



ACIPC

Australasian College  
for Infection Prevention and Control

IPC  
News

NOV 22

# ACIPC President Kristie Popkiss

Welcome to the November issue of Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) News.

It was fantastic to see so many of you recently at our annual conference. It was great to take some time to both debrief about the last three years and celebrate what we collectively did well.

During the lead up to the conference, I reflected on what we have all been through. I am aware that many of you may not have been able to attend the conference, so I'd like to share my opening message:

I'd like to take a moment and pause and acknowledge what you have all done to keep your country safe. Thank you for your bravery, your courage, kindness, and commitment, and dealing with the uncertainty that we found ourselves in. Thank you for being pragmatic. You stepped up and stepped in despite incredible uncertainty.

In a time when we've never had so many experts of infection prevention and control, where everyone professes to know what we do, we've all figuratively fallen down at one time or another. We have been blamed for lots of things, what people can do, what they aren't allowed to do. Much of the recovery of the pandemic has been about how limiting we are, but we've only ever had the interests of patients, clients, residents, and colleagues at heart. So, thank you.

We may not have always gotten it right, but we did the best that we could with the information that we had available at the time you wanted to deliver for your organisations and for mankind. And it doesn't matter if you're a junior or you're more experienced because it's not where you start, but how high you aim.



There were some sparkling moments through the pandemic, some really good standout moments. I think there's been a point of connection with our teams that we never experienced before and that we may never experience again. The real desperation in people looking to us for advice and leadership. Some amazing teamwork, special individuals, lots of relationship building, but lots of sparkling moments to come.

There were some tough times and when we think about it, it's actually really important to acknowledge those tough times. Some stand up confrontations, definitely pure exhaustion, certainly some passion and courageous leadership moments. I think we all can acknowledge that as infection prevention practitioners we've got enemies, but it gives us an opportunity to stand up for something, to stand up with a fire in your belly. And it might be good that you have some people that don't agree, then there's those places of curiosity. Curiosity is really, really important in the work that we do and it's the places that we go when it's just actually beyond us.

I think that we can all acknowledge that we experience joy, sadness, frustration, and fear during those times. So, continuing to be curious can be scary. But the future of infection prevention and control needs to be brave and bold, and we need to shape the future world.

Thanks for reading this month's IPC News.

Until next month, warm regards,

Kristie Popkiss



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# 2022 ACIPC International Conference

**Was it the opportunity to be back in the same room as colleagues and friends? Perhaps it was the chance to present in person the experiences or learnings from COVID-19 or recent research findings. I don't know whether I could put it down to one element, but there was certainly something special in the air when the 2022 ACIPC conference kicked off in Sydney on the 13th of November.**

This year's conference focused on "Leading through the expanding horizons of IPC", with sessions intending to provide an opportunity to reflect on the lessons learnt during the pandemic, our remote leadership, pivoting and adapting the past to deal with the present and future and the innovations that have occurred in IPC along with other developments in industry and research.

Over the three days, there were plenty of opportunities for a laugh, starting with the montage of photos presented by ACIPC's President, Kristie Popkiss, through to more reflective moments, listening to the experiences of those working in aged care and other sectors, and the challenges they and colleagues faced. While considering the ongoing issues dealing with COVID, we were reminded of the other IPC issues of importance, including IPC in aged care settings, including the need to focus on workforce development and surveillance.



**The issue of sustainability and the need to go green was a key message during the conference. Included in this were a focus on recycling, sustainable reforms, and revisions around using PPE in the future. Ditch the glove was the motto of the day!**

Our opening keynote speaker, Professor Benedetta Allegranzi, Technical Lead, Infection Prevention, and Control Hub and Task Force, World Health Organisation, highlighted the key challenges and gaps to IPC in all regions. These included a need for increased financial investment, enhanced guidelines, and, importantly, opportunities for IPC workforce development, career pathways, and mentoring. This sentiment was echoed by our guest presenter Margaret Leong, from the Pacific Community (SPC), who reminded the audience of the region's needs, including training.





A special guest appearance from Associate Professor Alison McMillan, Australia's Chief Nursing and Midwifery Officer, reminded us that we shouldn't wait to be asked but rather that we need to seize the moment and ensure that the voices of IPC experts are captured in relevant committees as well as to support the development and implementation of Australia's CDC. This was a common theme across the three days, with other speakers prompting this call to arms for IPC for future pandemics and other infectious disease events that impact health and aged care settings.

***“This is our moment;  
we need to use it as a  
springboard.”***

ACIPC's President, Kristie Popkiss

So, what will we see at next year's conference in Adelaide? Reflecting on the wish list that was populated during the conference, led by Professor Brett Mitchell, the key issues on the agenda include a focus on cleanliness standards, career pathways for IPC, shifting the language used, and recommendations around droplet/airborne precautions.

Holly Seale  
Scientific Conference Committee Chair

## Conference Stats

Total registrations: **760**

Delegate in person: **364**

Trade: **176**

Online: **220**

Exhibition booths: **49**

Invited speakers: **50**

# Conference Sponsors and Exhibitors

*Thank you to the 2022 Sponsors and Exhibitors*

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# Conference Award Winners

## Elaine Graham Robertson Award

The Elaine Graham Robertson Award is presented at the annual conference and is the result of a gift from Elaine Graham Robertson – a pioneer infection control professional.

The winner at the 2022 ACIPC International Conference for the best oral abstract was awarded to **Penelope Dempster from Deakin University** for her presentation: Australian emergency nurses' experiences of work, using personal equipment during the COVID-19 pandemic. A qualitative study,



### Penny Dempster has a background working in Emergency and Intensive Care nursing.

Her Qualifications include a BSc (Nursing), Curtin University, W.A., Post Graduate Certificate (Intensive Care Nursing), Latrobe University, Certificate IV TAE. Penny is currently completing Master of Advanced Nursing Practice (Research), Deakin University, Victoria and Teaching for Holmesglen

Presentation of results from Minor Thesis: Australian emergency nurses' experiences of work, using personal protective equipment during the COVID-19 pandemic.

A qualitative study with 24 Registered Nurse participants (leadership group and clinical group).

#### Implications regarding PPE and IPC during an infectious disease outbreak:

1. Need a greater level of system preparedness by government and health care organisations.
2. Mitigation of pre-existing and incidental occupational physical, psychological and psychosocial risk factors experienced by frontline emergency nurses during infectious disease outbreaks.
3. Address impact of wearing PPE on delivery of person-centered care, (e.g. depersonalization, communication).
4. Growing workforce shortage of critical care nurses (ED and ICU) – local and international.
5. Need to support strong sense of identity, autonomous thinking and team dynamics by emergency nurses.
6. Need to improve communication and disconnect between Emergency nurses and management e.g. greater input into development of policies and guidelines
7. Ambivalence toward PPE spotter role
8. Great need for environmental sustainability by health organisations and government e.g. biodegradable PPE such as masks and aprons. Reduce plastic with food serving. Adopt 'reduce, reuse, recycle' approach.





## Best Poster Award as chosen by Delegates

**Kate Manserra from the Tasmanian Health Service.**

*Hand Hygiene & Glove Misuse: A Regional Quality Improvement and Educational Campaign*

## Best Poster Award as awarded by a judging panel

**Lyn-Li Lim from the Aged Care Quality and Safety Commission**

*Comparison of clinical outcomes among suspected sepsis patients by blood and urine culture results: A multicentre retrospective cohort study*

## Certificates of commendations

**Md Saiful Islam from Australian National University**

*Prevalence and incidence of latent tuberculosis infection among healthcare workers in chest diseases hospitals, Bangladesh: putting infection control into context*

**Dr Gillian Ray-Barruel from the University of Queensland and Griffith University**

*To be or not to be left in situ: Prevalence and complications of idle intravenous catheters. A secondary analysis of 4565 catheters*

## Claire Boardman Medal for Leadership in Infection Prevention and Control

The Claire Boardman Medal for Leadership in Infection Prevention and Control is the highest honour of the Australasian College for Infection Prevention and Control.

The medal is awarded in recognition of the College's Inaugural President, Claire Boardman, and her leadership in establishing the College. The Claire Boardman Medal for Leadership in Infection Prevention and Control is bestowed upon a member of the College who demonstrates outstanding commitment and leadership to the College and the profession and practice of infection prevention and control.

**The winner for 2022 is Kathy Dempsey**



Left to right – Claire Boardman & Kathy Dempsey

# Senior ICP takes out top gong for Leadership Medal

**The last two and half years have been extraordinary. Our leaders within our profession are to be commended for staying the course, to be clear in their vision and purpose and to make sense against a background of chaotic COVID noise. I admire and congratulate each of you who have been at the frontline and working silently behind the scenes to keep our populations safe.**

It was a tremendous honour for me to attend this year's ACIPC conference dinner with College members, sponsors and organisers in Sydney to present the biannual **Claire Boardman leadership medal** to an outstanding IPC professional in 2022. The leadership award is bestowed upon a member of the College who demonstrates outstanding commitment and leadership to the College and the profession and practice of infection prevention and control.

When we think about leadership each of us might have a different perspective of what constitutes effective leadership and what we value in the workplace. Our own lived experience will define how each of us behaves in leadership roles and how you are defined as an individual change maker. There are various dimensions of leadership, power and influence and practical skills that can be utilised to lead and navigate constraints in the way of effective leadership but in today's world we often look for authenticity above other qualities in our leaders.

This year's award winner was well known to many and has certainly been one of the key faces of IPC on issues related to COVID across the country.

**Kathy Dempsey** is a passionate, self-motivated, qualified and credentialed ICP with significant experience in the specialty. Leading one the NSW HAI and Infection Prevention and Control quality and safety programs Kathy has represented our speciality on several national committees as a clinical expert including: Australian Commission on Quality and Safety in Healthcare: National HAI Steering committee, Infection Control Advisory Group for Australian Health Protection Principal Committee (AHPPC) / Communicable Disease Network of Australia (CDNA), and numerous expert advisory committees and task forces including the MRO Task Force, the HAI Expert Advisory Committee and as an IPC expert consultant on the NSW Blood Borne Advisory Panel.

Kathy recently became a PhD candidate promoting infection prevention and control strategic leadership as part of the Future leaders of healthcare program and from my time in the Victorian Government's COVID Response as Deputy Public Health Commander I can personally testify that Kathy embodies the essence of the ACIPC Leadership medal. This year the award money increased to \$2000 and the selection panel reviewed the applications and was impressed. We are in safe hands!

**Congratulations Kathy.**

Claire Boardman PSM



## ACIPC Lecture

The ACIPC address at the conference is delivered by an individual who has made an outstanding contribution to the field of infection prevention and control. This year's lecture was presented by Belinda Henderson, Infection Control Advisor to the Chief Health Officer, of the Queensland Department of Health, and past ACIPC President.

You can hear her lecture – *The Pandemic Springboard* – by clicking on the link - Tuesday - Plenary - Belinda Henderson - Cockle Bay Room (vimeo.com)



## Non-tuberculous Mycobacterium

The Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care (the Commission) has recently updated the National Infection Control Guidance: Non-tuberculous Mycobacterium infections associated with heater-cooler devices to ensure consistency with the latest information from the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA), the United States Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and current literature. Consultation with the Public Health Laboratory Network, and members of the Healthcare-Associated Infections Advisory Committee also informed the update. The Commission thanks Members for their contribution and feedback.

**There are no major changes to the recommendations. State and territory contact details have been updated and the following information has been added:**

- Additional heater cooler units (HCUs) implicated in international recalls, including CardioQuip MCH-1000, Hemotherm 400CE and Maquet HCU 30
- Other Mycobacterium species implicated in device contamination.

The Commission also received a number of comments requesting additional information in the Public Health Laboratory Network (PHLN's) testing guidance. This feedback has been provided to the PHLN Secretariat for further consideration. Assistance with the promotion of the National Infection Control Guidance: Non-tuberculous mycobacterium infections associated with heater-cooler devices across your networks and organisations would be greatly appreciated.

Please contact [HAI@safetyandquality.gov.au](mailto:HAI@safetyandquality.gov.au) if you have any questions about this resource.

The RACGP recently endorsed the Infection prevention and control guidelines for general practices and other office-based and community-based practices. They have been published on the RACGP website here - **RACGP - Infection prevention and control guidelines.**

An advertisement for Clinell disinfectant products. The background is a solid green color. At the top, the word "clinell" is written in a white, lowercase, sans-serif font with a registered trademark symbol. Below the logo, the text "Use Clinell green for a superior clean." is written in a smaller, white, sans-serif font. In the center, there are three products: a white package of Clinell Universal Wipes (1500 wipes) with a green top flap, a white package of Clinell Universal Wipes (200 wipes) with a green top flap, and a white spray bottle of Clinell Universal Spray with a green label. At the bottom, there is a blue rectangular button with the text "Request sample" in white, sans-serif font.

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## Infection Control Matters Podcast

Recorded live on stage in front of an audience at the ACIPC conference, Brett, Phil and Martin talk to Belinda Henderson and Sally Havers about the challenges facing IPC workers in aged care in Australia and future priorities for IPC going forward in acute care.

<https://infectioncontrolmatters.podbean.com/e/ipc-challenges-in-aged-care-and-priorities-in-acute-care-discussion-recorded-live-at-the-acipc-conference/>

## INFECTION CONTROL MATTERS



DISCUSSIONS ON  
INFECTION PREVENTION



COMING SOON

## Asepti Disinfectant 1 Wipes

New all-in one hospital grade disinfectant bactericide, virucide and yeasticidal wipes with a **1 minute** contact time available in early 2023.

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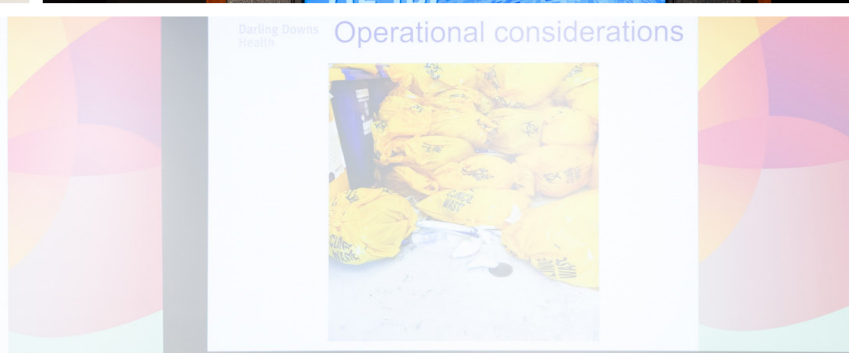
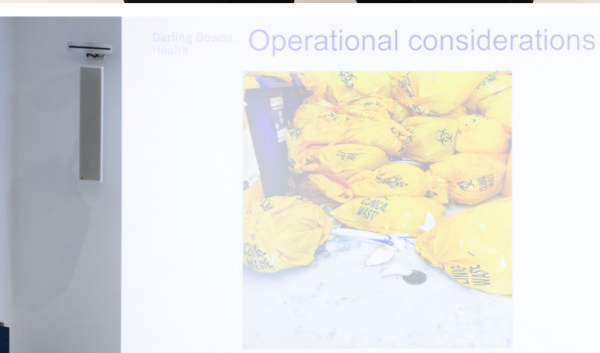
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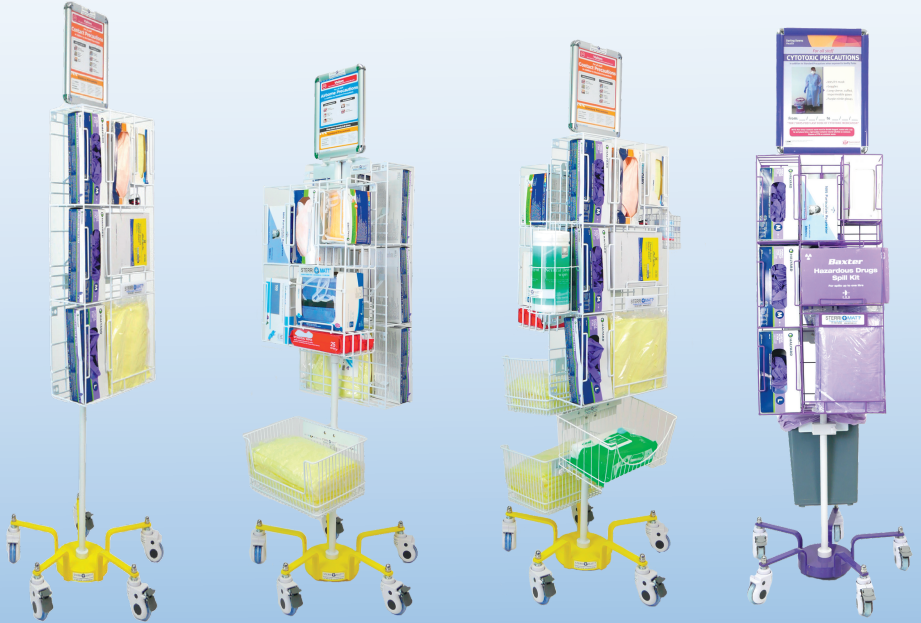
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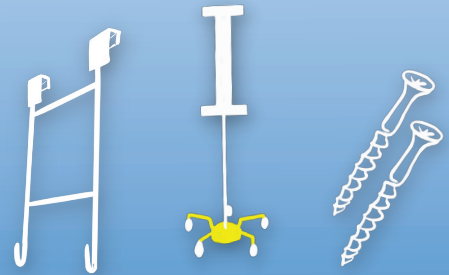


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WCSG4

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SHORT COURSE

## INFECTION PREVENTION AND CONTROL IN AGED CARE SETTINGS

# Short Course in IPC in Aged Care Settings

## Enrol now for the 13 December Short Course in Infection Prevention and Control in Aged Care Settings

This course is designed to provide staff with the fundamental principles and concepts of infection prevention and control practice as they apply to various Aged Care settings Residential and Community Aged Care settings.

This course is ideal for staff supporting IPC Clinical Leads and Facility/Clinical managers. The modules can be undertaken over a six-to-eight-week period and a certificate of completion will be issued to students who complete the course.

This is a course for RNs and EN/EENs supporting Aged Care IPC Clinical Leads, and specific IPC support roles. This course is also suitable for Facility Managers needing up-to-date best-practice IPC knowledge and skills.

Assessment is a series of quizzes, there are no written assignments.

### MODULES INCLUDE:

Principles of Infection Prevention and Control

Management of the environment, resident and staff health

Management of invasive devices, hygiene and aseptic techniques

Management of outbreaks

Organisms of significant AMS

Governance and leadership

**To enrol visit the website:** <https://www.acipc.org.au/education/short-course/>

# Recently Credentialed / Recredentialed Members

The Board of Directors would like to congratulate the following members who have received credentialling this month:

## Primary Credentialling

Nicole Clark  
Rozina Kabani  
Arishma Devi

## Advanced Credentialling

Helen Scott

## Expert Credentialling

Michelle Kennedy

## Advanced Recredentialling

Jennifer Lukeis

## Expert Recredentialling

Nicole Vause  
Kellie Kenway  
Ann Whitfield

For information on how you can become credentialled, visit the ACIPC website:  
<https://www.acipc.org.au/credentialling/>

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# Career Opportunity

## Clinical Nurse Consultant Infection Control

### Your opportunity

The Clinical Nurse Consultant practices autonomously to provide the nursing services within health service settings in collaboration with the multidisciplinary team. The Clinical Nurse Consultant provides expert clinical advice within the rural/remote context/with regards to infection prevention and control practices.

The Clinical Nurse Consultant is responsible for explicit professional portfolio contact and context expertise and provides consultation and provision of professional advice.

The very nature of what we do and who we are is the real opportunity. Providing health care in the bush is challenging, however, it remains the most rewarding of human experiences.

### What we can do for you

Ultimately, we provide you a platform to leapfrog your career with more opportunities to experience a wider scope of practice with less competition due to location and population.

Nowhere else will you experience the vast diversity of nursing career advancement other than in rural and remote Queensland.

- Up to 12.75% employer superannuation contribution!
- Secure, long term and rewarding career opportunity!
- Make a positive difference to members of our community!

**Be a part of something bigger:** <https://www.southwest.health.qld.gov.au/>

**Enquiries:** Lisa McArdle – 0436 937 925

**Job Reference:** SW456682

**Application Details:** <https://smartjobs.qld.gov.au/jobs/QLD-SW456682>

**Closing Date:** 07 December 2022

# Featured Article:

## *Infection, Disease & Health*

### **Audit of essential infection prevention and control content provided within undergraduate/postgraduate public health programs across Australian and New Zealand universities**

**Kathleena Condon, Peta-Anne Zimmerman, Matt Mason, Vanessa Sparke**

#### **Abstract**

##### **Background**

To describe and analyse the infection prevention and control (IPC) curricula within Public Health degrees across Australian and New Zealand Universities and identify foundational IPC knowledge deficits.

##### **Methods**

A cross-sectional study of public health and related programs across tertiary education institutions within Australia and New Zealand was conducted to comprehensively illustrate the current inclusion of IPC core and elective courses and identify areas of IPC content deficit.

##### **Results**

Australian (n = 32) and New Zealand (n = 9) universities were audited, consisting of 217 public health/public health related degrees within Australia and 45 within New Zealand. Within Australia 41% of public health degrees and 49% in New Zealand did not offer any IPC content as core or elective subjects.

##### **Conclusion**

Public health tertiary education in Australia and New Zealand is lacking in equipping and imbedding IPC skills and knowledge in public health graduates. This highlights the need for a framework guiding mandatory IPC content within Australian and New Zealand public health programs.

**Access the full article here:**

**[https://www.idhjournal.com.au/article/S2468-0451\(22\)00054-2/fulltext](https://www.idhjournal.com.au/article/S2468-0451(22)00054-2/fulltext)**

# Recent Publications

Barratt, R., Clendon, G., Gibson, B., & Roberts, S. A. (2022). Sources of healthcare-associated Staphylococcus aureus bacteraemia in New Zealand acute hospitals. *N Z Med J*, 135(1563), 29-35. <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/36201728>

Coleman, M., Martinez, L., Theron, G., Wood, R., & Marais, B. (2022). Mycobacterium tuberculosis Transmission in High-Incidence Settings-New Paradigms and Insights. *Pathogens*, 11(11). <https://doi.org/10.3390/pathogens11111228>

Department of Health and Aged Care. (2022). Role and functions of an Australian Centre for Disease Control. <https://www.health.gov.au/resources/publications/role-and-functions-of-an-australian-centre-for-disease-control>

Ioannides, S. J., Hess, I., Lamberton, C., Luisi, B., & Gupta, L. (2022). Engaging with culturally and linguistically diverse communities during a COVID-19 outbreak: a NSW Health interagency public health campaign. *Public Health Res Pract*. <https://doi.org/10.17061/phrp32232215>

Lucas, J. J., Bouchoucha, S. L., Afrouz, R., Reed, K., & Brennan-Olsen, S. L. (2022). LGBTQ+ Loss and Grief in a Cis-Heteronormative Pandemic: A Qualitative Evidence Synthesis of the COVID-19 Literature. *Qual Health Res*, 10497323221138027. <https://doi.org/10.1177/10497323221138027>

Slevin, T. (2022). On the new Centre for Disease Control, here are 28 questions requiring your attention. <https://www.croakey.org/on-the-new-centre-for-disease-control-here-are-28-questions-requiring-your-attention/>

Sri, A., Bailey, K. E., Gilkerson, J. R., Browning, G. F., & Hardefeldt, L. Y. (2022). Attitudes towards Use of High-Importance Antimicrobials-A Cross-Sectional Study of Australian Veterinarians. *Antibiotics (Basel)*, 11(11). <https://doi.org/10.3390/antibiotics11111589>

Valentine, J. C., Gillespie, E., Verspoor, K. M., Hall, L., & Worth, L. J. (2022). Performance of ICD-10-AM codes for quality improvement monitoring of hospital-acquired pneumonia in a haematology-oncology casemix in Victoria, Australia. *Health Inf Manag*, 18333583221131753. <https://doi.org/10.1177/18333583221131753>

van der Kooi, T., Sax, H., Grundmann, H., Pittet, D., de Greeff, S., van Dissel, J., Clack, L., Wu, A. W., Davitt, J., Kostourou, S., Maguinness, A., Michalik, A., Nedelcu, V., Patyi, M., Perme Hajdinjak, J., Prosen, M., Tellez, D., Varga, E., Veini, F., . . . consortium, P. (2022). Hand hygiene improvement of individual healthcare workers: results of the multicentre PROHIBIT study. *Antimicrob Resist Infect Control*, 11(1), 123. <https://doi.org/10.1186/s13756-022-01148-1>

Mwila Kabwe, Jennifer L. Dittmer, Jaimee Oxford, Catina Eyres, Ancara Thomas, Andrew Mahony and Bruce Bolam A Novel Approach to Managing a COVID-19 Outbreak at a Farm in Outer Regional Victoria, Australia : *Nurs. Rep.* 2022, 12(4), 717-725 <https://www.mdpi.com/1870664>

**Have you been involved with a recent publication that would be of interest to the wider ACIPC community?**

**If so, we'd love to hear from you. Please contact the office on [office@acipc.org.au](mailto:office@acipc.org.au)**



# ACIPC Forums

## We have recently added Forums to the member's area.

Our forums are the College's platforms to facilitate communication, share ideas, seek advice from peers, and benefit from the experience of other members. The College has two forums allowing members to post and answer questions, subscribe to email notifications, and search archives online.

The forums are moderated by volunteers. By participating in the forums, members agree to follow the guidelines found on the website – <https://www.acipc.org.au/forums/>

**To access the Forums please log in to the ACIPC member's area:**

**<https://www.acipc.org.au/members/login/>**

### Disclaimer

*Our forums are peer-to-peer platforms where members can engage with each other. The views, opinions, information, and advice shared in the forums are not provided by the College. Members must consider any views, opinions, information, and advice in the context of their practice and only as comments from a peer. Forum content does not constitute advice, endorsement, or approval by the College.*

# ACIPC Membership Pins

## Our College membership pins are now available!

All financial members will have received an email with instructions on how to order one.

If you have not received an email, please contact the office on [office@acipc.org.au](mailto:office@acipc.org.au)





**The ACIPC office is closed from  
Friday 23rd December 2022  
and will re-open on  
Wednesday 4 January 2023**



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