funding for year 1 however their dedicated team have been making strides in progress of the grant which the financial report speaks to, along with taking other opportunities along the way.

NAC Profit & Loss



For the period ended 30th June 2025 the National Allergy Council holds a cash at bank position of \$2,594,796 along with equity of \$440,842.

NAC Statement of Financial Position



The financial outlook for the National Allergy Council in 2025-2026 is strong due to many measures that have been put in place and continue to strengthen;

- Strategic planning including pre budgeted work outcomes
- 4 year contract with the Australian Government Department of Health
- Internal management of finances.

Krista Wood
National Allergy Council Operations & Finance Manager

Chief Executive Officer's Report

The National Allergy Council has undertaken its busiest year to date continuing to consult and also implement programs to meet the goals of the National Allergy Strategy.

We work closely alongside ASCIA and Allergy & Anaphylaxis Australia, our partner organisations, to ensure we provide consistent evidence-based information and resources. We have also collaborated with the National Allergy Centre of Excellence to translate research findings into effective programs.

Key examples of our collaborations include:

- The *review and update of ASCIA infant feeding guidelines for food allergy prevention*, where we worked together to define the scope and process and develop a guideline that was underpinned by an evidence review and Delphi process and submitted for publication. This work underpins updates for the Nip allergies in the Bub project which will also be supported by consumer and focus groups conducted by the National Allergy Council.
- The *review and update of ASCIA penicillin allergy consensus statement to ASCIA penicillin allergy delabelling guidelines for adults and children*, where we worked together to define the scope and process to develop both adult and paediatric penicillin allergy delabelling guidelines, underpinned by evidence reviews and Delphi processes and submissions for publication. This work also underpins an antibiotic allergy communication strategy being undertaken by the National Allergy Council.

Over this past year, the National Allergy Council has reflected on what we aim to achieve through our programs and we have made some changes to better reflect the work we are doing:

- Our Digital Health Project is now branded as our Digital Communication of Allergy program as we are working to improve how allergies are communicated in all electronic health records and patient transfer information.
- Allergy 250K has been expanded to include 8 and 9 year olds as day participants at our Allergy 250K camps to increase their confidence in attending an overnight camp once they are 10 years of age.
- The National anaphylaxis reporting system work has been in progress for many years and we have now undertaken scoping work for the Australian Government Department of Health, Disability and Ageing.
- Our Drug (Medication) Allergy project will progress to an antibiotic allergy program, the branding of which will be informed by focus groups recently conducted.

We continue as a partnership between ASCIA and Allergy & Anaphylaxis Australia, as a key strength of the National Allergy Council. As such our programs are supported by an ASCIA and an Allergy & Anaphylaxis Australia Project Co-lead. We continue to consult broadly and also ensure there are mechanisms in place to evaluate our programs.

This past year has highlighted just how well the National Allergy Council staff work as a passionate, dedicated and cohesive team. Even with very tight timeframes we have not only achieved but in many cases, exceeded our deliverables. Key highlights for this past year include:

- The development and launch of allergy assist®, an education and advice platform for general practitioners across Australia, in partnership with the Australian College for Rural and Remote Medicine (ACRRM).
- The development and piloting of the Associateship of Clinical Allergy Course, which provides a novel approach to upskilling regional general practitioners and paediatricians in allergic disease diagnosis and management.
- The increased engagement with our Food Allergy Aware Food Service project, which has positioned the National Allergy Council as a leader in this area.

The National Allergy Council relies on many healthcare professionals and consumers to support our programs as volunteers. To the many people who contribute to the work of the National Allergy Council, we thank you.

Dr Sandra Vale (PhD)

National Allergy Council CEO

Thank you

Volunteers

We gratefully acknowledge the many healthcare professionals and consumers who volunteer their time to support the National Allergy Council's work. Whether it is reviewing a document, being a member of a working group or attending an Allergy 250K camp, we simply could not achieve the successful outcomes we do, without those contributions, large or small.

Partners and collaborators

We are also grateful to our partnership organisations – ASCIA and Allergy & Anaphylaxis Australia – who work closely with us and our main collaborator, the National Allergy Centre of Excellence (NACE).

The National Allergy Council is also grateful to the many organisations who have collaborated with us over the past year.

Funding

The National Allergy Council receives funding from the Australian Government, Department of Health, Disability and Ageing to implement the National Allergy Strategy. Without this funding, the National Allergy Council programs would not be able to progress.



References:

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- Allergy 250K



Contact information

National Allergy Council
PO Box 367, Guildford WA 6055
Email info@nationalallergy.org.au

Websites

nationalallergycouncil.org.au
preventallergies.org.au
allergy250k.org.au
foodallergytraining.org.au
foodallergyaware.org.au
allergyaware.org.au

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