



ACIPC

Australasian College
for Infection Prevention and Control

IPC News

MARCH 25



President's report

Stéphane Bouchoucha

Welcome to the March 2025 edition of IPC News.



It has been another full month for the ACIPC Board and I am excited about the work being done already this year.

This month, the College released a new position statement - Terminology for pathogens that transmit through the air. Inconsistencies in key terms has resulted in confusion of the use and understanding of transmission pathways. Our Position Statement considers the current terminology and provides recommendations for standardised terminology. You can see the Statement on our website [here](#).

During 2024 and 2025, following the release of the Strategic and Implementation Plan in 2023, the Board has revised the ACIPC Committee structure. Thank you to all those who attended the update session in March where we were able to outline the changes in the committee structure. In evaluating, defining, and streamlining committee structure, we can ensure committee activities and functions align with ACIPC's strategic priorities, protecting the long-term sustainability and effectiveness of our College. If you missed the members' webinar, you can find a recording [here](#), along with further details about the new structure.

This month, the Board also endorsed the Ethical Infection Prevention and Control (EIPAC) Decision-Making Framework, a resource developed by the Association for Professionals in Infection Control and Epidemiology (APIC) and Infection Prevention and Control Canada (IPAC Canada). This framework offers a step-by-step approach to navigating ethical issues and complex decisions that arise in IPC, and includes a range of examples of scenarios where the framework can be applied in practice. You can read about the framework development and download a copy by visiting the APIC website [here](#).

Closer to home, concerning figures from Australia and New Zealand show that rates of hospital-acquired COVID-19 infection remain at alarming levels, and I spoke with Radio New Zealand about this issue.

Despite what we've learned from COVID-19, we are seeing hospitals scrapping policies countering the spread, such as the requirement to stay home if testing positive. We track and report fatalities from staph aureus bloodstream infections, and we know through wastewater testing when there are COVID peaks and troughs, we urgently need surveillance of COVID in clinical settings. The full article can be accessed [here](#).

No doubt you were all as concerned as I was about the terrible impact of Cyclone Alfred on communities in NSW and Queensland recently. Whilst it was fortunate that few fatalities were reported, with the floodwaters comes increased risk of infectious disease. Melioidosis cases have risen, with Queensland recording 25 fatalities since the beginning of the year. In this edition's Bug of the Month (p.26), ACIPC IPC Consultant Karen McKenna explains what causes this deadly disease, how it is transmitted, and preventative measures that can be taken. I urge all members, especially those living and working in floodwater-affected regions, to be aware of the risk and take appropriate precautions, as there is currently no vaccine available to prevent melioidosis infection.

On a brighter note, I am looking forward to seeing you at this year's ACIPC International Conference, being held from 16 - 19 November 2025 in Hobart, Tasmania and online. This year's theme is 'Circles of Influence: Evidence-based Practice and Practice-based Evidence,' and the Scientific Conference Organising Committee have an exciting program prepared for you. Registrations will soon be open, so keep an eye on our website and social media pages for more details. Abstract submissions are open and I would strongly encourage you to consider presenting your research, innovative practice and programs at ACIPC2025. There are a range of presentation formats, and we have put together templates and a handy video to help you. Find out more about abstract submission on the [ACIPC2025 conference website](#).

Best wishes

Stéphane Bouchoucha



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ACIPC INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE 2025

CIRCLES OF INFLUENCE: EVIDENCE-BASED PRACTICE AND PRACTICE-BASED EVIDENCE

16-19 NOV 2025 | HOTEL GRAND CHANCELLOR, HOBART, TASMANIA & ONLINE

Dear Colleagues,

On behalf of the Board of Directors and Scientific Conference Organising Committee, it gives us great pleasure to invite you to attend the 2025 ACIPC International Conference.

Sunday 16 - Wednesday 19 November 2025

Hotel Grand Chancellor, Hobart, Tasmania and Online

The conference theme is “The Circles of Influence: Evidence-based practice and practice-based evidence”.

By attending the conference, you will learn from national and international experts, network with likeminded professionals, and meet with Australasia’s largest collection of IPC industry suppliers. We encourage delegates travelling to Hobart to extend their trip either side of the conference so you can visit the many wonderful sights and attractions the city and Tasmania has to offer.

More information regarding the conference including invited speakers, social events, and engagement initiatives will be released via the conference website as planning proceeds. So, save 16 - 19 November in your calendar now and we look forward to seeing you at the conference.

Stéphane Bouchoucha

President, Australasian College for Infection Prevention and Control

Fiona Wilson

Chair, Scientific Conference Organising Committee

CALL FOR ABSTRACTS

We invite you to present your research, innovative practices and programs, to an engaged audience of Infection Prevention and Control professionals. You can nominate to present your work as an oral presentation, a poster, or a lightning talk.

This year, authors will need to nominate on of the following two types of abstract when submitting:

- Practice and Policy - abstracts submitted under practice/policy must have a clear problem/issue identified, what was done to rectify the problem/issue, the results, conclusions, and lessons learnt.
- Research - abstracts submitted under research must use the Introduction, Methods, Results and Conclusion format.

Presentation formats are:

- Oral presentations
- Lightning talks
- Posters

Want to know more about how to submit an abstract? We have abstract templates and a handy step-by-step video guide to help you.

To view all of the information about abstract submission, visit the conference website [here](#)

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Committee Restructure

During 2024 and in 2025 the ACIPC Board revised the committee structure

The ACIPC Board released the Strategic and Implementation plan in 2023 at the AGM. Within the endorsed Strategic Plan, 'Governance' is a Key Strategic Opportunity:

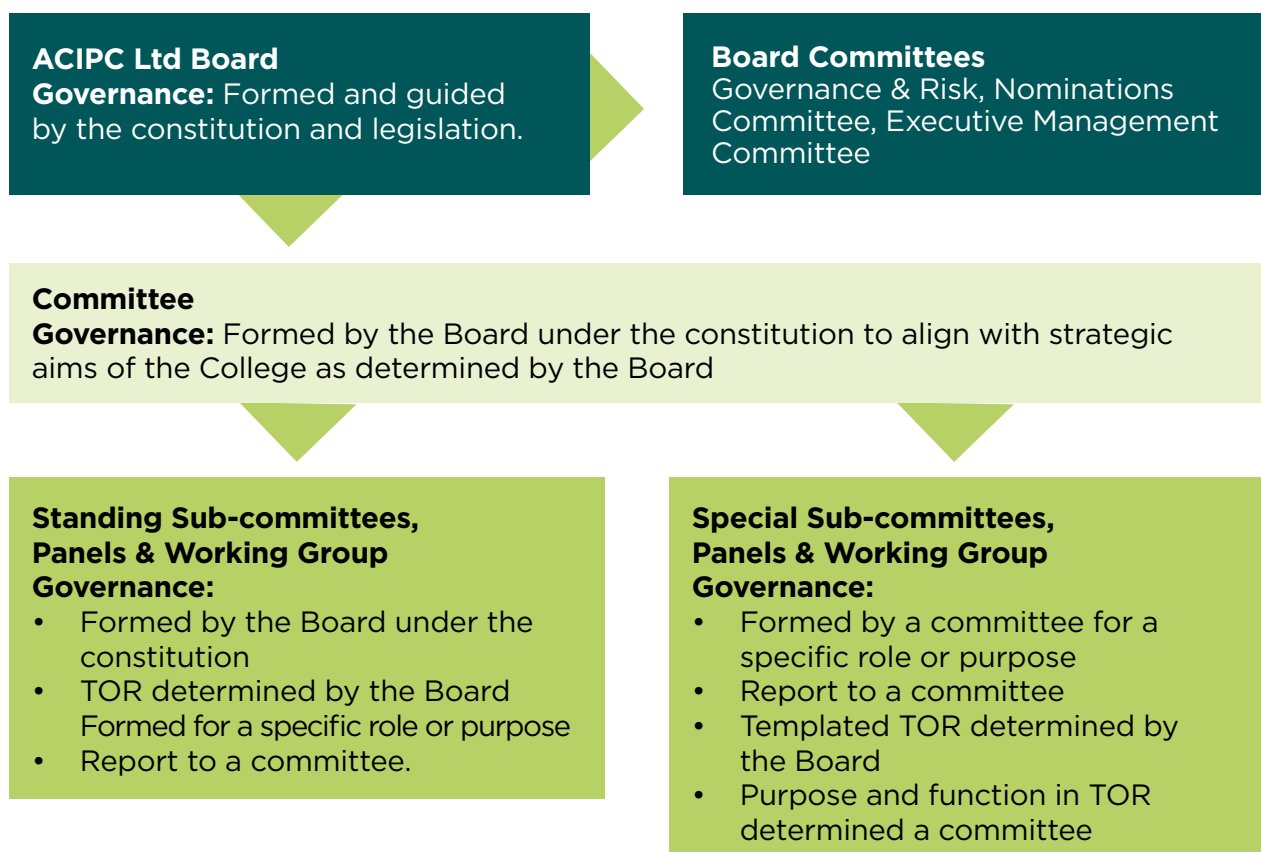
- Ongoing contemporary governance of ACIPC ensures the long-term sustainability and effectiveness of the organisation.
- Good governance promotes a healthy organisational culture and gives our members confidence that our organisation is meeting its legal and charitable obligations (Page 6).
- The Board oversees the appointment of our technical and working committees to support the College, Members, and IPC Outcomes.

The Key Result Area 1 listed is Governance 1.3 REVIEW THE COMMITTEE SYSTEM to ensure the committee structure aligns with the strategic mission and vision of the College.

The Board held a facilitated face-to-face Board workshop in November 2024 and the revised structure was finalised at the Board's face-to-face meeting in February 2025. Following the Board's endorsement of the new structure, two committee update sessions were scheduled (Monday 3 and Wednesday 5 March 2025) and a member update session was held on Friday, 7 March 2025. The revised committee structure will commence from 1 April 2025.

GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE

The Board endorsed the following governance structure:



COMMITTEE STRUCTURE

The Board endorsed the following committee structure:

ACIPC Ltd Board

Governance: Formed and guided by the constitution and legislation.

Board Committees

Governance & Risk, Nominations Committee, Executive Management Committee

Representation & Advocacy Committee

Key functions:

- IPC in the Pacific
- New Zealand
- Media Engagement
- Partner Engagement
- Diversity in IPC
- Consumers
- GOARN

Advancing IPC Practice & Standards Committee

Key functions:

- Identify position statements, guidelines and toolkits for development.
- Review and updating statements, guidelines and toolkits.
- External review requests
- Aged Care CoP

Developing the Profession Committee

Key functions:

- Priorities for education and PD
- Review and maintain courses
- Webinars and online education
- Professional Standards in IPC
- Professional recognition across healthcare, research, aged care, and one health settings and across AUS/NZ/Pacific
- Credentialling
- Fellowships

Membership Engagement Committee

Key functions:

- ACIP Awards
- Mentoring
- IPC Days
- Supporting IPC Comms
- Support members
- SIGs

IPC Research & Science Committee

Key functions:

- ACIPC Grants
- Targeted Calls for Research
- Research Access Scheme
- In-kind Support for Research Proposals
- ACIPC Scholarships
- Scientific Conference Program - International Speakers, Abstracts Review Process, Invited Speaker Review
- ACIPC International
- Conference Planning Committee
- IDH Representative

READ MORE
ABOUT THE
RESTRUCTURE
HERE

Blood Borne Virus

TESTING COURSE



The course has been designed for healthcare practitioners involved in undertaking testing in all healthcare settings including midwifery, acute care, community health, women's health, correctional health, rural and remote health, refugee health, sexual health, and infection prevention and control practitioners.

DURING THE COURSE YOU WILL LEARN ABOUT:

- ✓ Epidemiology, transmission, management options and prevention of HIV, hepatitis B and hepatitis C
- ✓ Different tests available to correctly diagnose, testing intervals post exposure and window periods for testing
- ✓ Post incident pre- and post-test discussion for both the recipient and the source following the incident
- ✓ The personal impact and medical consequences of HIV, hepatitis B and hepatitis C
- ✓ Conducting a risk assessment for HIV, hepatitis B and hepatitis C
- ✓ Strategies and resources for effective health promotion and prevention education
- ✓ Basic counselling skills including listening, questioning, reflecting and summarising

COST: \$350

Course updated in response to new guidelines, epidemiology data, and emerging evidence.

BOOK NOW
FOR COURSES
COMMENCING
IN 2025

LIMITED SPACES LEFT

If you have any questions,
please email learning@acipc.org.au
or go to our website for more
information acipc.org.au



**MORE
INFORMATION**

INFECTION PREVENTION AND CONTROL IN AGED CARE SETTINGS

WHAT IS THE COURSE FOR?

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 in particular Residential and Community Aged Care settings. This course is for all aged care staff, including (but not limited to) RNs and EN/EENs supporting aged care IPC clinical leads, and facility managers needing up-to-date best-practice IPC knowledge and skills.

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.

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

COST: \$500



If you have any questions,
please email learning@acipc.org.au
or go to our website for more
information [acipc.org.au](https://www.acipc.org.au)



**MORE
INFORMATION**

Veterinary Foundations of Infection Prevention and Control



COURSE COMMENCING IN 2025

We are pleased to announce that in 2025 we will once again be offering – Veterinary Foundations of Infection Prevention and Control (VFIPC).

This groundbreaking course is designed for all veterinary staff worldwide and aims to provide students with a broad understanding and introductory skills to enable them to assess, plan, implement and evaluate infection prevention and control activities within their veterinary workplace.

With 11 self-paced modules running over approximately six months, VFIPC allows participants to apply knowledge to their own practice, and is a key component to achieving the ACIPC Primary Credential (CICP-P).

The program has been designed to accommodate busy work schedules, with a series of self-directed learning units supported by a structured online curriculum.

Topics include:

- environmental hygiene
- outbreak management
- employee health
- surveillance
- epidemiology and microbiology

This course reflects recent evidence, guidelines and standards.

Cost

- \$1520 for ACIPC members
- \$1820 for non-members

**BOOK NOW
TO SECURE
YOUR PLACE
IN 2025**

If you have any questions,
please email learning@acipc.org.au
or go to our website for more
information acipc.org.au



**APPLY
HERE**

Foundations of Infection Prevention and Control INTERNATIONAL

AFTER SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETING THIS COURSE STUDENTS WILL BE ABLE TO:

- ✓ Comprehensively understand the role of the infection prevention and control practitioner and apply this learning in their setting;
- ✓ Understand the application of clinical indicators to IPC practice and apply this knowledge through audit and surveillance activities.
- ✓ Develop and design an infection prevention and control program and a site-specific infection management plan relevant to their setting using a clinical governance framework;
- ✓ Understand the rationale for and apply standard and transmission-based precautions in their setting;
- ✓ Evaluate, review and develop site-specific tools and strategies to aid compliance with evidence-based infection control practice, policies, and guidelines;
- ✓ Critique and apply site-appropriate strategies to support clinician-driven change in organisational behaviour;
- ✓ Initiate and communicate effectively within the interdisciplinary team in the management of infection prevention and control

**REGISTER
NOW FOR
NEW COURSE
MID-2025**

COST: \$1300 AUD

***Includes a free ACIPC
Education Membership!***



ACIPC

Australasian College
for Infection Prevention and Control

If you have any questions, please email
learning@acipc.org.au or go to our website
for more information **acipc.org.au**

Credentiailling

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

Advanced credentiailling: Mark Rigby

Advanced re-credentiailling: Yana Albrey, Kylie Robb

Expert credentiailling: Ismail Bin Sazali, Ivy Gabatan

For information on how you can become credentiailled, [visit the ACIPC website](#).

FOR MORE
INFORMATION
CLICK HERE

Fellowship

Congratulations

to Ann Whitfield, who has been appointed a Fellow of ACIPC.

Fellowship of the Australasian College for Infection Prevention and Control is a prestigious member status awarded to Infection Prevention and Control Professionals (ICPs) in recognition of significant professional achievement. Fellowship recognises the experience, contribution and standing of these members to the College and the profession.



FIND OUT
MORE ABOUT
FELLOWSHIP
HERE



FOR MORE
INFORMATION
ABOUT THE AWARD,
ELIGIBILITY AND
HOW TO APPLY,
[CLICK HERE](#)

Dr Joan Faoagali Award

Interested in completing the Foundations of Infection Prevention and Control course? You could have your course fee reimbursed.

Dr Joan Faoagali made a significant contribution to the education of members of the College over many years with her involvement in both State and National Infection Prevention and Control activities. Joan showed great resilience, tremendous vision, and was a true leader inspiring all those whose lives she touched – working towards achieving something greater than themselves. Joan's passion and influence was key to the development of the ACIPC Foundations of Infection Prevention and Control Course. Joan, whilst battling her cancer made time to write and develop modules for the initial ACIPC Foundations of Infection Prevention and Control course. Joan was well known in the Australian Infection Prevention and Control community. Joan was particularly interested in the education of clinicians, the prudent use of antibiotics, Infection Prevention and Control and the intelligent use of pathology services. Joan was a passionate teacher and service development advocate in both high-level referral centres in Australia and New Zealand and in developing countries including our Pacific neighbours. After initially qualifying in Microbiology in Dunedin, Joan was Director of Microbiology at Christchurch Hospital in New Zealand and then the Royal Brisbane and Princess Alexandra Hospitals in Queensland. She held multiple adjunct academic appointments, including Griffith University, University of Queensland and Queensland University of Technology. She will be remembered as a warm generous leader and mentor of students and senior colleagues alike. The Dr Joan Faoagali Award recognises the significant and valuable contribution Joan made to Infection Prevention and Control Professionals and especially members of ACIPC. The Dr Joan Faoagali Award allows Infection Prevention and Control Professionals to engage in ongoing learning through participation in the ACIPC Foundations of Infection Prevention and Control course.

Please include with your application:

- A brief statement (no more than 500 words) describing the importance of completing the ACIPC Foundations of Infection Prevention and Control Course
- A current brief curriculum vitae highlighting Infection Prevention and Control involvement

**Application open on 3 April and close at 9AM AEST Monday 5 May 2025.
Please note you need to be a member of ACIPC to apply for this scholarship.**

2025 Mentoring Program closing soon

Applications for the 2025 ACIPC Mentoring Program close on 4 April 2025.

The program aims to contribute to the future of the IPC profession by pairing mentees with suitable mentors across all fields in a professional relationship of growth and development.

The benefits of mentoring:

- Take your personal and professional development to new levels
- Reflect on personal challenges and achievements
- Help others and contribute to the future of the industry/profession
- Develop your mentoring and leadership skills

TO REGISTER
AS A MENTOR
OR MENTEE
CLICK HERE

There is no fee to participate as a member of ACIPC.

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Validating sporicidal
efficacy of ultrasound probe
high-level disinfection
devices in clinical settings.



Presented by David Bellamy,
Vice President of the World
Federation for Hospital
Sterilisation Sciences (WFHSS)
and a Central Sterile Supply
Department Manager at St
George Hospital in Sydney.

REGISTER TO WATCH ►

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WORLD HAND HYGIENE DAY

5 MAY 2025

It might be gloves. It's always hand hygiene.

World Hand Hygiene Day will be celebrated on 5 May 2025. This year's theme is: It might be gloves. It's always hand hygiene.

We have some great new resources coming for you to use in your workplace or organisation to help share the knowledge about the importance of hand hygiene.

Our Hand Hygiene resources will be available on our website on Friday 4 April 2025 so check back with us soon, and don't forget to follow us on Facebook, Bluesky, X, LinkedIn and Instagram.

RESOURCES
COMING
SOON!



Request for Offer (RFO)

Evaluation of Foundations of Infection Prevention and Control (FIPC) course

ACIPC is seeking to engage a suitably qualified organisation to undertake a review of its flagship education course, the Foundations of Infection Prevention and Control (FIPC). The course was designed to provide foundational knowledge in Infection Prevention and Control and outbreak management to healthcare workers in various settings.

The College is committed to continuous improvement, compliance with regulatory standards, and alignment of our education offerings with strategic priorities. This evaluation aims to determine if the course is effectively equipping students with the necessary IPC knowledge to implement safe IPC practices in their workplaces. It will also examine course content, delivery and assessments to ensure the needs of external stakeholders are being met and will identify potential areas for improvement.

Due Date:

Offers will be accepted until 6 p.m. (AEST) on Monday 14 April 2025.

For full details about lodging an offer and to view the RFO document, please click the link [here](#)

Request for Offer (RFO)

Evaluation of Education and Professional Development Offerings

ACIPC provides an evidence-based education and professional development programme to advance Infection Prevention and Control practices across Australasia. By collaborating with Infection Prevention and Control experts to develop educational activities, ACIPC ensures that practitioners have access to the most relevant and effective training. This approach not only enhances the skills and knowledge of individual professionals but also contributes to reducing the overall burden of infection in healthcare settings and the broader community.

The aim of the request for offer is to undertake a scoping study of the education and training needs of members while evaluating the ACIPC education and professional development programme regarding meeting the needs of stakeholders, and providing value to ACIPC members, with a view to identifying opportunities to strengthen offerings and provide improved value for members.

This RFO is important to ensure that ACIPC is providing its members with industry leading and innovative opportunities to develop professionally and keep abreast of changes in Infection Prevention and Control practices thereby contributing to an IPC workforce that is up to date in relation to knowledge and practice.

Due Date:

Offers will be accepted until 6 p.m. (AEST) on Monday 14 April 2025.

For full details about lodging an offer and to view the RFO document, please click the link [here](#)

Terminology on pathogens that transmit through the air

ACIPC has released a new position statement – Terminology for pathogens that transmit through the air.

Inconsistencies in key terms has resulted in confusion of the use and understanding of transmission pathways. Standardising terminology as knowledge evolves is important for effective communication across all aspects of health.

ACIPC recommends:

Terminology for pathogens that transmit through the air is standardised including;

- Introduction of the term “infectious respiratory particles” (IRPs) to describe respiratory particles containing pathogens that travel through the air.
- Recognition of the spectrum of IRP particle sizes and moving away from using aerosols and droplets to define IRP size.
- The use of “transmission through the air” as the overarching term to describe the movement of IRPs, with subcategories of “airborne/inhalation” and “direct deposition”.
- The term “particulate filter respirators” (PFR) is used to replace P2/N95 respirators to provide consistency.

The Position Statement considers current terminology and provides further recommendations for standardising terminology used to describe PPE, and to describe procedures and behaviours that can increase the release of IRPs and form part of the risk assessment for PPE use.

Read the full position statement by clicking the link [here](#)

To view all of ACIPC’s Positions Statement, follow the link [here](#)

ACIPC Aged Care IPC Webinar

IDC management and research project

16 APRIL 2025
2PM AEST



ACIPC
Australian College
for Infection Prevention and Control

with Carrie Spinks & guest speakers
Joan Ostaszkiewicz & Elizabeth Watt



Topic: The NARI IDC-IMPROVE project

Presenter: Carrie Spinks

Guest speaker: Professor Joan Ostaszkiewicz & Elizabeth Watt,
National Ageing Research Institute

**CLICK
HERE TO
REGISTER**

In 2022-2023, 8.4% of people receiving government subsidised residential aged care in Australia required some form of catheter care. Although clinically beneficial for some people, indwelling urinary catheters increase the risk of infection, antimicrobial resistance, catheter blockage, delirium, bacteremia, admission to hospital, longer hospital stays, higher care costs, and mortality. There are inconsistent approaches to catheter care in Australia's aged care homes, with many employees feeling unprepared and disempowered to provide routine catheter care and to prevent or manage complications.

Addressing this problem, nurse researchers from the National Ageing Research Institute designed a Catheter Care Bundle to assist aged care providers and clinical staff implement an effective, data driven quality assurance and performance improvement program about catheter care that improves the care and lives of people with indwelling urinary catheters who use their services. This presentation describes the bundle and the process being undertaken to ensure they are feasible and fit-for-purpose.

Our guest speakers will be Professor Joan Ostaszkiewicz & Elizabeth Watt from the National Ageing Research Institute. Professor Ostaszkiewicz is a Program Manager at the National Ageing Research Institute, an Honorary Associate Professor in the Faculty of Medicine, Dentistry and Health Sciences at the University of Melbourne, Adjunct Professor of Health and Innovation Transformation Centre at Federation University and Visiting Professor at the Geller Institute for Ageing and Memory at the University of West London. As a Registered Nurse and an academic, Joan's research expertise is the prevention and management of incontinence in frail older people. She leads a program of research on continence care and catheter care in residential aged care homes.

Ms Elizabeth Watt is a Senior Research Fellow at the National Ageing Research Institute (NARI). Liz is a Registered Nurse with over 30-years of experience as an academic, teaching in undergraduate and postgraduate nursing courses. She has a special clinical interest in the care of people with bladder and bowel problems. Liz is a Fellow of the Australian College of Nursing, and a member of the Continence Nurses Society Australia and Australian and New Zealand Urological Nurses Society.

To register, please click the link [here](#)

Missed an Aged Care webinar?
You can watch recordings of the entire series [here](#)

Hall & Wilcox Aged Care Standards Webinar

Join Hall & Wilcox and Pride Aged Living for their upcoming webinar, Meeting the New Aged Care Quality and Safety Standards – legal, operational and clinical aspects

An expert panel will share practical insights to help you prepare effectively for the upcoming reforms that take effect on 1 July 2025. Join others in the industry and ensure your organisation is equipped to navigate an increasingly complex set of circumstances facing the aged care sector.

Date: Thursday 3 April

Time: 12.30 – 1.30PM AEDT

Venue: Online via Zoom

This is a valuable opportunity to gain clarity on the new legislation and learn actionable steps to take now for a smooth transition.

TO FIND OUT
MORE AND TO
REGISTER
CLICK HERE

IPC Tour



ACIPC and GAMA Healthcare invite you to the Infection Prevention & Control Tour.

National and international insights include:

- Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) in Broader Healthcare Settings
- CLEEN Study: Cost-Effectiveness Insights and Clinical Implications
- Aged Care Standards: What They Mean for Your Facility
- The Hidden Threats of Pathogens and Biofilms:
A Call for Enhanced Decontamination

An opportunity to discuss local challenges is provided while networking with peers.

Brisbane



Wednesday 7th May 2025



Royal Brisbane & Women's Hospital

Melbourne



Friday 9th May 2025



Rendezvous Hotel

Sydney



Monday 12th May 2025



Novotel Sydney Olympic Park

Launceston



Wednesday 14th May 2025



The Tramsheds

Adelaide



Friday 16th May 2025



Rydges Adelaide

Perth



Monday 19th May 2025



Bentley Technology Park

Registration:



gamahealthcareau.eventbrite.com

Keynote speakers:



Martin Kiernan



Brett Mitchell

ACIPC endorses ethical decision-making framework

The ACIPC Board has formally endorsed the *Ethical Infection Prevention and Control (EIPAC) Decision-Making Framework*, a resource released in 2024 by the Association for Professionals in Infection Control and Epidemiology (APIC) and Infection Prevention and Control Canada (IPAC Canada) to help healthcare professionals with ethical issues and complex decisions that arise in IPC.

The new framework offers a step-by-step approach to navigating challenging situations and includes a range of scenarios to demonstrate how the framework can be applied in practice.

The EIPAC Decision-Making Framework is designed to support IPC teams in addressing complex issues, particularly when there is uncertainty about the best course of action. It is especially useful in situations involving value conflicts, moral tensions, or when available options may carry a risk of harm to patients, residents, visitors, or staff.

Developed by Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre in collaboration with healthcare partners across North Toronto, the EIPAC framework is an adaptation of an ethical model originally created by the Community Ethics Network and later expanded through the work of the University of Toronto Joint Centre for Bioethics and Trillium Health Partners.

The framework includes a set of hypothetical ethical framework scenarios across a range of settings, and applies a step-by-step process by which the scenario might be worked through. The process takes into account facts, values and principles at stake, options to consider, actions, and process conditions such as publicity, relevance, and revisions and appeals, should new information be identified.

The framework also identifies two key values and four key principles.

The two key values are:

- TRUST
- FAIRNESS (equality and justice)

The four key principles are:

- Demonstrating respect
- Promoting well-being
- Minimising harm
- Working together

The framework also includes a handy decision-making worksheet.

VIEW AND DOWNLOAD THE

*Ethical Infection
Prevention and
Control (EIPAC)
Decision-Making
Framework*

April Lunch & Learn Webinar



Title: The Trachoma Program in Queensland

Presenter: Wendy Morotti

Date: Tuesday 29 April, 12:00PM AEST

**CLICK
HERE TO
REGISTER**

Abstract:

Trachoma is an eye disease caused by particular strains of *Chlamydia trachomatis*. It is the leading cause of infectious, preventable blindness worldwide and Australia is the only high income country where pockets of disease are at endemic levels. The disease disproportionately affects First Nations communities in rural and remote locations where lack of well maintained health hardware, sustainable water and sanitation services and waste disposal remains a challenge. Repeated infections during childhood can lead to trachomatous conjunctival scarring and, in some individuals lead to trachomatous trichiasis, which if left untreated can lead to irreversible blindness.

Australia is a signatory to the WHO global elimination of trachoma strategy, it is based on 4 pillars, surgery for trichiasis, antibiotics for active infection, facial cleanliness and environmental activities.

Queensland Health has delivered a dedicated trachoma program with community stakeholders in previously at-risk communities since 2015. Using a combination of extended clinical assessment, performed by an ophthalmologist, and laboratory techniques, swabs to identify *C. trachomatis* via PCR as well as serosurveys to examine past exposure, Queensland Health has been able to cease active screening in the elimination phase of this program. The program continues to support facial cleanliness and environmental activities as well as provide support to other jurisdictions that are looking to better understand the epidemiology of trachoma in their populations.

About the presenter:

Wendy is Clinical Nurse Consultant Research – Trachoma Screening Nurse Coordinator at Communicable Disease Branch, Queensland Health. She has a background in public health nursing and public health information services, addiction and mental health services, and has worked for the United Nations World Food Programme as a Public Health Advisor on Avian and Human Influenza and as Health and Safety Programme Advisor.

Wendy holds a Diploma of Applied Science Nursing and a Bachelor of Science degree from Queensland University of Technology, a Master of Science with Distinction in Health Information Science from the University of Warwick, and has post-graduate qualifications from Griffith University and from the Catholic University of Louvain, Belgium.



FOR MORE
INFO & TO
DOWNLOAD
[CLICK HERE](#)

ACSQHC reprocessing gap analysis tool

The Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care has developed a gap analysis tool to support organisations in assessing compliance with the standard AS5369:2023 Reprocessing reusable medical devices.

This tool is designed to help organisations identify areas where they may not comply or need to improve practice and develop strategies for monitoring compliance and quality of reprocessing procedures.

Health service providers are required to complete a gap analysis of compliance with AS5369 by June 30th 2025.

BUG OF THE MONTH

Burkholderia pseudomallei

Karen McKenna



What is it?

Melioidosis is a disease of humans and animals that is caused by the bacterium *Burkholderia pseudomallei*, a small gram negative aerobic bacillus^{1,2}. While *Burkholderia pseudomallei* is found around the world in warm and humid environments, it is most frequently found in Southeast Asia and northern Australia, including the Top End in the Northern Territory, North Queensland, and the Kimberley region of Western Australia³. The bacteria is found in soil and water and cases of Melioidosis can occur during the wet season (October to April) and after heavy rain and flooding^{4,5}.

Queensland is currently experiencing an unprecedented melioidosis outbreak, with 125 confirmed cases and 20 deaths reported since the start of the wet season⁶.

Key *Burkholderia* Species

Symptoms of melioidosis include fever, cough, and pneumonia, which is the most common clinical presentation and can range from a mild respiratory illness to severe pneumonia^{2,4}. Melioidosis is rare in people who are healthy, and most people exposed to the bacteria do not get sick⁴. However, if not treated quickly people can develop severe illness including sepsis, non-healing skin ulcers and death⁴.

Symptoms usually start between 1-21 days after infection, and can last for 2 or more months^{1,4}.

How is it transmitted?

Burkholderia pseudomallei is found in the soil and emerges as a health concern during the wet season when bacteria in muddy waters surfaces following heavy rainfall or floods⁴. The bacteria can enter the body through breaks in the skin (cuts, abrasions or open sores), inhalation of contaminated particles, and ingestion of contaminated water⁴. While both humans and animals can get melioidosis, the bacteria do not spread from people or animals, and in healthcare settings standard precautions is required⁴.



At risk groups?

Melioidosis can occur in people of all ages, although cases are most common in adults aged between 40 – 60 years⁷. At-risk populations include people living with chronic health conditions, including diabetes, cancer, chronic lung or kidney disease, the immunocompromised and people with high alcohol intake^{1,4,5}.

Prevention

General prevention measures can be taken to prevent melioidosis infection, including; avoiding contact with soil or muddy water after periods of heavy rain, using rubber gloves or waterproof footwear while working or gardening outdoors and covering open wounds to prevent contact with contaminated water or soil⁴.

There is no vaccination available to prevent melioidosis infection.

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WA SIG meeting

Western Australian ICPs are warmly invited to attend the WA SIG meeting on Thursday, 3 April from 7:00 – 8:45AM.

Location: Grace Vaughn House, Stubbs Terrace, Shenton Park and online via Zoom. A light breakfast will be served between 07:00 and 07:30.

Topic: Influence and change management

Speaker: Greg Bayne from TLC Solutions

- Understanding different influencing strategies
- How to effect change in your area

Western
Australia

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Paediatric SIG meeting

Join us for the April ACIPC Paediatric Special Interest Group meeting!

Topic: Paediatric Respiratory Infections

We warmly invite you to join us for the second Paediatric SIG meeting of 2025 which will be held at 2pm on Tuesday, April 22nd via Zoom. This meeting will focus on the topic of “Paediatric Respiratory Infections” with the aim to support preparation and response to the 2025 respiratory season.

A background to paediatric respiratory infection epidemiology, impact and prevention will be presented, followed by a snapshot of local epidemiology, context and practice from Paediatric SIG representatives from around the country.

We will then have an open forum for questions and discussion on the topic and we ask you to consider:

- What is your local policy and practice for respiratory Infection Prevention and Control?
- What challenges do you face in the context of your setting?
- What solutions or opportunities for improvement are there?

Paediatric



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We also welcome you to raise any other paediatric related issues for discussion.

Contact SIG Convenor: Claire Nayda, Clinical Nurse Consultant of Infection Prevention and Control, Children's Hospital at Westmead, Sydney NSW Australia claire.nayda@health.nsw.gov.au

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Infection Control Matters Podcast

nv-HAP surveillance too time-consuming? Semi-automated may be easier than you think

In this episode, Phil and Martin talk to Dr Aline Wolfensberger, Senior Attending Physician, Department of Infectious Diseases and Hospital Epidemiology at University Hospital Zurich and a Senior Researcher at the Institute for Implementation Science in Health Care at the University of Zurich. We discuss a recent paper that has analysed a range of algorithms for detecting non-ventilator associated pneumonia (nvHAP) that have the potential for significantly reducing the surveillance burden. This work also demonstrated the value of an annual local hospital-wide point prevalence survey that provides data on which areas to target.

Relevant reading:

[1] Mueller A, Pfister M, Faes Hesse M, Zingg W, Wolfensberger A, Swissnos G. Development and validation of selection algorithms for a non-ventilator hospital-acquired pneumonia semi-automated surveillance system. Clin Microbiol Infect 2024. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.cmi.2024.11.032>

[2] Wolfensberger A, Scherrer AU, Sax H. Automated surveillance of non-ventilator-associated hospital-acquired pneumonia (nvHAP): a systematic literature review. Antimicrob Resist Infect Control 2024;13(1):30. <https://doi.org/10.1186/s13756-024-01375-8>

[3] Wolfensberger A, Jakob W, Faes Hesse M, Kuster SP, Meier AH, Schreiber PW, et al. Development and validation of a semi-automated surveillance system-lowering the fruit for non-ventilator-associated hospital-acquired pneumonia (nvHAP) prevention. Clin Microbiol Infect 2019;25(11):1428 e7- e13. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.cmi.2019.03.019>



Surveillance for HCAI - What is important, feasible and useful - and what isn't..

In this episode, Brett and Martin chat with Dr. Jessica Schults and Dr. Sally Havers about a recent study published in the American Journal of Infection Control. The study used a modified Delphi process to identify key healthcare infection surveillance priorities in Queensland. Through a two-round methodology, infection prevention experts identified 13 key infection measures for a standardized minimum dataset. This dataset aims to improve statewide HAI surveillance, enhance data consistency, and support targeted infection prevention efforts. The findings offer a model that could inform broader national and international surveillance strategies.

The in-press paper is currently available [here](#) Schults JA, Havers S, Henderson B, Healy S, Runnegar N, Hurst T, et al. Expert consensus and recommendations for Healthcare-Associated Infection surveillance in Queensland, Australia: A modified Delphi study. Am J Infect Control 2025. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ajic.2025.02.012>

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Selected Publications of Interest

Ten sustainable steps infectious diseases professionals can take to mitigate the climate crisis

Greening Infection Prevention and Control: Multifaceted Approaches to a Sustainable Future

Innovative Techniques for Infection Control and Surveillance in Hospital Settings and Long-Term Care Facilities: A Scoping Review

IP LifeLine: Infectious Nature of Gratitude

How Hospital Cleaning Standards Have Evolved Since COVID-19

Analysis of infection prevention and control documentation in residential aged care based on a behaviour specification framework



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