



ACIPC

Australasian College  
for Infection Prevention and Control

IPC  
News

DEC 22

# ACIPC President Kristie Popkiss

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



Thanks for reading this month's IPC News.  
Until next month, warm regards,

Kristie Popkiss



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**ACIPC President**

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# Partners in training 2022: ACIPC and the Global Outbreak and Alert and Response Network (GOARN)

**This year has been very exciting with two training opportunities coming from our partnership with the Global Outbreak Alert and Response Network (GOARN).**

The first was the Tier 2 training held from the 31st of October to the 5th of November in New Delhi, India. The Tier 2 training is an intense 5-day scenario-driven simulation exercise.

This training explores the processes, realities, and challenges of working in an international multidisciplinary outbreak response team. Three ACIPC members were included in the Tier 2 training this year: Louise Lawrie, Margaret Leong, and Dr Jocelyne Basseal (photo below). ACIPC GOARN Focal Point and Senior Training Faculty, Dr Peta-Anne Zimmerman, assisted in co-facilitation, her 4th Tier 2 training.



***Tier 2 GOARN Training ACIPC participants (left to right) Louise Lawrie, Margaret Leong, and Jocelyne Basseal in India***





***Recent ACIPC deployee Louise Lawrie presenting on her experience deployed to Kiribati with GOARN at Tier 1.5 Training in Sydney.***

Tier 1.5 training “Orientation to International Outbreak Response with the Global Outbreak alert and Response Network and the World Health Organization” was held on the 13th of November as part of the workshops available for the ACIPC International Conference in Sydney this year. The Tier 1.5 training builds on short self-directed eCourses including introductory topics on working with GOARN and the World Health Organization (WHO), emergency response actors and structures, well-being for deployment, and working effectively in teams. This Tier 1 training is mandatory for pre-deployment and for participation in the Tiers 1.5, 2, and 3 training.

The training delivered in Sydney was co-facilitated by our colleagues from GOARN headquarters in Geneva, Renee Christensen and Dr Sharon Salmon, as well as previous ACIPC president Belinda Henderson, recent deployee Louise Lawrie (photo below), and Dr Peta-Anne Zimmerman. The training was targeted to IPC specialists with an interest in learning about opportunities and deploying internationally with GOARN and WHO. This specific training was designed for IPC specialists with limited international outbreak response experience. The Tier 1.5 training introduces the adaptation of skills to field settings and sharing experiences from previous outbreak responders with Peta-Anne, Louise, and Sharon sharing their deployments.

The Tier 1.5 training in Sydney had 23 participants from across a range of settings. Feedback from the training included:

*“Thank you for the opportunity, invaluable insight and feel I would be making an informed decision if I were to apply.”*

*“Firstly it has helped me assess if deployment is for me. If I do deploy, I am prepared and gave ideas on how to manage my family, communications and self care.”*

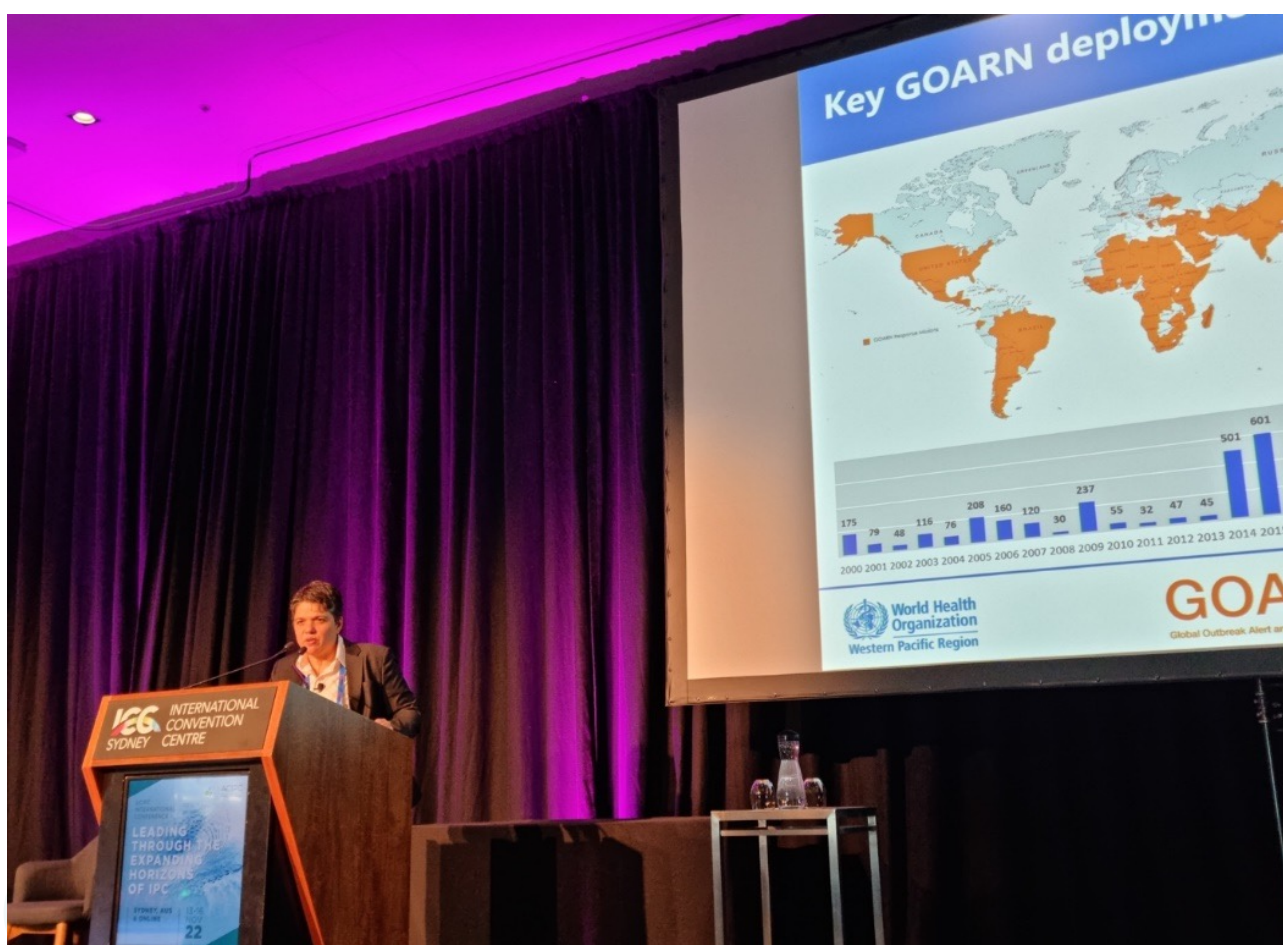
*“Couldn’t imagine deployment without this - ongoing PD and training sessions are useful but also recognise there is an element you can never be fully prepared for but knowing that is important.”*

This was followed on the first day of the conference with a special plenary session dedicated to the partnership between ACIPC and GOARN. Renee, Sharon, Louise, and Peta-Anne presented on the various aspects of GOARN, the relationship between ACIPC and GOARN, the processes of deployment, training opportunities, and career and personal benefits.



**Renee Christiansen (GOARN, Geneva) presenting on the capacity building and training programme**





**Dr Sharon Salmon (GOARN, Geneva) presenting on GOARN deployments and partnerships**

Panel discussions were held during the 1.5 training and the plenary session outlining the true challenges of deployment including family, food, and uncertainty. This was mixed with the satisfaction that we provide an opportunity of learning and a shared experience to improve health response and outcomes for various communities across the globe. The reality of leaving the polished experience behind and managing on a first principles basis.

ACIPC aims to continue its training and deployment partnership with GOARN in the future. The 2022 ACIPC Annual Report gives further details of the partnership. For further information on the work of GOARN, go to <https://extranet.who.int/goarn/>

**Written by Peta-Anne Zimmerman and Belinda Henderson**

# Committee Member Profile:

Gemma Saravanos,  
Membership  
Communication  
& Engagement  
Committee



*Gemma inside the clinical simulation laboratories in the Susan Wakil Health Building*

**Gemma Saravanos is an Academic Fellow and Associate Lecturer at the University of Sydney Susan Wakil School of Nursing and Midwifery. She also holds a post-doctoral research fellow appointment at the Sydney Children's Hospital Westmead Clinical School where she contributes to a program of multidisciplinary research at the Centre for Perinatal and Paediatric Infections Research.**



*The Susan Wakil Health Building on the University of Sydney Camperdown campus on Gadigal country*

## **Can you tell us more about your role and what it entails?**

My academic position with the University of Sydney involves a combination of teaching and research across our Camperdown and Westmead campuses. My unique skill set in public health, nursing, infection prevention and control (IPC), infectious diseases, and immunisation is highly valued in the school, and I have been able to contribute to teaching across a wide variety of clinical and theoretical areas.

My main research interest is the prevention of severe acute respiratory infections in the community and in the hospital. During a four-year doctoral degree (PhD), I developed and led several research projects examining the epidemiology of respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) disease. RSV is a leading cause of acute lower respiratory infection globally, and it is likely that an RSV vaccine will soon be available which will be a gamechanger for RSV prevention. My research aims to describe the burden of RSV in different groups to inform prevention strategies encompassing IPC, future vaccination programs, education and communication.





*Gemma works across the University of Sydney Camperdown and Westmead campuses on Gadigal and Darug country which are both co-located with major Sydney health precincts.*

### **What did you do before working in a university?**

Prior to my university role, I was a Clinical Nurse Specialist in Research and Surveillance with the Paediatric Active Enhanced Disease Surveillance System (PAEDS) based at the Children's Hospital at Westmead. PAEDS is a national, hospital-based surveillance network which provides critical data to support public health action and policy development for the prevention of infectious diseases such as influenza (you can read more about PAEDS here <https://paeds.org.au>).

I am also a qualified Nurse Immuniser and have been involved in the delivery of vaccination services to healthcare workers, and to children and their families. Earlier in my nursing career I specialised in the perioperative setting where I was the IPC Link Nurse for my department of eight operating theatres. In this role, I enjoyed collaborating with the IPC Clinical Nurse Consultant and my multidisciplinary colleagues to improve IPC knowledge and practice within the complex perioperative environment.

### **Why is IPC such a passion for you?**

I've always had interest in tiny things (I was that kid who wanted a microscope) and a passion for supporting the health and wellbeing of all people. Perhaps it's no surprise then that I find IPC an interesting and important area to work in. The practice of IPC has undergone rapid advancements in recent decades however there is still a lot of work to be done at the local, national, and global level to ensure that no person experiences a preventable infection. I look forward to continuing to build IPC expertise within my current role. I also hope to inspire the next generation of clinicians and researchers to be leaders in IPC regardless of their specialty or setting.

**Find me on Twitter @GLSaravanos and LinkedIn - Gemma Saravanos**

# Australian Centre for Disease Control

**The Australian Government Department of Health and Aged Care is establishing an Australian Centre for Disease Control (CDC) to improve Australia's ongoing response to current and emerging public health emergencies.**

## About the CDC

We are establishing an Australian Centre for Disease Control (CDC) to improve Australia's ongoing response and preparedness for current and emerging public health emergencies.

## Why it is important

Over the last 2 years Australia's health system has had to respond to several public health emergencies.

All Australians will benefit from an improved pandemic preparedness response, and a renewed focus on preventing chronic disease.

## Goals

The Australian CDC will:

- ensure ongoing pandemic preparedness
- lead the federal response to future infectious disease outbreaks
- work to prevent non-communicable (chronic) and communicable (infectious) diseases.

## Who we work with

- To set up the Australian CDC they will consult and work with:
  - state and territory governments
  - health and aged care stakeholders
- the community.

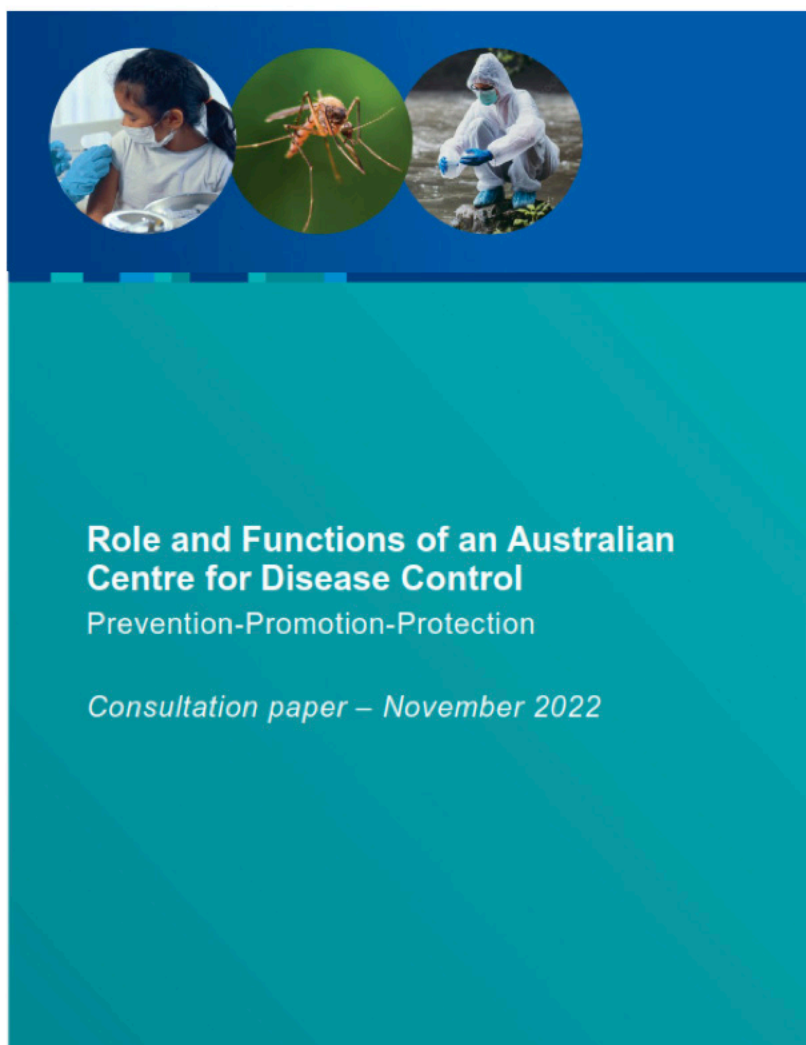
**Consultation with key stakeholders on the design and scope of the CDC is occurring through November and December 2022.**



## Role and functions of an Australian Centre for Disease Control

This discussion paper outlines the draft mission and purpose statements for the Centre for Disease Control (CDC).

It includes an outline of its potential scope of functions, examples of how it could improve public health in Australia, and principles guiding its design.





# Foundations of IPC Graduates



**Amanda Tucker**



**Arishma Devi**



**Dorothy Fields**



**Ellen Thomassen**



**Jina Thapa**



**Julius Delamide**



**Jyoti Tejpal**



**Merlin Mohan**



**Myleen Ah Quay**



**Nahid Shizar**



**Sachin Rajpal**



**Sharmilla Bartaula**



**Sonia Davids**



**Tess Coria**



# NSQHS Consultation

## You can shape the future of Australia's sustainable healthcare

Australia's healthcare system is one of the best in the world. However delivering these services contributes 7% of our total greenhouse gas emissions, more than double the proportion in England (3%).

Recognising the importance of sustainable, adaptable, and resilient healthcare services, the Commission has developed a Sustainable Healthcare Module.

Developed with healthcare and environmental experts, the Module contains five actions, including sustainability measures and targets. It will support improvements in the safety and quality of health care, reduce love value care, and reduce unnecessary variation across the healthcare system.

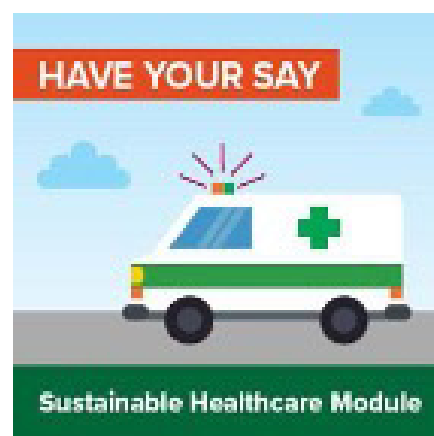
How can you have your say?

You can access the Module for consultation on our website and provide feedback by:

- Responding to a short online survey
- Providing a written submission via email to [NSQHStandards@safetyandquality.gov.au](mailto:NSQHStandards@safetyandquality.gov.au)

Consultation will close on 31 January 2023.

**To stay updated on the progress of the Sustainable Healthcare Module, subscribe here.**



# Featured Article:

## *Infection, Disease & Health*

### Evaluating methods for the use and decontamination of needleless connectors: A qualitative inquiry

**Emily N Larsen, Deanne August, Samantha Keogh, Julie Flynn, Amanda J Ullman, Nicole Marsh, Marie Cooke, Alexandra L McCarthy, Claire M Rickard**

#### Abstract

##### Background

Needleless connectors (NCs) are essential devices designed to provide safe, needle-free connection between venous access devices, syringes and infusions. There is a variety of designs, and associated decontamination products and practices; the resulting confusion can cause detrimental patient outcomes. This study aimed to explore nurses' attitudes, techniques, and practices around the use and decontamination of NCs in clinical practice.

##### Methods

Qualitative inquiry was conducted with seven focus groups of 4–6 participants each in the cancer and surgical units of a large tertiary hospital in Australia between January and March 2019. Participants comprised nurses who had taken part in a recent clinical trial of NC decontamination. Focus group sessions were recorded, transcribed and synthesised using content analysis.

##### Results

Seven focus groups were conducted (total, N = 30 participants), lasting 16–20 min. Six major themes were identified surrounding needleless connector use and decontamination: 'safety and utility'; 'terminology and technological understanding'; 'clinical practice determinants'; 'decontamination procedures and influencers'; 'education and culture'; and 'research and innovation'.

##### Conclusion

The participants articulated positive attitudes towards needleless connector use for needle-stick and infection prevention, however rationales for care and maintenance practices demonstrated limited understanding of guidelines (e.g., disinfection time) and specific NC function (e.g., positive, negative pressure). The findings indicated the need for targeted, standardised needleless connector education, to enhance staff confidence, improve consistency of care and ensure patient safety.

Access the full article here:

[https://www.idhjournal.com.au/article/S2468-0451\(22\)00020-7/fulltext](https://www.idhjournal.com.au/article/S2468-0451(22)00020-7/fulltext)



## Selected Publications of Interest

Garcia, R., Barnes, S., Boukidjian, R., Goss, L. K., Spencer, M., Septimus, E. J., Wright, M. O., Munro, S., Reese, S. M., Fakih, M. G., Edmiston, C. E., & Levesque, M. (2022). Recommendations for change in infection prevention programs and practice. *Am J Infect Control*, 50(12), 1281-1295. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ajic.2022.04.007>

Lowensteyn, Y. N., Willemsen, J. E., Mazur, N. I., Scheltema, N. M., van Haastregt, N. C. J., Buuren, A., van Roessel, I., Scheepmaker, D., Nair, H., van de Ven, P. M., Bont, L. J., & Group, R. G. S. (2023). Nosocomial RSV-related In-hospital Mortality in Children <5 Years: A Global Case Series. *Pediatr Infect Dis J*, 42(1), 1-7. <https://doi.org/10.1097/INF.0000000000003747>

Mitchell, B. G., Northcote, M., Rickett, C., Russo, P. L., Amin, M., De Sousa, F., Pearce, K., Sim, J., & Curryer, C. (2022). Patients' perspectives of healthcare-associated infection: 'you don't know what impacts it will have on your life'. *J Hosp Infect*, 126, 93-102. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jhin.2022.04.014>

Seale, H., Carlson, S. J., Maley, M., Clezy, K., Torda, A., & Konecny, P. (2022). Lifting the curtains of silence: Patient perceptions towards needs and responsibilities in contributing to the prevention of healthcare-associated infections and antimicrobial resistance. *Am J Infect Control*. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ajic.2022.11.013>

Verdugo-Paiva, F., Otaiza, F., Roson-Rodriguez, P., Rojas-Gomez, A. M., Galas, M., El Omeiri, N., Fuentes, Y., Rada, G., & Ramon-Pardo, P. (2022). Effects of screening strategies to detect carbapenem-resistant gram-negative bacteria: A systematic review. *Am J Infect Control*, 50(12), 1381-1388. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ajic.2022.02.018>

**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.*

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# 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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