



Global trends and the Australasian IPC outlook



ACIPC

Australasian College
for Infection Prevention and Control

ACIPC acknowledges Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island people as the traditional owners of country throughout Australia and ngā iwi Māori as the people of the land of Aotearoa and respects their continuing connection to culture, land, waterways, community, and family.



The IPC Community



ACIPPC Members

Full members	1315
Fellows	13
Life members	11
Retired members	19
Student members	98
International members	50
Education members	5586

Global Health Threats Shaping IPC



- Misinformation
- Workforce burnout
- Political disruption
- Antimicrobial resistance
- Climate change
- Health equity



Misinformation and Burnout



- Misinformation
 - Erodes trust in evidence
 - Weakens public confidence in IPC and immunisation programs
 - Contributes to preventable disease outbreaks
- Burnout
 - Clinical burnout – experienced during the COVID-19 pandemic
 - Communication burnout – countering false narratives
- Why this matters
 - Shifts workload and resource priorities
 - Impacts workforce sustainability



Politics and IPC Risks



- Politics

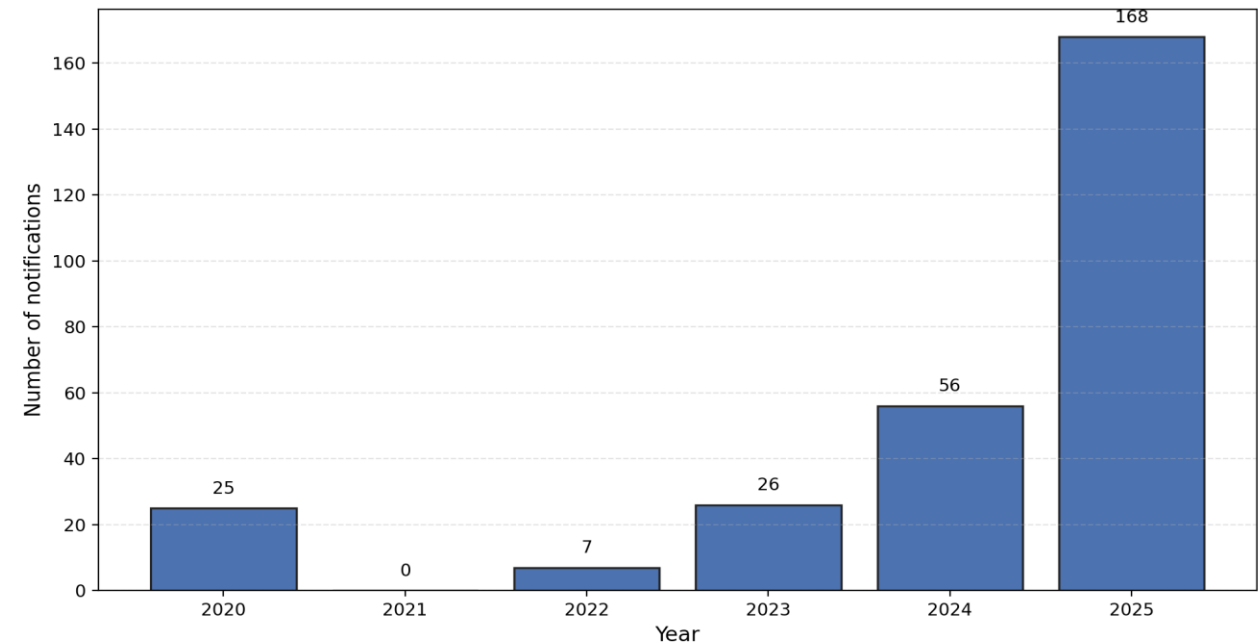
- Policy impacts IPC
- Funding implications
 - WHO finding instability – threatens global coordination of surveillance, pandemic preparedness and IPC guidance
 - Workforce staffing
- Public health policy
 - Directly shapes health programs
 - Vaccination programs, coverage and population-level protection
 - Shifts in policy has significant impacts
 - Variability in uptake and public confidence and increased vulnerability
 - US Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) removed Hepatitis B vaccines from newborn schedules

Politics and IPC Risks



- Public health vaccination policy
 - Global vaccination trends directly impact local IPC practice
 - Changes in disease incidence and transmission risk
 - Imported cases directly impact local IPC, e.g., Measles
 - Isolation
 - Contact tracing
 - Vaccination programs

Measles notifications in Australia (2020–2025)



Politics and IPC Risks



- Implications across Australasia
 - Reduced investment in low- and middle-income countries
 - Decreased immunisation coverage and under-immunised populations
- Governance and advocacy opportunities
 - ACIPC now represented on CDNA
 - Australian CDC
 - Opportunity for stronger IPC representation and expertise in national health structures
 - ACIPC advocacy



Conflict related disease outbreaks



- Geopolitical disruption
 - Increased risk of infection and resurgence of vaccine-preventable disease
 - Acceleration of AMR
 - Conflict is no longer a regional issue – increased migration
- Supply chain instability
 - Manufacturing is concentrated in limited regions
 - Shipping route disruptions
- Workforce shortages
 - Migration shift
 - Burnout



Climate Change



- Extreme weather events
 - Cyclones and flooding
 - Disrupts health infrastructure
- Vector expansion
 - Movement of mosquitoes
 - Increased spread of Dengue fever and Japanese encephalitis
- Climate-linked outbreaks
 - Increased rainfall and warmer temperatures
 - Ross river virus cases increased



Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR)



- AMR is accelerating globally
 - Rising multi-drug-resistant organisms across all WHO regions
 - Conflict, climate change and fragile health systems amplify the spread
- Cross-sector coordination and a one-health approach are essential
 - Human health
 - Animal health
 - Environmental management
- Whole system response
 - Stewardship required beyond hospitals – community & veterinary prescribing
 - Wastewater monitoring systems



Health Equity



- Health equity is central to global health security
 - Capacity building in low-resource settings
 - Empowers local health systems to detect, prevent and respond to outbreaks early
- Shared responsibility
 - Australia has a role to play in the Pacific region
 - Inequities in neighbouring countries increase cross-border health risks
- Strengthening global partnerships
 - Builds trust, coordination and resource sharing between countries, communities and organisations



What this means for IPC



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Australasian IPC Landscape



- Strong Foundation
 - National Standards & regulatory framework to support IPC
 - National Safety and Quality Health Service Standards
 - The strengthened aged care standards
 - National safety and quality primary and community healthcare standards
- IPC Community
 - IPC networks and communities
- Global alignment and collaboration
 - Strengthened partnerships with International IPC organisations



Australasian IPC Landscape



- Opportunities for 2026 and beyond
 - Strengthen National leadership
 - Influence policy
 - Advocate for inclusion of IPC in the Australian CDC
 - Workforce professionalisation
 - Credentialling
 - Innovation in surveillance and data
 - Leverage digital health, analytics and reporting to enhance decision-making
 - Building a workforce
 - Expand partnerships
 - Communities of practice
 - Advocate for members

ACIPC Engagement and Advocacy



- Strengthening regional and global IPC collaboration
 - Memorandum of Understanding with the Pacific community
 - Supports IPC across the Pacific region
- International representation
 - Active engagement with international IPC organisations
 - Asia Pacific Society of Infection Control (APSIC)
 - Association for Professionals in Infection Control and Epidemiology, USA (APIC)
 - Infection Prevention Society, UK (IPS)
 - Infection Prevention and Control Canada (IPAC)
 - Participation in international working groups
 - Global Outbreak Alert and Response Network (GOARN)
 - Global IPC Alliance
 - The Pacific Infection Prevention and Control Network (PICNet)

ACIPC Engagement and Advocacy



- National representation
 - Australian Commission on Safety & Quality in Healthcare – IPC advisory group
 - Health College working group on climate change
- Contributions to research and reviews
 - AS/NZ5369 Reprocessing reusable medical devices working group – 2026
 - ASUM/ACIPC guidelines for reprocessing ultrasound transducers
 - A-PRECISE study
 - IMMERSE-2 study
 - Safer Air Project



ACIPC Engagement and Advocacy



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- Impact for members
 - Stronger engagement increases visibility and influence on Australasian IPC expertise
 - Australia, NZ and the Pacific perspectives are represented in global IPC initiatives and policy
 - Builds regional partnerships and strengthens preparedness, outbreak response and workforce capacity
- International engagement by ACIPC
 - Shapes the global IPC conversation
 - Strengthens outcomes for members

ACIPC Member Engagement



52

Committee Members

8

Special Interest Groups

5

Education courses

10

Lunch and learn webinars

ACIPC Lunch and Learn Webinar series 2024/25

Month	Webinar details	Number registered
July 2024	Introduction to IPC in the pre-hospital setting	221
August 2024	Making correctional centres resilient to disease	158
September 2024	Indoor air quality: science, practice, legislation	335
October 2025	From big things bigger things can grow	369
December 2025	December wrap-up: IPC's greatest hits & misses of 2024	290
February 2025	Indoor air quality: your questions answered	328
March 2025	IPC in rural and regional hospitals	274
April 2025	The trachoma program in Queensland	72
May 2025	The cost of CLEEN	256
June 2025	Acute Hepatitis B in a rural hospital	173

ACIPC Member Engagement



Aged Care Community of Practice

8

Webinars

ACIPC Aged Care Webinar series 2024/25 With Carrie Spinks, ACIPC IPC Consultant

Month	Webinar details	Number registered
August 2024	Nitty gritty of aged care IPC surveillance/audit	413
October 2024	Tips and tricks to managing IPC in environmental services - cleaning, laundry, waste, catering	433
December 2024	Organisms of concern - managing multi-resistant organisms (MRO) in aged care	392
February 2025	Aged Care On-site Pharmacist (ACOP) Measure	327
March 2025	IPC Practice in Home Care	482
April 2025	The NARI IDC-IMPROVE project	492
May 2025	Companion Animals in Aged Care	531
June 2025	IPC Train the Trainer - education skills	752

3822

Registered participants

3

Research projects

- IMMERSE-2
- A-PRECISE
- Safe at Home



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