



# ACIPC

Australasian College  
for Infection Prevention and Control

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## PEAK BODY CALLS FOR INFECTION PREVENTION AND CONTROL EXPERTISE TO BE INCLUDED IN THE NEW AUSTRALIAN CENTRE FOR DISEASE CONTROL (CDC)

Australasia's peak body for infection prevention and control has released a position statement urging the Australian Government to embed IPC expertise within the Australian CDC structure, ensuring expert IPC guidance during future pandemics, a comprehensive national IPC infrastructure, consistent IPC protocols, and a One Health approach for broader disease prevention.

"Professionally, IPC is a well-established speciality discipline that incorporates clinical and public health focuses, which influences and strengthens health and community systems," said the Australasian College for Infection Prevention and Control's President, A/Prof Stéphane Bouchoucha.

"The COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted the leading role IPC professionals play in responding to infectious disease outbreaks and placed a spotlight on their role at the forefront of the pandemic response. While it is pleasing to see the formation of an Australian CDC, it is concerning that the proposed Australian CDC structure does not include IPC experts."

The College recommends the Australian CDC includes IPC experts to ensure:

- expert IPC guidance during future pandemics
- healthcare facilities and community settings can implement standardised IPC protocols and guidelines
- future and emerging infectious disease prevention and control is effective across the entire community
- an effective national surveillance program for Healthcare Associated Infections (HAIs)

"The integration of IPC as a core function within the Australian CDC will enable Australia to build a One Health framework and strengthen our ability to prevent, control, and respond to infectious disease threats in the future," said A/Prof Stéphane Bouchoucha. "It is critical for consumer and employee safety, quality improvement, prevention of antimicrobial resistance and improving outbreak preparedness and responses that IPC be an integral part of the new CDC."

To read the position statement in full, click here.

For more information, image and interview requests, contact [office@acipc.org.au](mailto:office@acipc.org.au)