

ACIPC

Australasian College
for Infection Prevention and Control

IPC News
December 2021

ACIPC President Kristie Popkiss

Welcome to the December issue of IPC News.

I am sure I am not alone in saying that, after a busy and often challenging year, I am very much looking forward to some down time over the holiday period.

It was great to be able to meet up with the newly formed Board of Directors last week. I am confident our team will provide strong strategic leadership for the College over the next two years. Part of this role will be leading our various committees which will be formed early in 2022. Members may like to consider joining a committee aligned with their interests and skills. Volunteering as a committee member is a terrific way to find out more about ACIPC and contribute to the work of the College, and our profession. The Office will send out more information shortly.



On behalf of the Board of Directors. I'd like to extend our thanks to Mark Metherell who is stepping down as the Special Advisor to the Board after two years of service. Mark joined us from the Consumer Health Forum, having previously worked as a journalist internationally and as a health correspondent for *The Sydney Morning Herald* and *The Age* newspapers. Mark will be missed for his thoughtful insights and excellent turn of phrase, and we wish him all the very best.

Our colleague Belinda Henderson recently recorded a special end-of year webinar for members with Clinical Psychologist Gemma Bettens. The webinar is called **Psychological PPE: Tips to Enhance Wellness and Manage Stress** and is highly recommended viewing.

Whatever your role in IPC, I commend you for your work and hope you get time to spend with loved ones and some peaceful reflection as this year draws to a close.

Warm regards,

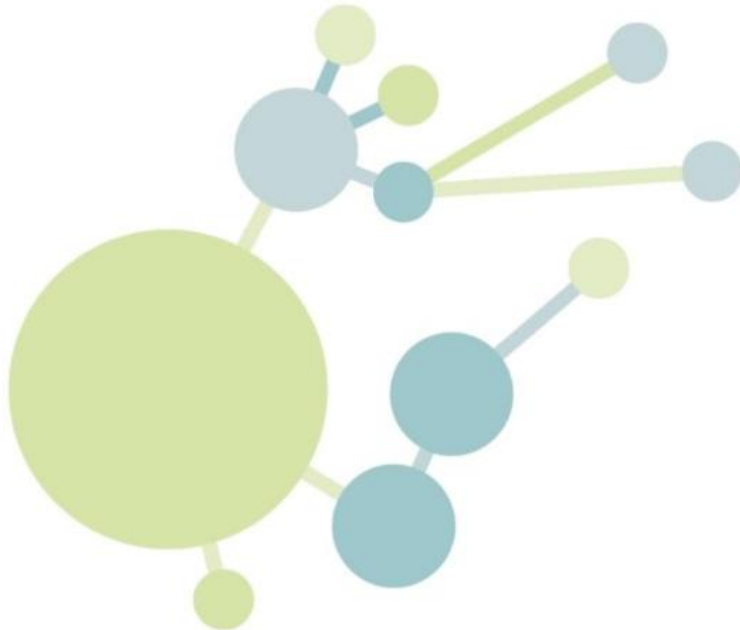
A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "K Popkiss".

Kristie Popkiss



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**The ACIPC Office
will be closed
from 22 December
and reopening on
10 January 2022.**

Psychological PPE: Tips to Enhance Wellness and Manage Stress

The College has recorded a webinar for members with Clinical Psychologist Gemma Bettens.

Psychological PPE: Tips to Enhance Wellness and Manage Stress

covers strategies and coping mechanisms that can be applied to everyday life to help remedy stress. This webinar has been created specifically with healthcare workers in mind and topics include the importance of sleep, tips for maintaining a work-life balance and mindfulness techniques.

Thank you to Belinda Henderson from the ACIPC Education and Profesional Development Committee for organising and hosting this helpful webinar.

You can the webinar on the ACIPC website:

<https://www.acipc.org.au/psychological-ppe/>



Latest Articles from *Infection Disease and Health*

[What can the early infection preventing pioneers teach infection prevention and control teams today?](#)
Evonne T. Curran NursD

[“One minute it's an airborne virus, then it's a droplet virus, and then it's like nobody really knows...”:
Experiences of pandemic PPE amongst Australian healthcare workers](#)

Jennifer Broom, Alex Broom, Leah Williams Veazey, Penelope Burns, Chris Degeling, Suyin Hor, Ruth Barratt, Mary Wyer, Gwendolyn L. Gilbert



Featured Article from *Infection Disease and Health*

“We will have to learn to live with it” Australian dentist’s experiences during the COVID-19 pandemic

Shizar Nahidi, Cecilia Li, Cristina Sotomayor-Castillo, Keren Kaufman-Francis, Ramon Z. Shaban

Abstract

Background

Australian dentists are among the frontline healthcare workers providing dental and oral health care during the COVID-19 pandemic, and therefore have been affected in multiple ways. In this study, we explore their experiences of practising and living in this pandemic.

Methods

A qualitative study analysed responses of 333 Australian dentists' who participated in a survey with open-ended questions about the challenges and positive outcomes of practising during the COVID-19 pandemic. The questions were embedded in a national online survey of Australian dentists' knowledge, preparedness and experiences conducted between March and April 2021. Data were analysed using content analysis.

Results

Australian dentists reported their challenging experiences to be four-fold, including ‘public health orders and restrictions’, ‘Infection prevention and control measures (IPC)’, ‘Personal concerns about COVID-19’ and ‘Detracting opinions about COVID-19’. Conversely, they reported positive outcomes in relation to their practice during COVID-19, including ‘Awareness of and adherence to IPC practices’, ‘Teamwork and interpersonal dynamics’, ‘Decompressed workload’, ‘Perceived support’ and ‘unintended positive outcomes’.

Conclusion

The COVID-19 pandemic generated several challenges for Australian dentists, but it also engendered some positive outcomes. Understanding of these can help tailor the professional support plans to address the needs and priorities of Australian dentists during the current and future pandemics.

Access the full article here: [https://www.idhjjournal.com.au/article/S2468-0451\(21\)00100-0/fulltext](https://www.idhjjournal.com.au/article/S2468-0451(21)00100-0/fulltext)

FIPC Graduates Pin Gallery

Our [FIPC Graduate Pin Gallery](#) is growing by the day and it’s great to see so many of our FIPC Graduates proudly wearing their pins. If you are a FIPC Graduate and have received your pin, please send a picture of you wearing a pin to learning@acipc.org.au. You can apply for a pin on the ACIPC website. Please note only students who have passed the FIPC course will receive a pin.

ACIPC FIPC Graduate Pin Gallery



Sue Walmsley



Christian Recrio



Minviluz Chua



Claire Cresp



Mia Yang



Michelle Manderson



Sarah Belyea & Kabita Poudel



Susan Pretty



Swechchha Karki

ACIPC FIPC Graduate Pin Gallery



Fiona McKinlay



Bhawna Keer



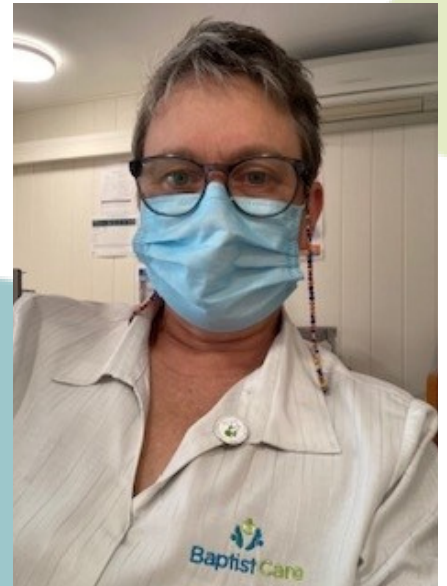
Ankita Amrohi



Claire Cresp



Grace Maningo



Yvonne Andrews



Shauna Goulden



Alex Mikus-Cunningham



Ernest Cruz

FIPC Course Availability

The College is running Foundations of IPC on demand. We currently have courses starting in January, February, March, April, May and June 2022.

Visit: <https://www.acipc.org.au/education/>

Welcome to New Members from the Pacific Region

The College has recently allocated 10 membership scholarships to IPC Officers working in the Pacific Region.

We extend a warm welcome to the following members:

**Toata Titaake Kaufusi, Graham Tasso, Joyce Levaai, ,
Toufiq I. Ali, Ilisapeci Nabose, Elizabeth Giouba, Belinda Eungel, Pepe Vaka, Bermihna Abraham and Betty Ramolelea**

Thank you to Margaret Leong, ACIPC member and IPC Advisor for the Pacific Community for her assistance in nominating scholarship recipients.

Betty Ramolelea contacted the College recently and shared:

ACIPC membership will help me to understand the importance of innovative knowledge, ideas and evidence-based practice for the betterment of IPC standards in our health facilities. I am sure I will enjoy my membership!



Betty is pictured here at her workplace, The National Referral Hospital in Honiara.



Global Outbreak Response Network: Request for Assistance

ACIPC is a member of the World Health Organization **Global Outbreak Response Network** (GOARN). Members of ACIPC who meet the criteria, are eligible to apply for this global request for assistance.

In line with the usual GOARN procedures, WHO will cover the cost of travel and per diem (daily allowance) for staff deployed and provide logistics and security support in country. Subject to country specific travel restrictions some deployments may be conducted in a form of remote support.

This RFA aims to seek support to further strengthen the response in all technical areas including:

- Clinical and Case management
- Data and information management
- Emergency and outbreak coordination
- Epidemiology and surveillance
- Genomic sequencing
- Infection prevention and control
- Laboratory and diagnostics
- Research (vaccines, therapeutics, diagnostics, social science, other operational research and methodology, evidence synthesis)
- Risk communication and community engagement
- Vaccine logistics and deployment

Detailed needs in countries will be identified in collaboration with WHO Regional Offices, WHO Country offices and Ministries of health.

Preference will be given to deployments that can cover longer periods; however, a rotation of experts for a minimum of 6-week periods to provide adequate planning and overlap, may be accepted.

Deployments may be remote in the event of border closures or flight restrictions.

All positions will work in close collaboration with other members of the incident management team, WHO Country Office, Ministry of Health and Operational Partners in the field.

Candidates who have submitted their offers in response to previous GOARN Requests for assistance for COVID-19 should resubmit their offers indicating revised availability.

If you are interested in this opportunity, please check that you meet the requirements outlined overleaf and email the College's GOARN representative Dr Peta-Anne Zimmerman - goarn@acipc.org.au. You will need to include the following information:

- A current CV
- Dates of availability
- If you are based in a metropolitan, regional or remote setting
- The role you are interested in

Global Outbreak Response Network: Request for Assistance

Requirements

Description	Essential requirements	Desired
Education and training	First level university degree or equivalent. - Postgraduate degree in discipline, or equivalent in experience.	- Knowledge of the WHO incident management system in health emergencies.
Experience	- Demonstrated knowledge of area of expertise related to outbreak response. - Adequate working experience in the area of expertise (for junior positions, a minimum of 3 years) - Previous experience in acute event response.	- Previous experience with WHO or other UN agencies. - Previous international experience. - Ability to work in highly stressful environments to ensure personal safety and security.
Skills	- Excellent written and verbal communication skills. - Excellent analytical, planning and organizational skills. - Ability to work in the team, with limited supervision. - Ability to work with and communicate effectively with diverse stakeholders and - Ability to deliver results under pressure and a constantly evolving context.	- Previous experience with WHO or other UN agencies. - Previous international experience. - Ability to work in highly stressful environments to ensure personal safety and security.
Languages	- Fluency in spoken and written English.	- Knowledge of other UN languages (Arabic, Chinese, French, Russian, Spanish)
Deployment duration	- 6 weeks minimum.	- 8 weeks or more.

COVID Stories – Liz Orr

Recently members were invited to submit a short video to be featured in our *Covid Stories* series as part of the 2021 ACIPC International Conference. We will be featuring each story on the ACIPC website. ACIPC member Liz Orr works in Infection Prevention at the Royal Melbourne Hospital. In 2020 Liz's Hospital had the most acquired Covid cases in the country. You can watch Liz's Covid story on the ACIPC website <https://www.acipc.org.au/covid-stories-liz-orr/>

Nurses, Share your Experience Working During the Pandemic



Nurses are invited to participate in an Australian nursing study investigating the impact of COVID-19 on nursing practice and well-being. The study is titled “**Measuring the impact of COVID-19 on Nursing practice and well-being**” and is being conducted by UTS.

The questionnaire is anonymous. Please read the participant information sheet before proceeding to complete the questionnaire.

Your input is appreciated.

[Information Sheet and Consent Form for Online Surveys](#)

<https://redcap.research.uts.edu.au/surveys/?s=M4KLJYNMPFC4TFCL>

12th International Symposium on Pneumococci and Pneumococcal Diseases



19-23 June 2022, Toronto, Canada

ISPPD is the premium forum to discuss the progress and recent advancements in pneumococci and pneumococcal diseases and is the place where you can exchange knowledge, experiences and ideas.

Abstract submission is now open! We are eager to receive your work and you will also be able to benefit from additional opportunities:

- Travel Grant covering your registration, travel expenses and hotel accommodation
- Participation Grant covering your online registration
- Young Investigators Award giving recognition to your work

All submission and application deadlines: 12 January 2022

Learn more here - isppd.kenes.com

IPC Job Opportunity Clinical Nurse Educator, IPC Burnie, TAS

Paid Content

Located at the North West Regional Hospital, Burnie is a 160-bed facility and is the principal referral centre for the North West Tasmanian community and provides general medicine, surgical (including orthopaedic), intensive care, cancer services, paediatric services, outpatient clinics and specialist services.

The Role of the Clinical Nurse Educator – Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) is to:

- Develop, implement and evaluate infection control education programs.
- Promote and facilitate infection control workforce planning.
- Build capacity in conjunction with the IPC team, for quality improvement activities, to address unwarranted clinical variation.
- Liaise and consult with members of health care teams, in line with IPC policies, practices and legal requirements, to provide safe quality patient care



More information about this opportunity can be found on the ACIPC website -

<https://www.acipc.org.au/clinical-nurse-educator-infection-prevention-and-control-525003/>

IPC Job Opportunity, Nurse Consultant, IPC, Mount Gambier, SA

Paid Content

775688 – Nurse Consultant – Infection Prevention and Control



Government of South Australia
SA Health

- Limestone Coast Local Health Network, Mount Gambier
- Total Indicative Remuneration: \$126,942 – \$134,018 p.a. (pro rata) – RN/M3
- Ongoing Part Time position working 32 hours per week

The Nurse Consultant in Infection Prevention and Control is an expert clinician in infection, prevention and control who provides a consultative service to the Mount Gambier and District Health Service, Limestone Coast LHN and to other agencies as required.

The position facilitates the maintenance of a safe environment in the acute care facility through the development, implementation, and evaluation of the principles of infection prevention and control.

You will be registered or eligible for registration as a Nurse/Midwife with the Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia and who holds, or who is eligible to hold, a current practicing certificate; or registered or eligible for registration as a Midwife with the Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia and who holds, or who is eligible to hold, a current practicing certificate, and have at least 3 years post registration experience.

For more information about the role please refer to the Job Pack provided below. Job ref:775688.

[775688 Nurse Consultant – Infection Prevention & Control amended.pdf](#)

[775688 About Mt Gambier Workforce Fact Sheet.pdf](#)

Applications close: 31/12/2021

For further information and to apply visit www.sahealth.sa.gov.au/careers and search for Job Ref: 775688

Direct URL to role on careers website:

<https://careers.pageuppeople.com/532/caw/en/job/775688/nurse-consultant-infection-prevention-and-control>

INTRODUCING The McLaws Hand Hygiene Compliance Calculator™

Paid Content

Developed by renowned epidemiologist Professor Mary-Louise McLaws to improve hand hygiene compliance in hospitals.

Hand hygiene compliance is crucial within hospitals to prevent the spread of bacteria and infection from one patient to another. This simple calculator is designed to assess how many hand hygiene moments healthcare staff are performing daily and estimates the amount of hand hygiene product usage that is required to meet recommended compliance levels.

The McLaws Hand Hygiene Compliance Calculator™ is designed to:

- Improve hand hygiene compliance within healthcare facilities.
- Determine healthcare facilities current compliance vs target compliance.
- Remove audit bias.
- Alert Infection Prevention teams about performance and training requirements.

To find out more about the McLaws Hand Hygiene Compliance Calculator™ visit the Whiteley website:
<https://www.whiteley.com.au/hand-hygiene-calculator/>

Whiteley Product Support Hotline on 1800 833 566

The McLaws Hand Hygiene Calculator has been developed in line with Hand Hygiene Australia's 5 Moments for Hand Hygiene.



Reynard Premier detergent & disinfectant wipes.

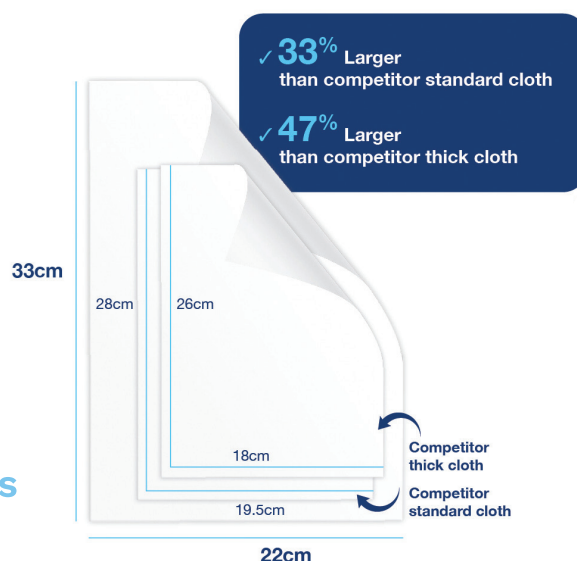
Stay one wipe ahead of germs.

The cloth that is a cut above.

Made from a newly developed, soft apertured polyester substrate that works with the formula to provide excellent moisture retention and superior traction to pick up dirt, bacteria and other pathogens.

Reynard Premier detergent & disinfectant wipes provide a safe, easy to use and cost-effective infection control solution. Also available with a biodegradable cloth for an environmentally friendly alternative.

The all-in-one wipe that has the best in class performance for cleaning and disinfection.



Our new, gentle formula is optimised for use in both clinical and non-clinical settings. Proven to kill at least 99.999% of pathogens, bacteria, viruses and fungi. Tested and ARTG listed for use against SARS and COVID 1 & 2. AUSTL337692.

Our winning formula.

Biodegradable, non-ionic surfactant with non-streaking and superior wetting properties. Containing three active biocidal agents for maximum effectiveness and adaptability.

While germs aren't safe, your equipment is.

Developed with key clinical equipment providers to ensure an unparalleled range of device and material compatibility. Our formula was developed to ensure the wipes will effectively clean hard surfaces and equipment without causing harm.



Reynard is reassurance.

 **Reynard**
Health Supplies



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