



ACIPC

Australasian College  
for Infection Prevention and Control

# IPC News

**SEPTEMBER 25**



# President's report

A/Prof Stéphane Bouchoucha



## Welcome to the September 2025 edition of IPC News.

A big hello from Brighton in the UK, where I am attending the Infection Prevention Society 2025 conference. A great opportunity to network with international partners, hear the latest research and practice innovations as well as the opportunity to present some Australian research.

IPC Week is just around the corner (19–25 October) and I'm excited to announce that this year we've partnered with the Australasian Society for Infectious Diseases (ASID) to develop a suite of new resources for you to use in your workplace and community. This year's theme — STAND UPP for IPC — calls on us all to Unite, Prevent, Protect, and Prevail. With global events continuing to test health systems and undermine hard-won gains in IPC, there has never been a more urgent time to redouble our efforts. I hope you'll use the resources we've created and take the opportunity to raise awareness, educate, and engage your networks.

Another opportunity to contribute to the future of IPC is by nominating for the ACIPC Board of Directors. Nominations are now open (see page 6) and this year we are also seeking expressions of interest for the role of President-Elect, with Dr Sally Havers stepping into the role of President this November. Serving on the Board is a fantastic way to contribute to the strategic direction of the College and help shape the future of IPC across the region. Nominations close at 9:00 AM AEDT on Monday 13 October — I encourage you to consider putting yourself forward.

Make sure you pencil in your diary the date for the virtual town hall on Wednesday 15 October at 12:00 PM AEDT, where we'll present the findings from our recent credentialling review. This work, conducted by Nous Group, helps ensure our credentialling framework continues to support and recognise IPC professionals across all settings in a contemporary fashion. You will have received an email with details on how to register — I hope to see many of you there.

We have been continuing our advocacy work in the area of indoor air quality and infection disease transmission. Late August we co-chaired a symposium with the Australian Academy of Science, the Burnet Institute, The university of Melbourne and the Victorian Healthcare Association. The symposium was very well received and an avenue to present the latest science on indoor air quality and get a conversation happening with health leaders.

And finally, a reminder to add your voice to our campaign calling for IPC to be formally included in the design of the new Australian Centre for Disease Control. You can take part in just a few clicks by visiting our campaign page and generating a letter to your local MP. Thank you to everyone who has supported the campaign so far — your voice matters, and together we can ensure IPC remains central to public health policy. We have submitted amendments to the Senate for the proposed legislation.

Until next month,

*Stéphane Bouchoucha*





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# IPC in the Australian CDC

***Join 300+ IPC voices - add yours today!***

***Your voice can shape the future of IPC in Australia***

## ACIPC EMAIL CAMPAIGN

The Australian Government is progressing plans for a new **Australian Centre for Disease Control (CDC)**. This presents a unique opportunity to strengthen our nation's ability to prevent and respond to infectious diseases.

The Australian College of Infection Prevention and Control (ACIPC) is calling for formal representation of infection prevention and control (IPC) within the CDC.

### **We request your support in advocating for the integration of IPC expertise in the Australian CDC to:**

- Prepare for and respond to future pandemics with expert IPC guidance
- Develop a coordinated, national IPC infrastructure across jurisdictions
- Standardise IPC practices across healthcare and community settings
- Strengthen IPC collaboration and capacity in our region, particularly in the Pacific
- Establish a national surveillance program for healthcare-associated infections
- Support long-term investment in IPC research, education, and surveillance.

### ***We need your voice to make this happen.***

We have prepared an online campaign to email your local MP, urging them to support our advocacy. It's quick and easy, just enter your address, and our tool will find your local MP, populate the letter, and send it with one click.

Numbers matter – decision-makers pay attention when constituents speak up. By sending this, you are helping to protect the health of our communities and strengthen Australia's capacity to respond to infectious disease threats.

Thank you for taking the time to support this vital advocacy effort. Please share this message with your colleagues – the more voices we have, the stronger our impact.

***Together, we can ensure IPC is recognised as essential to Australia's public health future.***

## Credentialling

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

**Primary Credentialling:** Leigh Heine

**Expert re-credentialling:** Ruth Barratt

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

FOR MORE  
INFORMATION  
**CLICK HERE**

## Credentialling Review Town Hall

Earlier this year, we engaged the Nous Group to undertake an external, independent review of our credentialling program. Nous has provided a set of findings and recommendations for the Board to consider, and we will hold a virtual town hall on Wednesday 15 October at 12:00PM AEDT, where we will present the high-level findings and immediate actions to all our members.

There will also be an opportunity for a Q&A. An email will be sent to members with a link to register for the session. We are excited to continue working with you to ensure ACIPC's credentialling program is sustainable and aligned with our strategic direction, mission, vision and values.

# Advancing IPC Practice & Standards Committee



We've had a great response to our call for members to support the Advancing IPC Practice and Standards Committee, but there's still room for more! Why not join your fellow ACIPC members and add your expertise to the group?

The Advancing IPC Practice and Standards Committee provides leadership in the development, review and promotion of evidence-based IPC standards, guidelines and resources to support ACIPC members.

**We are seeking input from members who have an interest, experience, or expertise in any of the following fields:**

- Acute hospital settings
- Aged care settings
- Community settings
- Construction and renovation, including refurbishment, air quality and mould
- Endoscopy services
- First Nations communities
- Home care
- New Zealand
- Pacific Islands
- Personal Protective Equipment
- Remote, rural and regional areas
- Renal services
- Reprocessing reusable medical devices
- Veterinary practice
- Other

Working groups will be established for short-term periods to support the review and development of resources, guidelines and tools in a subject area. For example, a working group may review a document from an external organisation or assist in developing a guideline to be published by ACIPC. Once established, the working group will meet via Teams, usually monthly. Participation is as a volunteer.

Participating in a working group is a great way to contribute to the College and can lead to representation on ACIPC committees. Membership offers you an opportunity to network with colleagues, support and create resources for your peers, and learn more about ACIPC. The working groups aim to be representative of our diverse membership that reflects the various settings in which our members work.

Members should have received an email containing a form to register their interest. If you did not receive this email, please contact the office.

**Janine Carrucan**

Chair Advancing IPC Practice and Standards Committee

**[office@acipc.org.au](mailto:office@acipc.org.au) | 03 6281 9239**

## ACIPC INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE 2025

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

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

**DON'T  
MISS OUT!**

DISCOUNTED  
EARLY  
REGISTRATION  
EXTENDED TO  
8 OCT 2025

**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.**

By attending the conference, you will learn from national and international experts, network with like-minded 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.

An early registration discounted fee will be offered and will be available until the 8th of October 2025.

Find out more about registration [here](#)



### PRELIMINARY PROGRAM

The preliminary program for the 2025 ACIPC International Conference is now available.

We're excited to announce the launch of the 2025 ACIPC Conference Program – and you're invited to join us in Hobart, 16–19 November for four days of connection, innovation, and professional growth.

This year's theme, Circles of Influence: Evidence-Based Practice and Practice-Based Evidence, celebrates the dynamic relationship between research and real-world application in infection prevention and control.

With a powerful line up of local and international speakers, you'll hear from leaders who are challenging norms, advancing research, and applying evidence in real-world practice.

**Get ready for an engaging, wide-reaching program featuring:**

- **Renowned international and national speakers**
- **Cutting-edge research and clinical insights**
- **Practical tools to improve IPC in your setting**
- **Workshops, panels, networking, and more**

**CLICK HERE  
FOR THE  
PRELIMINARY  
PROGRAM**

### INVITED SPEAKERS

#### **Alison McMillan**



With more than 40 years of experience as a Registered Nurse, Alison offers strategic policy advice to Ministers, the executive and staff within the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing and other government departments on matters related to nursing, midwifery, health system reform, workforce regulation, and education. Alison is passionate about realising the value of nursing and midwifery to ensure all Australians continue to access high quality health and aged care. She continues to champion health care equity especially access to sexual and reproductive health for women.

Alison is a member of the Australian Health Protection Committee (AHPC) and several other committees. In her role, she advises the Australian Government on the contributions of the nursing and midwifery professions in achieving evidence-based, safe, high-quality, and compassionate health and aged care outcomes for the Australian community.



## Jeff Ayton

*Chief Medical Officer of the Australian Antarctic Division and leads Human Biology Medicine and Research for Australia's Antarctic Program (AAP)*



Jeff is the Chief Medical Officer of the Australian Antarctic Division and leads Human Biology Medicine and Research for Australia's Antarctic Program (AAP). Since 2002, Jeff has been responsible for comprehensive medical, surgical and dental services for the AAP. Jeff is Australian delegate to SCAR COMNAP Joint Expert Group of Human Biology and Medicine. He holds Adjunct Associate Professorship at UTAS College of Health and Medicine.

In 1992 Jeff wintered at Casey station as an Antarctic Medical Practitioner. He has practiced in rural and remote Australia as a GP Obstetrician and Anaesthetist, and is a past President of the Australian College of Rural and Remote Medicine. Jeff is the Founding Director of CARM and current CARM Council Chair.

## Perri Waddell

*FIPC Course Facilitator ACIPC*



Award winning Aged Care nurse, Perri Waddell is a migrant, hospital trained nurse who has called Australia home for the past 22 years. She has committed herself to role modeling aged care as a nursing career pathway. Perri holds a Masters in Clinical Nursing-Gerontology (ECU), Bachelor of Dementia (UTAS) and Post Graduate Certificate in Infection Control (Griffith). Perri is a credentialed IPC- Primary and contracted facilitator for ACIPC's FIPC course and has facilitated over 700 students through the FIPC course. Perri is a Clinical Aged Care Manager in residential care in

a very remote desert community in Western Australia. Perri recognises the challenges aged care IPC leads face when driving best practice from the front line, especially when supporting people living with dementia.

## Hayley Ryan

*Director - Woundrescue*



Hayley Ryan is an award-winning Clinical Nurse Consultant with over 20 years of experience, specialising in wound care. She is the founder of WoundRescue, delivering advanced wound management across Australia and New Zealand. Holding an MBA, multiple postgraduate qualifications, and currently pursuing a PhD, Hayley is also an Adjunct Fellow at UTS. A sought-after national and international speaker, she contributes to education, research, and policy, including authoring national guidelines in oedema, palliative care, and SCI. Hayley previously chaired the Wounds Australia

Board and is passionate about improving outcomes through innovation, empathy, and evidence-based care.

## ACIPC INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE 2025

### CONFERENCE AWARDS NOW OPEN

The ACIPC 2025 Conference awards are now open. These awards recognise the outstanding contributions of ACIPC members across a range of areas.

#### **ACIPC Impact Award**

The ACIPC Impact award is given to an individual or team that has demonstrated significant impact in the field of IPC that contributes to measurably preventing infections or reducing the risk of infection in the community.

#### **ACIPC Facilitator Award**

The ACIPC facilitator award is given to an ACIPC education facilitator who has demonstrated student engagement, impact, and leadership in education. This award also acknowledges the recipient's contribution to the design and delivery of innovative IPC curricula, which is inclusive and meet the needs of diverse learners.

#### **ACIPC Novice ICP of the Year Award**

The novice ICP of the Year award aims to identify ICPs who are commencing their Infection Prevention and Control journey and encourage them to be the future leaders of the profession.

#### **ACIPC Mentor of the Year Award**

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

The award is open to members of the College who are participating in the Mentoring Program.

#### **ACIPC Lifetime Achievement Award**

The lifetime achievement award is presented to a member of ACIPC who has demonstrated consistent outstanding commitment to the college and the profession of Infection Prevention and Control.

**Closing date:** 9:00 AM AEDT Monday, 13th October

[Click here](#) for more information and to nominate for the 2025 ACIPC Conference Awards

## PARTNER WITH US

Interested in showcasing your solutions and supporting the sector?

**Sponsorship and exhibition opportunities are now available and selling fast** – connect with your audience and position your brand at the forefront of infection prevention and control innovation.

For more about sponsorship and exhibitor opportunities, [click here](#)

### PLATINUM SPONSOR



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### JUICE CART



### BREAKFAST SPONSOR



### DESTINATION SPONSORS





# Meet the SIGS

**Interested in joining one of our Special Interest Groups (SIGs)?**

**Come along and meet SIG representatives during breaks at the ACIPC International Conference in Hobart, Tasmania from 17 – 19 November 2025.**

The friendly faces of the VIC, WA, SA, Paediatric and Sustainability SIGs will be there, along with representatives from our two brand new SIGs – Veterinary, and Rural, Remote and Regional.

Monday 17 Nov	Tuesday 18 Nov	Wednesday 19 Nov
<b>Morning Tea: 1030 - 1100</b>	<b>Morning Tea: 1030-1100</b>	<b>Morning Tea: 1030-1100</b>
SA - Nicole Vause	Veterinary - Angela Willemsen	WA - Kristie Popkiss
	Rural, Remote & Regional - Maggie Di Giacomo	
<b>Lunch: 1220-1320</b>	<b>Lunch: 1220-1340</b>	<b>Lunch: 1220-1320</b>
Paediatric - Claire Nayda		
<b>Afternoon Tea: 1525 - 1600</b>	<b>Afternoon Tea: 1535-1605</b>	
VIC - Donna Cameron	Sustainability - Karen McKenna	

# NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Australasian College for Infection Prevention and Control Ltd (ACIPC)  
ABN 61 154 341 036

Dear Member,

Notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting of the Australasian College for Infection Prevention and Control Ltd will be held on Tuesday 18 November commencing at 5:15 pm (AEDT) at the Hotel Grand Chancellor, Hobart, Tasmania. The meeting will be streamed on Zoom and Members will be sent registration details prior to the meeting.

## **On the website you can read:**

- the agenda
- the minutes of the last Annual General Meeting
- the proxy appointment form

## **[Link to the website here](#)**

## **At the AGM members will have the opportunity to:**

- find out about the College's operations and finances
- ask questions about the College's operations and finances
- speak about any items on the agenda
- vote on any resolutions proposed

## **At the meeting members will be asked to vote on resolutions to:**

- accept the minutes of the last Annual General Meeting
- accept the annual report
- accept the auditor's report and annual financial statements
- appoint an auditor
- Appoint Directors
- Appoint President Elect

## **Appointment of Directors**

Eligible members are invited to nominate for the Board by 9.00AM AEDT on Monday 13 October 2025.

Regards,

Stephane Bouchoucha  
President, ACIPC Ltd



# STAND UPPP FOR INFECTION PREVENTION

UNITE  
PREVENT  
PROTECT  
PREVAIL

**INFECTION PREVENTION & CONTROL WEEK**  
**19-25 OCTOBER 2025**

**RESOURCES  
NOW  
AVAILABLE!**

**IPC Week is celebrated each October and aims to shine a light on infection prevention and control, and the crucial role IPC professionals play in keeping communities safe and healthy.**

This year's theme is STAND UPPP for IPC and calls for us to Unite. Prevent. Protect. Prevail.

ACIPC has some great resources to help you and your team celebrate IPC Week, including:

- IPC Week posters (A3 and A4 sizes) for you to print out and display
- A fun IPC themed wordfind and quiz to test your IPC knowledge
- A 'Spot the Risk' game to print out and have fun with at your workplace
- An email signature banner, Zoom/Teams backdrops, and Screensaver to download and use
- A 'Wordle a Day' with an IPC theme

We will once again be running our popular photo competition, with the winner receiving a custom-engraved trophy and an ACIPC showbag.

Take a look at our IPC Week webpage [here](#)



# MEMBER PROFILE

## Amanda Ayres

Director | Infection Prevention Control Unit  
Infectious Disease Service  
Loddon Mallee Infection Control Resource Centre



### **Tell me about your career so far and what led you to working in IPC?**

I began in Medical Imaging where I was an Infection Control liaison nurse. In 2008, a 12-month hand hygiene coordinator/ICP role came up with the Infection Prevention and Control Unit. With encouragement from my boss and the mentorship of Jane Hellsten, I took the leap — and that “temporary” job became permanent.

Since then, I’ve held several roles: Regional Hand Hygiene Coordinator with Hand Hygiene Australia, travelling the Loddon Mallee region; IPC and Infectious Diseases at Bendigo Health; and, during COVID, Aged Care Lead for the region, providing everything from remote advice to on-site outbreak support.

I’ve also kept learning — completing a Graduate Diploma and a Masters through Griffith University mid-pandemic. IPC has been the best career decision; even through challenges, I love what I do every day.

### **What do you love most about your job?**

The team. Jane, my mentor, built a strong, supportive group that became even closer during the pandemic when we were the only point of contact for many in crisis. That experience cemented our camaraderie.

Everyone brings unique strengths — IT, data, education, clinical expertise — and as manager I love helping them shine. A typical day starts on the wards at 7am, supporting staff with isolation or microbiology questions, followed by team huddles and project work. It’s never repetitive — there’s always something new.

Beyond Bendigo, I’m part of the Rural Infection Control Practice Group (RICPRAC), which has benchmarked and audited across Victoria for 20+ years. It’s an invaluable network for sharing ideas and maintaining high standards. At the heart of it, I love the mix of teamwork, variety, and the chance to make a difference every day.

### **What are you most passionate about in IPC?**

My team is my biggest passion. When Jane retired as Director in 2023, I stepped into her role and I try to carry on her legacy of prioritising “team fit” — recruiting people who not only have skills but share values and resilience.

I’m also passionate about the bigger picture. I’ve long been interested in One Health and how global mobility and climate change reshape infectious diseases — from Dengue and TB to Avian flu and Mpox. IPC isn’t just hand hygiene; it’s about creative solutions to complex problems. That mix of teamwork, science, and global thinking keeps me energised.

### **What are the main changes you have seen in the field in recent years?**

Rapid diagnostic tests have been a major change. We've trialled multi-RATs in ED, and results now come much faster. Emerging threats like Mpox, Candida auris, and CPOs also keep us alert, especially with patients from overseas and metro hospitals.

Electronic medical records have shifted practice too. Improved data extraction supports projects like PIVC management and auditing VIP scores more accurately. Genomic sequencing is now standard, helping us track resistance patterns and guide AMS work. Together, these advances give us a clearer picture and faster responses.

### **Do you think patients are better informed about their own health since the pandemic?**

Absolutely. Patients are more informed and expect to be partners in their care. We use posters encouraging people to speak up about sore or red PIVCs, empowering them to take part in their treatment. There's also greater openness. If something goes wrong, patients are informed immediately, and their choices respected — even if they decline treatment. Many hospitals now have patient engagement officers and committees ensuring the patient voice is heard.

For IPC, that means making sure people in isolation understand why they're there, and encouraging staff to talk with them, not just stand at the door. Patients cope much better when included and informed — it's about respect, dignity, and giving them some control.

### **What advice would you give to those just starting out in their career?**

Start slow and learn from the team. We buddy new consultants across different areas so they see the breadth of IPC — ward rounds, data, education — before finding their niche.

I recommend studying once settled — whether ACIPC Foundations, a Grad Cert, or Masters. Knowing microorganisms, epidemiology, and guidelines is vital for giving sound IPC advice.

Mentorship is also key. Jane always encouraged leadership growth, and I do the same — exposing team members to executive meetings and decision-making so they're ready to step up.

Finally, embrace unpredictability. Every day is different — one phone call can change everything. Some find that stressful, but I thrive on it. IPC is about creating order out of chaos, and if you enjoy that, you'll love the work.

### **Any interesting hobbies you'd like to share with us?**

I'm a big fan of Barre — a mix of ballet, yoga, and Pilates — and I find it energising. I also enjoy the gym and walking, but barre is my favourite way to unwind.

Outside of that, my husband and I have a wonderful group of friends. We love concerts and weekends away, and we've been lucky to see bands like Fleetwood Mac and the Eagles. Music, movement, and time with friends are what recharge me after a busy week.

# 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 COURSE  
COMMENCING  
24 OCT 2025

*LIMITED SPACES LEFT*

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



**MORE  
INFORMATION**



# ACIPC Aged Care IPC Webinar

Practical ways to set yourself up for success as an IPC professional

15 OCTOBER 2025

2PM AEDT



ACIPC  
Australasian College  
for Infection Prevention and Control

with Carrie Spinks &  
guest speaker Sandra Roodt



**Topic:** Practical ways to set yourself up for success as an IPC professional

**Presenter:** Carrie Spinks

**Guest speaker:** Sandra Roodt,  
National Manager Infection Prevention & Control

**CLICK  
HERE TO  
REGISTER**

Are you new to Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) or considering enhancing your capability in this field? Unsure where to start or how to set yourself up for success? This session is for you. It will provide novice IPC professionals with an overview of professional development opportunities in Australia and practical ways to enhance your standing in the field. Additionally, as IPC programs navigate a constantly evolving healthcare landscape, including pandemics and resource limitations, this presentation will offer strategies to increase your resource capacity while maintaining evidence-based practices.

Our guest speaker will be Sandra Roodt. Sandra is an experienced Infection Prevention and Control Practitioner. Her 15-year experience working in Infection Prevention and Control spans across the Residential Aged Care, Home Care and Acute Healthcare Settings. Sandra is a Credentialed Infection Prevention and Control Practitioner at Expert Level (CIPC-E) and a Fellow of the Australasian College for Infection Prevention and Control (FACIPC). She is currently the National Manager of Infection Prevention and Control for a large provider of acute, residential aged and home care services in Australia. Sandra is passionate about everything Infection Prevention and Control and loves sharing her passion and knowledge with others.

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

# ACIPC 2025/26 Membership Renewal

ACIPC membership is a valuable resource for anyone interested in infection prevention and control. Membership gives you access to the latest IPC news, research, and evidence-based practice, as well as opportunities to share resources and network with your peers.

## Membership benefits include:

- Opportunity to become a Credentialed IPC professional
- A subscription to the College's highly regarded journal, Infection, Disease & Health
- Access to the members-only email discussion forum, Infexion Connexion
- Discounted rates on educational courses
- Discounted registration to the ACIPC Conference in Hobart
- Access to member-only resources and webinars
- Voting rights and eligibility to hold office
- Opportunities to connect with your peers within infection prevention and control

There's never been a better time to be an ACIPC member. The College will be working hard over the next twelve months to advocate and promote IPC across a range of external organisations, both local and international. We appreciate the ongoing support of our members, and aim to support them in turn with the highest quality education and resources.

Renewal emails have been sent out for 2025/26 membership. If you have not received yours, or have any questions, please contact [office@acipc.org.au](mailto:office@acipc.org.au)

We look forward to continuing to support our members over the next 12 months.

CHECK YOUR  
DETAILS ARE  
CORRECT  
**HERE**

**scJohnson** PROFESSIONAL **Cutan®**

## Hand Hygiene is Crucial!

Is your hospital hygiene routine really compliant?

[LEARN MORE](#)

1: Wash



2: Sanitise



3: Moisturise



PAID ADVERT

# October Lunch & Learn Webinar



**Title:** Implementation of a C-Section surveillance program

**Presenter:** Sandi Gamon

**Date:** Tuesday 14 October, 12.00 PM AEDT

**CLICK  
HERE TO  
REGISTER**

## Abstract:

Waitematā currently carries out approximately >2500 surgeries per year and in 2024 the IP team began a quality improvement project to develop a systematic surveillance system and deep-dive investigation of C-section Infections with the aim of improving pt outcomes. The results identified that the existing data collection system had discrepancies which led to the production of inaccurate reporting data – and no deep dive investigations completed on the noted infections. In addition, there were documentation gaps which needed addressing. A CS SSI investigation tool was developed and engagement form the maternity quality Improvement lead sought. Challenges around engagement of teams from maternity and obstetrics were encountered – alongside issues aligning data generated by clinical coding versus ICNET data.

The findings have highlighted factors such as antibiotic dosing alongside management of wound dressings and pt education as areas for improvement – this forms stage 2 of the project.

## About the presenter:

Sandi has worked in Infection Prevention for 25 yrs – her career spanning UK, Australia and New Zealand. She is currently working as an Infection Prevention team lead in Waitematā Auckland New Zealand. She is working towards a post-grad certificate in Health Science as well as completing a New Zealand certificate in Sterilising Technology. Her interests in Infection Prevention lie in Quality Improvement projects resulting in improving pt outcomes, improving the Built Environment, and developing nurse leadership skills. She is currently part of the Infection Services Network Aoteroa (ISNA) and a member of both the Infection Prevention and Built Environment working groups. Outside of work her passions lie in technology, reading, quizzing, and spending time with her teenage daughters.



# SCREENING SURVEY:

## *'Contemporary clarification of aseptic technique principles in clinical nursing. A Delphi study'*

We are seeking participants for a Delphi study designed to explore and clarify the principles of aseptic technique in clinical nursing practice.

This study is open to Registered Nurses experienced in aseptic technique across clinical, educational, leadership, or infection prevention roles.

Your contribution will help strengthen nursing practice and education related to aseptic technique. To acknowledge your time and expertise, you will be offered a gift card valued at \$100 upon full completion of the Delphi study.

We would be grateful if you could also share this invitation with colleagues or networks who may wish to contribute. If you have any questions regarding this project, please contact Hannah Kent (Hannah.kent@avondale.edu.au).  
Ethics approval ETH.2025.007.

Thank you for supporting this important research.

**Are you an RN  
with experience  
in aseptic  
technique in  
your clinical,  
teaching or  
leadership role?**



**CLICK HERE  
TO CONFIRM  
YOUR ELIGIBILITY  
AND REGISTER  
YOUR INTEREST**

Help bring clarity to aseptic  
technique principles



Scan here to contribute to our  
research



In recognition of your participation, you will receive a \$100 gift card upon completion of the study.

# GOARN Tier 1.5 training update

**ACIPC, in collaboration with the Queensland Infection Prevention and Control Unit (QIPCU) and Japan Institute for Health Security (JIHS), successfully delivered the GOARN Tier 1.5 Virtual Training to more than 40 participants on 14-15 August.**

This interactive course introduced participants to the realities of international outbreak response, preparing them for future deployment with WHO's Global Outbreak Alert and Response Network (GOARN). Participants heard directly from experienced deployees, explored operational challenges, and engaged in breakout sessions focused on wellbeing, coordination, and field realities.

## Key Highlights

- 100% of participants rated the faculty as highly knowledgeable.
- 94% found the format conducive to learning.
- Most valued topics: stories from deployees, wellbeing strategies, outbreak investigations.

## Participant Feedback

*"Thank you for this opportunity to learn more about GOARN deployment processes and learning about deployment experiences were inspirational!"*

*"Preparation aspects discussed and advice regarding pre-, during- and post-deployment were very useful."*

This training supports ACIPC's commitment to global health security and professional development in outbreak response.



# VIC SIG OCTOBER MEETING

Victoria

**SIG** Special  
Interest  
Group



**Victorian members are warmly invited to attend the Victorian Special Interest Group (VICSIG) meeting on Friday, 3 October 2025 from 8:00 – 9:15 AM (AEST). This a free event open to Victorian members.**

The meeting will be offered in-person and online via Zoom. It is always encouraging to have a live audience as well as a virtual one. And for those who do attend in person, a light breakfast will be provided which will be served before the meeting.

**Date:** Friday 3 October 2025

**Time:** Breakfast served from 8:00 AM  
Presentation from 8:15 AM to 9:15 AM

**Venue:** The Doherty Institute, MG003  
Seminar Room (Foyer mezzanine)  
792 Elizabeth Street, Melbourne VIC

**Topic: Meet the incoming President of ACIPC, Dr Sally Havers**

Our guest speaker is Dr Sally Havers, the ACIPC President Elect. Sally will be talking about her role as a conjoint researcher and clinical nurse consultant at Darling Downs Health and the University of Queensland and some of the projects she is involved with. This is also a great opportunity for you to meet and talk to the next ACIPC President (Sally will move into the position after the AGM in November).

**Speaker:** Dr Sally Havers, ACIPC  
President Elect

**Contact SIG Convenor:**

Donna Cameron, Infection Control  
Consultant - Microbiological Diagnostic  
Unit Public Health Laboratory,  
[donna.cameron@unimelb.edu.au](mailto:donna.cameron@unimelb.edu.au)

**CLICK HERE  
TO REGISTER  
FOR THE  
OCTOBER  
MEETING**

# WA SIG OCTOBER MEETING

Western  
Australia

**SIG** Special  
Interest  
Group



**Western Australian members and non-members are warmly invited to attend the WA Special Interest Group (SIG) meeting on Thursday, 30 October 2025 from 7:00 – 9:30 AM (WA time). This a free event.**

The meeting will be offered in-person and online via Zoom Meetings. We would like to encourage as many people as possible to attend in person. It is always encouraging to have a live audience as well as a virtual one. And for those who do attend in person, a light breakfast and refreshments will be provided.

**Date:** Thursday, 30 October 2025

**Time:** 7:00 - 7:30 AM - networking and breakfast  
7:30 - 9.30 AM - SIG meeting

**Venue:** Grace Vaughan House 233 Stubbs Terrace, Shenton House WA 6008

## **Topic: ACIPC Update & Legionella Management**

Please join us for an exciting event with our President Elect, Dr Sally Havers who will be covering a range of topics and focus areas for ACIPC.

In addition we have Richard Theobald outlining latest updates and requirements on Legionella Management across health and community facilities.

### **Speakers:**

- 7:30 – 8:30 AM - ACIPC President Elect: Dr Sally Havers
- 8:30 – 9:30 AM - Richard Theobald, Managing Scientist (Water)
- WA Environmental Health Directorate

**Contact SIG Convenor:** Kristie Popkiss, General Manager, Clinical Governance – St John of God Health Care, Kristie.Popkiss@sjog.org.au.

**CLICK HERE  
TO REGISTER  
FOR THE  
OCTOBER  
MEETING**

# BUG OF THE MONTH

## *Syphilis*

*Carrie Spinks*



### What is it?

Syphilis is a sexually transmissible infection (STI) caused by the bacterium *Treponema pallidum*. It progresses through primary, secondary, latent, and tertiary stages and can cause severe complications if untreated. Syphilis may also be transmitted during pregnancy, resulting in congenital infection.

### Signs and Symptoms

- **Primary:** Painless ulcer (chancre) at the infection site.
- **Secondary:** Rash (often on palms/soles), fever, lymphadenopathy, mucosal lesions.
- **Latent:** No symptoms; infection detectable only by blood tests.
- **Tertiary:** Neurological, cardiovascular, or gummatous complications.
- **Congenital:** Stillbirth, neonatal death, or long-term disability (e.g., bone, neurological, sensory impairment).

### Transmission

Spread occurs through vaginal, anal, or oral sex via direct contact with infectious lesions, or from mother to child during pregnancy or birth. Rarely, transmission may occur through blood exposure, though screening practices minimise this risk.

### Those at Risk

Anyone who is sexually active can acquire syphilis. Higher prevalence occurs among men who have sex with men, people with multiple partners, and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities in remote Australia. In New Zealand, cases are increasing among women of reproductive age, raising congenital syphilis risk. Populations in Pacific Island nations also face elevated risk due to limited healthcare access.

### Prevention

Condoms and dental dams reduce, but do not eliminate, risk. Regular testing in high-risk groups, early antenatal screening, and prompt treatment are essential. Partner notification and treatment, alongside public health and community education initiatives, are critical for reducing transmission.

### Diagnosis

Confirmed by serology using both non-treponemal (e.g., RPR, VDRL) and treponemal tests (e.g., TPPA, EIA). Lesion swabs or dark-field microscopy may be used. Cerebrospinal fluid testing is indicated for suspected neurosyphilis.





### Treatment

Benzathine penicillin G is the first-line treatment for all stages, including congenital syphilis. Alternatives such as doxycycline or ceftriaxone may be used where penicillin is unsuitable, though desensitisation is recommended during pregnancy. Follow-up serology is required to confirm cure and detect reinfection.

### Current Situation in Australia & New Zealand

Australia is experiencing record-high rates, with outbreaks particularly affecting remote Indigenous communities. In 2024, over 5,500 cases were reported, and congenital syphilis deaths have already occurred in 2025. The condition has been declared a communicable disease incident of national significance. In New Zealand, cases are also rising across genders, with increasing congenital notifications prompting strengthened public health responses.

### References

- Australian Centre for Disease Control. (2024, September 18). Australia's syphilis epidemic is everyone's business. Australian Government Department of Health. Retrieved August 30, 2025, from <https://www.cdc.gov.au/newsroom/news-and-articles/australias-syphilis-epidemic-everyones-business>
- Australian Government Department of Health and Aged Care. (2024). Syphilis. Retrieved August 30, 2025, from <https://www.health.gov.au/diseases/syphilis>
- Australian Government Department of Health and Aged Care. (2025). National syphilis surveillance quarterly report: October to December 2024. Canberra: Department of Health. Retrieved August 30, 2025, from <https://www.health.gov.au/resources/publications/national-syphilis-surveillance-quarterly-report-october-to-december-2024>
- Australasian Society for HIV, Viral Hepatitis and Sexual Health Medicine (ASHM). (n.d.). Syphilis. STI Guidelines Australia. Retrieved August 30, 2025, from <https://sti.guidelines.org.au/sexually-transmissible-infections/syphilis/>
- New Zealand Sexual Health Society. (2023). Syphilis management guidelines. Retrieved August 30, 2025, from <https://sti.guidelines.org.nz/infections/syphilis>
- SA Health. (2024). Syphilis – including symptoms, treatment and prevention. Government of South Australia. Retrieved August 30, 2025, from <https://www.sahealth.sa.gov.au/wps/wcm/connect/public+content/sa+health+internet/conditions/infectious+diseases/syphilis/syphilis+-+including+symptoms+treatment+and+prevention>

# Infection Control Matters Podcast

## The no diaper (AKA nappy) zone - reducing CAUTI?

In this 2-segment episode, Brett, Phil and Martin firstly mull over a nurse-led, bottom up (pun intended) quality improvement project that aimed to reduce CAUTI in a neonatal ICU in Georgia, USA. Having discussed how great it is to see this type of work written up, Martin then spoke to Katie Cabral the lead author for more insights and to find out if the innovation has been sustained.

Cabral K, Anderson V, Allen I, Hoskins D, Byers K, Gettis M. Entering a No Diaper Zone: Rethinking Prevention of Catheter-Associated Urinary Tract Infection. *Critical care nurse* 2025;45(4):21-8. <https://doi.org/10.4037/ccn2025843>

## Can modelling tell us what factors influence CAUTI in long and short-term catheters?

In this episode, Brett, Phil and Martin discuss a recent paper from Freya Bull and colleagues, who undertook a modelling exercise to determine what factors determine the colonisation process for long and short-term urinary catheters. It turns out that different factors are in play here and that strategies for CAUTI prevention might be different for each.

You can read the paper here: Bull F, Tavaddod S, Bommer N, Perry M, Brackley CA, Allen RJ. Different factors control long-term versus short-term outcomes for bacterial colonisation of a urinary catheter. *Nat Commun* 2025;16(1):3940. <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41467-025-59161-y>.



Brett's group's previous work on short-term catheters is here:

Fasugba O, Cheng AC, Gregory V, Graves N, Koerner J, Collignon P, et al. Chlorhexidine for meatal cleaning in reducing catheter-associated urinary tract infections: a multicentre stepped-wedge randomised controlled trial. *Lancet Infect Dis* 2019;19(6):611-9. [https://doi.org/10.1016/S1473-3099\(18\)30736-9](https://doi.org/10.1016/S1473-3099(18)30736-9).

## Safeguarding During Transit: RAF Expertise in High Consequence Infectious Disease Retrieval

In this episode Martin talks to Squadron Leader Tez Cooling and Flight Lieutenant Emma Foley about their work in the Royal Air Force (RAF) retrieval service for patients with known and suspected High Consequence Infectious Disease who are transferred to specialist units in the UK. The team discuss how the Air Transportable Isolator (ATI) is used in order to safely carry out repatriations in a timely manner and the training that is required to operate such a specialist service.

## Leading Public Health, ID and IPC during challenging times

In this episode, Martin Kiernan talks to Drs Priya Nori and Gonzalo Bearman. Priya is an Associate Professor of Medicine (Infectious Diseases) and Orthopedic Surgery at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine, USA. Gonzalo is Chair of the Division of Infectious Diseases and Professor of Internal Medicine and Associate Chief Quality and Safety Officer for Research at the Virginia Commonwealth University Health System, USA.

We chat about a recent book entitled "Courageous Leadership in Infectious Diseases and Public Health During Challenging Times" that they edited, in which they conducted in-depth interviews with luminaries whose careers span multiple aspects of infectious diseases and public health. We discuss the themes, lessons and nuggets gleaned from long and successful careers in Public Health, Infectious Diseases and Infection Prevention.

A short section of the book as a preview is available here: <https://www.cambridgescholars.com/resources/pdfs/978-1-0364-4766-3-sample.pdf>  
The book is published by Cambridge Scholars Publishing, Newcastle, UK



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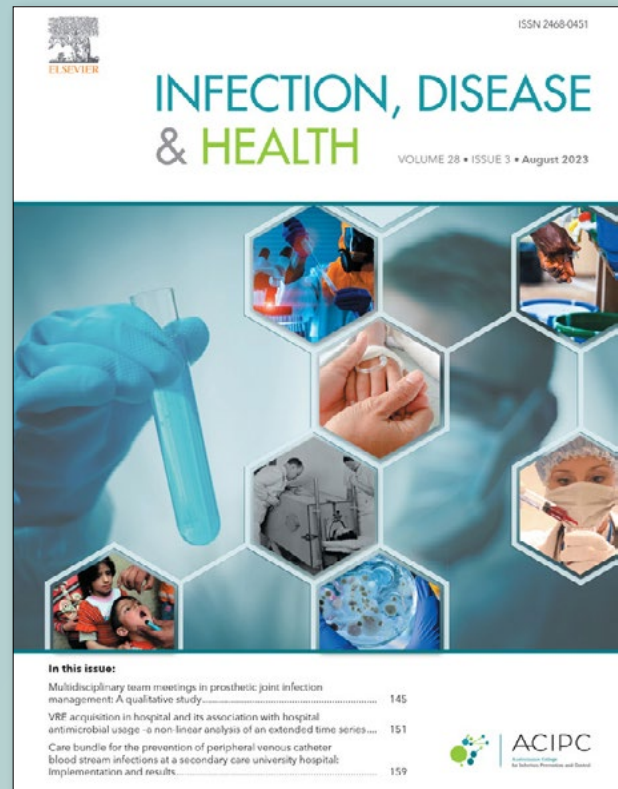
# Latest articles from Infection, Disease & Health

## Magnitude and determinants of underreporting needlestick injuries among healthcare workers in a tertiary care hospital

Aiman El-Saed, Fatmah Othman, Sarah Al-Fayez, Abdullah Turki Alotaibi, Nada Wagit Alharthi, Ryad Fahad Alamry, Mohammed Khalaf Alharbi, Hisham Yousef AlOuhali, Ahmad Elsaed, Rama M. Matalqah, Majid M. Alshamrani

## Seminal vesicle abscess with orchitis and emphysematous cystitis following traumatic urethral injury from accidental urinary catheter dislodgement

Shiori Kitaya, Ryo Oyama, Hajime Kanamori



# Selected Publications of Interest

## The Role of Interdisciplinary Teams in Infection Prevention and Control Across Acute and Long-Term Care Settings

Multimodal strategies for the implementation of infection prevention and control interventions-update of a systematic review for the WHO guidelines on core components of infection prevention and control programmes at the facility level

## Infection prevention and control measures for multidrug-resistant organisms: a systematic review and network meta-analysis

More Than a Barrier: Exploring the Personal and Professional Impact of Personal Protective Equipment Use in Healthcare - Bouchoucha - 2025 - Nursing & Health Sciences - Wiley Online Library

# Events Calendar

## **Mental Health Month**

**1 – 31 October 2025**

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## **VIC SIG meeting**

**Friday 3 October 2025, 8-9.15AM AEST**

[Register here](#)

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## **Credentialing Town Hall**

**Wednesday 15 October 2025, 12.00PM AEDT**

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## **National Centre for Antimicrobial Stewardship Semina – Audit and feedback**

**Wednesday 15 October 2025, 8.30AM AEDT**

[Register here](#)

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## **October Lunch and Learn Webinar - Implementaion of a C-Section surveillance program**

**Tuesday 14 October 2025, 12.00PM AEDT**

**Speaker:** Sandi Gamon

[Register here](#)

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## **ACIPC Aged Care IPC Webinar - Practical ways to set yourself up for success as an IPC professional**

**Wednesday 15 October 2025, 2.00PM AEDT**

**Speaker:** Sandra Roodt, National Manager Infection Prevention & Control

[Register here](#)

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## **WA SIG meeting**

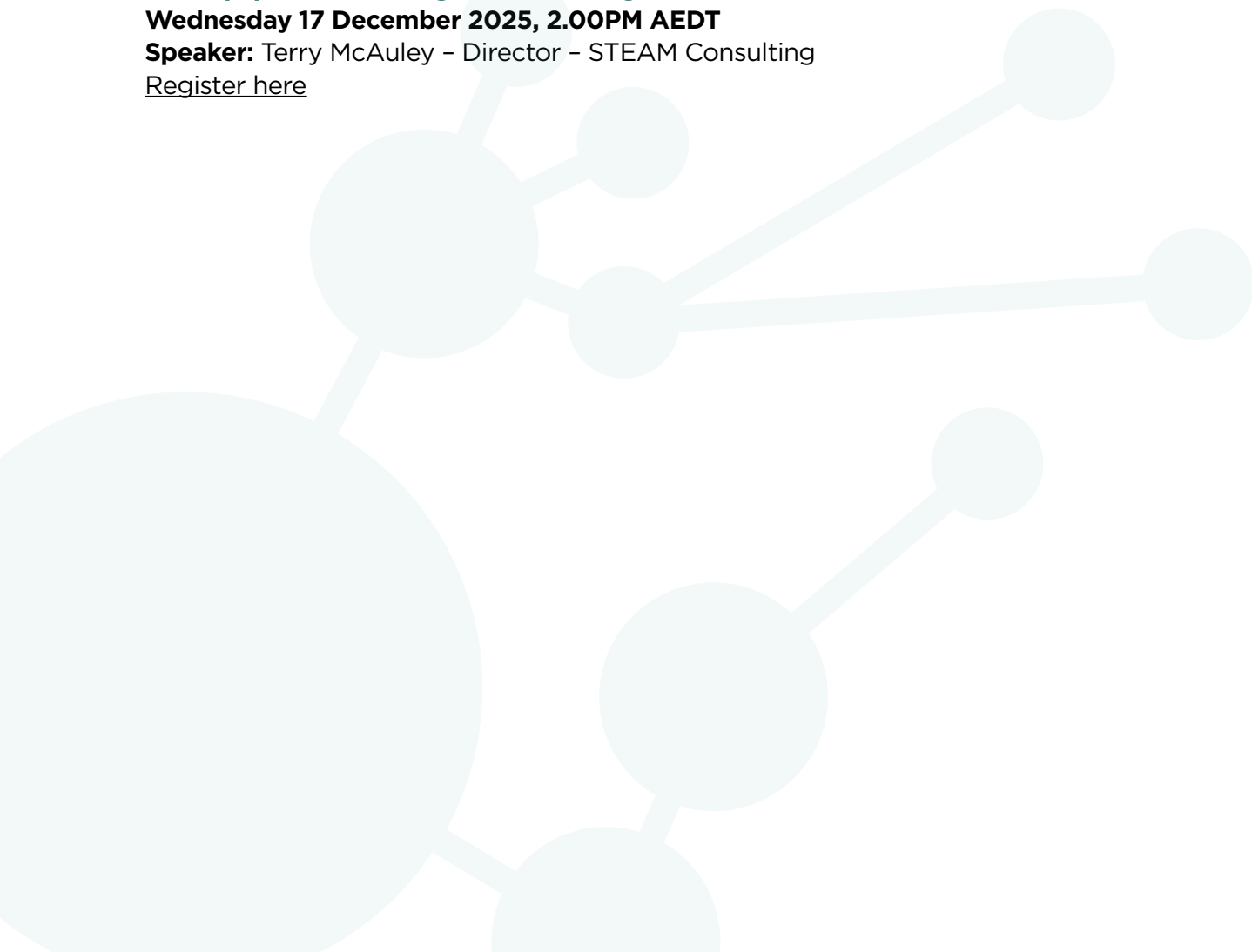
**Thursday 30 October 2025, 7.00 - 9.30AM**

[Register here](#)



**International Infection Prevention Week 2025****19-25 October 2025**[More info](#)**ACIPC 2025 International Conference****16-19 November 2025**

Hobart, Tasmania and online

[Register now](#)**World AMR Awareness Week****18-24 November 2025**[More info](#)**FIS International Conference 2025****2-4 December 2025, Bournemouth, UK**[Register here](#)**ACIPC Aged Care IPC Webinar - Reprocessing of reusable medical devices and equipment in the aged care setting****Wednesday 17 December 2025, 2.00PM AEDT****Speaker:** Terry McAuley – Director – STEAM Consulting[Register here](#)



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