

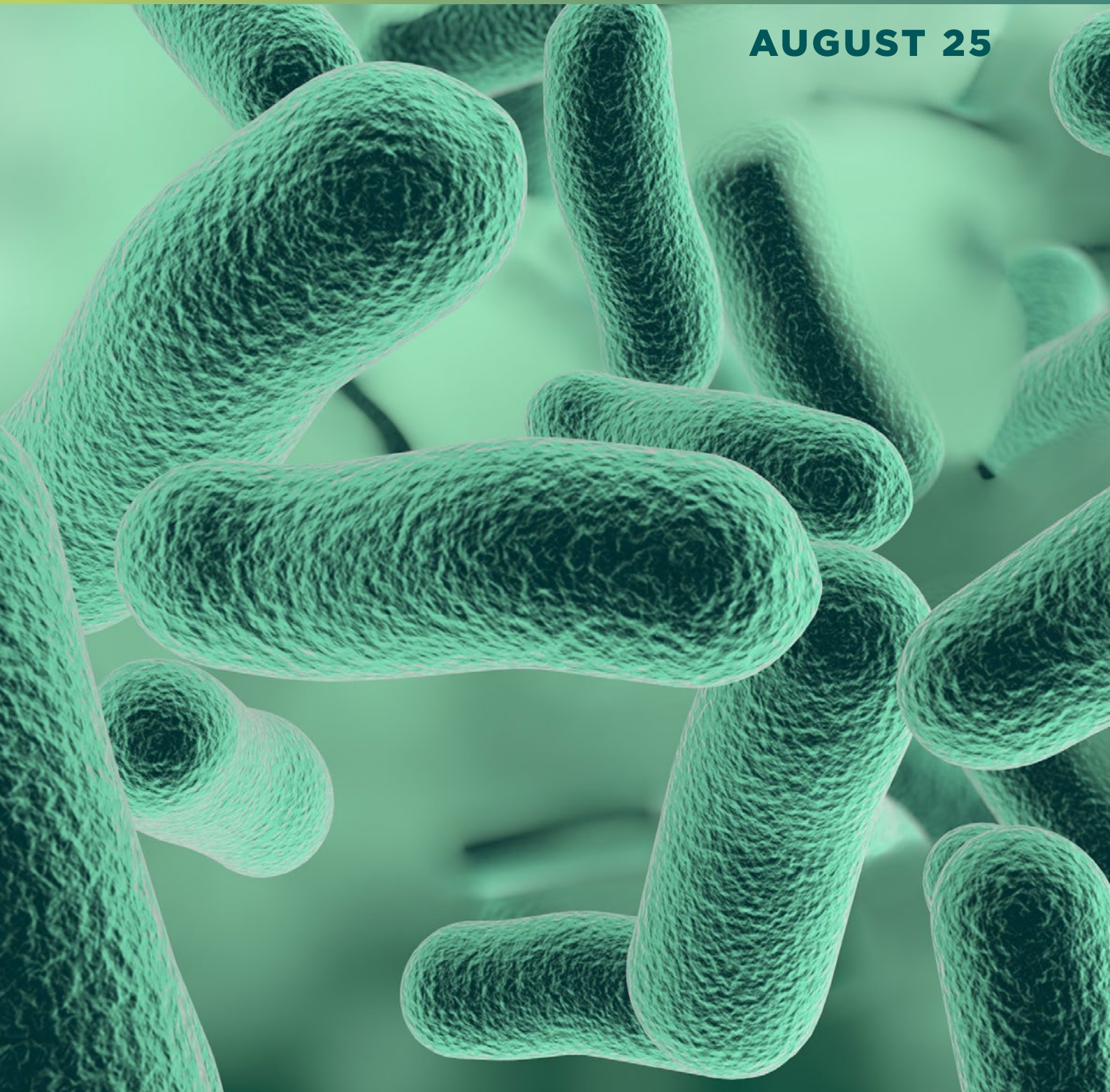


ACIPC

Australasian College
for Infection Prevention and Control

IPC News

AUGUST 25



President's report

Stéphane Bouchoucha

Welcome to the August 2025 edition of IPC News.



This month I'd like to start with a big thank you to all members who have supported our online campaign calling for Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) to be formally included in the new Australian Centre for Disease Control.

Your support has been vital in helping us push this message to policymakers. If you haven't yet taken part, I encourage you to visit our campaign page and send a letter to your local MP - it takes just a few minutes, and your voice truly does matter. The more support we can demonstrate, the stronger our case becomes.

I'm also pleased to share that ACIPC President-Elect Dr Sally Havers and I recently had an editorial published in the journal Nursing & Health Sciences. Titled From One Pandemic to the Next—What's Next on the Horizon for Infection Prevention and Control, the piece highlights that another pandemic is not a question of if, but when.

While we continue to live with the ongoing impacts of COVID-19, now is the time to embed what we've learned into daily IPC practice and planning. We urge decision-makers, practitioners and institutions not to wait until the next emergency to act. You can read the full article [here](#).

In exciting news, the ACIPC International Conference program for 2025 has now been released! We are thrilled to present a stellar line-up of both national and international speakers, bringing expertise from across the region and beyond. This year's theme builds on the momentum of previous conferences and will showcase cutting-edge research, policy, and practice in IPC.

I encourage you to explore the full program here and register before early bird registration closes on 1 October. I'm very much looking forward to seeing many of you in Hobart - it's always a highlight of the year to connect with members in person and celebrate the strength of our community.

As always, thank you for your continued commitment to IPC. Your work, advocacy, and collaboration are what make this College strong. 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 re-credentialling: Elizabeth Haynes

Advanced re-credentialling: Stéphane Bouchoucha

Advanced credentialling: Nyasha Zvomuya

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

FOR MORE
INFORMATION
CLICK HERE

Credentialling review update

Dear Members,

Thank you again for your engagement and input into the important review of ACIPC's credentialling program.

ACIPC engaged Nous to undertake an independent review, and as part of this, they had the pleasure of engaging with many of you about the strengths of the program and opportunities for improvement. Thank you for your input and insights as part of this process. Nous has provided a set of findings and recommendations for the Board to consider.

We will hold a virtual town hall on 12 October, 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 further details about how to participate.

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.

Please reach out to the office for any further questions.

Stephane Bouchoucha
ACIPC President

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 | 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

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 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.

An early registration discounted fee will be offered and will be available until the 1st 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

Claire Desira

Motivational speaker



Top Five Movement founder, Clare Desira is known for her refreshing take on mindset, resilience and productivity. Clare has worked with thousands of people across 40 countries. Earlier this year Clare's work was recognised with a 2020-2021 International Coach of the Year Award. Clare shares hacks to train your brain, strengthen resilience, navigate change and build motivation. Not a sugar rush of unrealistic motivation, peaking quickly but leaving you exhausted as soon as you're faced with the daily grind. Clare hosts the No.1 charting podcast, Leading Generous Teams, exploring strategies

used by CEOs and community leaders to build mental health, resilience and mindset for themselves and their teams.

Surinder Pada

Division of Infectious Diseases, Chairperson of the Infection Control Committee



Adj. Asst. Prof Surinder Pada is the Head of the Division of Infectious Diseases, Chairperson of the Infection Control committee as well as the Pandemic Chairperson of the Emergency Preparedness committee and is a Senior Consultant at Ng Teng Fong General Hospital and Jurong Community Hospital in Singapore. (Jurong Health Campus) She graduated from the Faculty of Medicine at the University of New South Wales, Sydney and undertook most of her training in Australia. She was conferred as a fellow of the Australasian College of Physicians (FRACP) in 2009.

In 2013 under the auspices of Health Manpower Development Plan (HMDP) she completed a six-month fellowship at the Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore in Infection Prevention. Again in 2020, she was awarded a group HMDP where she studied waterless ICU systems and best practices in Infection Prevention in the Netherlands and Spain. Adj. Asst Prof Pada was awarded the National Awards (COVID19) Public Administration Medal (Bronze) in 2022 for her tireless efforts in helping Singapore weather the storm of the COVID-19 pandemic. As a member of the National Infection Prevention Committee (NIPC) set up by the Ministry of Health Singapore, she is also involved in advising and driving policy change and has assisted in writing several policy and guideline documents. She is also an executive committee member of various societies and currently serves as the Vice President of the Infection Control Association of Singapore and as Treasurer of the Asia Pacific Society of Infection Control.

Her main interests in Infection Prevention are in renovation and construction of healthcare facilities, healthcare associated waterborne issues and in pandemic planning.

Professor Karin Thursky

Director for the National Centre for Antimicrobial Stewardship (NCAS) and Associate Director of Health Services Research and Implementation Sciences at Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre



Professor Karin Thursky MBBS BSc MD FRACP FAHMS FAIDH is an infectious disease physician and clinical researcher with a wealth of experience in advancing antimicrobial stewardship programs. Currently, she leads the Guidance Group at Royal Melbourne Hospital (RMH), serves as the Director for the National Centre for Antimicrobial Stewardship (NCAS) and Associate Director of Health Services Research and Implementation Sciences at Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre, is a Principal Fellow in two Departments: Medicine and Oncology at the University of Melbourne. She has more than

20 years of experience in designing and implementing programs to improve the quality and safety of healthcare including information technology solutions used globally.

Professor Tom Riley

School of Biomedical Sciences, The University of Western Australia Department of Microbiology, PathWest Laboratory Medicine (WA) BAppSc Curtin, MAppEpid ANU, PhD UWA

FASM, FRCPath, FAAM, FSHEA, FFSc(RCPA), FISAC



Tom divides his time in Perth, Western Australia, between PathWest Laboratory Medicine, WA's public sector pathology service provider where he is a Senior Clinical Scientist, and The University of Western Australia where he is a Professor in the School of Biomedical Sciences. He has had a long-standing interest in diagnostic microbiology and healthcare-related infections, particularly the diagnosis, pathogenesis and epidemiology of Clostridioides (Clostridium) difficile infection (CDI). This had led to a One Health approach to CDI. He is a Fellow of many professional

societies and has published >450 book chapters and refereed journal articles, including >250 on C. difficile.

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ACIPC Sustainability in IPC Research Grant

ACIPC recognises the importance of creating sustainable approaches to Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) practices across healthcare and community settings.

IPC programs are designed to prevent and reduce the risk of transmission of infection for patients in healthcare and community settings. Existing IPC strategies focus on the use of isolation, transmission-based precautions, and the use of single-use and disposable items that contribute to the generation of substantial amounts of health-related waste, as well as significant economic, environmental, and social impacts.

The ACIPC Sustainability in IPC Research grant allows ACIPC members to undertake sustainability research to explore opportunities to reduce the environmental impact of infection prevention practices.

Funding

ACIPC (in conjunction with additional funding partners*) is offering up to \$70,000 across the Sustainability in IPC research grants.

Submission

Applications must be submitted to the ACIPC office, office@acipc.org.au, by the specified closing. You must attach supporting documentation to the application form in accordance with the instructions in the application form.

Closing Date

The closing date for application is 9AM Monday 15 September 2025

ACIPC is committed to supporting innovative and collaborative research to facilitate better health outcomes. To achieve this, commercial contributions may be accepted to the grant fund. However, funding partners will not be involved in the assessment and selection of projects. Administration and governance of the research project responsibility for this will remain solely with the ACIPC board and where relevant, the research grants and scholarships committee.



**FOR MORE
INFORMATION
CLICK HERE**



VACANCIES

Infection Control Nurse (Inspector)

An exciting opportunity to work in NSW health regulation!!

If you are a registered nurse with knowledge and experience in infection prevention and control, then this is the opportunity for you.

The organisation:

The Podiatry Council of NSW is the regulatory body that manages complaints about the conduct, performance and health of registered podiatrists, podiatric surgeons and students in NSW. The Council's focus is on safe practice, maintaining public safety and minimising risk. The Council acts to prevent unsafe practice and has legal powers that enable them to do so.

The Position:

The Council is seeking experienced infection control nurses to undertake routine inspections of podiatry practices as part of its infection control program. The successful candidates will be appointed as an inspector (authorised persons under Part 8, Division 9 of the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law (NSW)).

About you:

- Have current registration with Nursing & Midwifery Board of Australia as a Registered Nurse (Division 1).
- Possess a high-level understanding of current infection, prevention and control standards.
- Display strong interpersonal communication skills, particularly relating to face-to-face interaction.
- Have demonstrated effective communication using information technology, written and verbal skills with the ability to identify key messages, issues and concerns when communicating with others.
- Possess a demonstrated understanding of and the ability to practice in accordance with legislation, policies and within the scope of practice of a registered health practitioner.
- Exhibit problem solving skills and utilise a multidisciplinary team approach in the planning, delivery and coordination of an infection, prevention and control service.
- Possess knowledge and understanding of appropriate systems of care, evidence-based practice, quality assurance and improvement.
- Have a current driver license and access to a motor vehicle (for autonomous travel in NSW).
- Able to travel throughout NSW to undertake routine inspections.

NB: Routine inspections are convened when required, and inspectors will be called upon on an ad-hoc basis.

How to apply:

If this sounds like you, click here to apply or for any further queries contact the Council at HPCA-PodiatryCouncil@health.nsw.gov.au

**FOR MORE
INFORMATION
CLICK HERE**

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 is a course for RNs and EN/EENs supporting Aged Care IPC Clinical Leads. This course is also suitable for 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



**MORE
INFORMATION**

Help kids reach every **S**milestone. 😊

Dental Health Week was celebrated from 4-10 August and this year, the Australian Dental Association concentrated on helping parents and caregivers guide kids through their oral health journey — from that very first smile to a lifetime of healthy habits.

The campaign focused on achieving every S-milestone and reinforces four key steps:

- Brush twice daily with fluoride toothpaste
- Clean between teeth each day
- Eat a nutritious, low-sugar diet
- Visit the dentist regularly

Good oral hygiene is more than a healthy smile — it's a critical part of infection prevention and control. ACIPC has a great range of dental IPC resources on our [website](#).

**FIND OUT
MORE ABOUT
DENTAL
HEALTH WEEK**

September Lunch & Learn Webinar



Title: Filling in the gaps – IPC in dentistry

Presenter: Dr Heidi Munchenberg

Date: Wednesday 10 September, 12.30PM AEST

**CLICK
HERE TO
REGISTER**

Abstract:

This presentation will aim to familiarise members on IPC leadership and management within the dentistry landscape. We will also explore the common IPC hazards in the dental setting and the practices frequently used to minimise the risks posed, and what the current IPC challenges for the dental sector are.

About the presenter:

Heidi graduated with a Bachelor of Dental Surgery from the University of Adelaide in 1999, obtained a Graduate Certificate in Infection Prevention and Control in 2020 and completed her Masters in Public Health in 2023. Heidi has worked as a general dentist in a variety of settings within both public and private settings. Currently she is the Chief Dental Officer, Adelaide Dental Hospital, SA Dental, and is the Clinical Director for the Orthodontic Unit, Infection Control Staff Health Unit and Central Sterilising Department. Heidi was also the COVID-19 lead for SA Dental during the pandemic.

In 2020 Heidi became a member of the Federal Australia Dental Association Infection Control Committee and is the current Chair. Heidi is also a member of the Australasian College for Infection Prevention and Control, currently credentialed as an Advanced Infection Control Professional, and is a member of the ACIPC Advancing IPC Practice & Standards Committee.

MEMBER PROFILE

Barb Stott

Clinical Nurse Specialist | Infection Prevention and Control
North Metropolitan Health Service
Mental Health Services, and Dental Health Services

Tell us a bit about yourself and how you came to be working in dental IPC?

My nursing career has spanned many decades. It had always been my interest to care for people, and nursing was a career that would eventually take me on divergent roads and allow me to experience a variety of wonderful roles. I yearned to travel and was advised that this would be a more successful path if I was also a midwife. This advice proved the correct and until I moved to Perth in 2000 my nursing had taken me on lengthy sojourns into aviation, and rural and remote area nursing roles.

Purely by chance, an opportunity to enter the field of Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) was offered in 2007. The course I accepted took me into areas that would further expand my knowledge and skills. There was a myriad of topics to learn and understand in IPC, all leading to a safe environment for patients, staff and visitors to healthcare facilities. Currently I am working as an IPC Clinical Nurse Specialist for Statewide Dental Health Services (DHS) in Western Australia. It is a privilege to work with dedicated staff who work in 192 locations across this vast state in general dental clinics, school health, prisons, domiciliary services and caravans.

In this role I endeavour and strive to work with and support staff in IPC activities and to attain compliance to AS 5369:2023. It is also necessary to maintain my understanding of the anomalies of DHS services to ensure staff can provide a high standard of care to their patients.

What are the particular challenges for IPC in your field of work?

The opportunity to work with DHS was offered following the introduction of AS 5369:2023. This Standard has proven to be a challenge for DHS, to move from a community orientated Standard to the combined hospital/community Standard. It became more urgent for DHS with the knowledge of a rapidly approaching accreditation review in November 2024.

As the only registered nurse for the Service, my role includes all the infection prevention topics from staff health, occupational exposures, facilities management, water management, ventilation, sterilisation services, and other IPC related services requiring support. Working closely with Work Health and Safety personnel in this role is an essential element to support the IPC program. Currently the greatest challenge is to address the sterilisation zones and the safe storage of sterile instruments and products in locations who experience extremes in temperature and humidity in buildings not designed for clinical care.

What do you love about IPC, what are you passionate about?

Passion in nursing can be described as a fuel that ignites the desire to make a difference in the lives of patients and the healthcare system as a whole. Infection Control knowledge and understanding has enhanced my passion to uphold this goal and strive to make safer environment for patients and staff.

Infection Control in some health areas is viewed with derision as it requires staff to take an additional step or two to comply with a policy or standard. In changing this attitude, I believe the key is to provide staff with knowledge and understanding why and how they must undertake a task. A simple example of this is hand hygiene, staff need to understand if they don't perform the 5 moments, patients in their care will be compromised.

I have encouraged IPC nurses to promote and disseminate education to healthcare workers by teaching principles of care. This simple process can be applied to every task to prevent disease transmission. Understanding Standards and Legislation could be viewed as a challenge as it requires the IPC practitioner to carefully review evidenced based data, and to deliver this information effectively to healthcare workers.

Innovative Program

DHS have recently introduced 'The Smiling Starts' program. This is an early childhood dental program which offers children under the age of 5 years free access to oral health information, screening, and preventative care. The goal of the program is to ensure good oral health habits commence early for a healthier future for every young smile in our State. The program will expand to include children between 6 to 29 months of age in selected locations, with the number of sites to grow with the program. The team includes dedicated oral health professionals working with community groups at large to ensure that good habits start early. It has been a privilege to be involved with this dedicated team to assist in providing advice where indicated.

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
or go to our website for more
information [acipc.org.au](https://www.acipc.org.au)



**MORE
INFORMATION**

ACIPC Aged Care IPC Webinar

Home care IPC and new quality standards

17 SEPTEMBER 2025
2PM AEST



ACIPC
Australian College
for Infection Prevention and Control

with Carrie Spinks &
guest speaker Steve Neal



Topic: Infection Control in a Home Care setting with a focus on aged care

Presenter: Carrie Spinks

Guest speaker: Steve Neal, Head of Clinical and Leadership Programs, Lorraine Poulos & Associates

**CLICK
HERE TO
REGISTER**

The presentation will examine the impact of the strengthened standards on infection control in home care aged care services, focusing on the associated expectations and practical requirements. It will highlight the unique infection control challenges and risks specific to the home care setting, offering an opportunity to explore strategies for improvement. Participants will be invited to engage in discussion and share their experiences, fostering a collaborative exchange of insights and practical solutions

Our guest speakers will be Steve Neal. Steve qualified as a Registered Nurse in 1990 in the UK, primarily working in Mental Health and Disability services in England, Wales, and Scotland. Steve moved to Melbourne in 2005 and has worked for several disability and Aged Care service providers. Steve currently works for Lorraine Poulos and Associates as the Head of Clinical and Leadership programs and is a board member for a large disability and aged care service provider. Steve worked with the Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care as part of the Healthcare Associated Infection Program.

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

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

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CORRECT
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Workshop invitation:

Barriers affecting vaccine consent and uptake in residential aged care homes

Monash University has been awarded a tender by the Australian Government Department of Health, Disability and Ageing to conduct research into the structural, behavioural and motivational barriers affecting vaccine consent and uptake within residential aged care homes – specifically focusing on COVID-19 vaccinations.

They are conducting workshops with those with expertise in vaccines in the residential aged care setting to understand these barriers and the processes of consent and delivery of vaccines in RAC. Participation will involve attending two two-hour workshops, one in September and one in November.

If you would like to participate, please register for a September workshop.

**CLICK
HERE TO
REGISTER**

If you have any questions, please contact Eliza Watson:

eliza.watson@monash.edu.

This project (ID: 47801) has been reviewed and approved by the Monash University Human Research Ethics Committee.



MONASH
University

GOARN UPDATE: Strengthening Regional Readiness: GOARN Field Simulation Training in Darwin

ACIPC was proud to support the recent GOARN Tier 2 field simulation training held in Darwin, Australia. The Tier 2 training is a five-day intensive exercise designed to strengthen operational readiness, leadership capacity, and interdisciplinary coordination among public health emergency responders.

Delivered in partnership with the WHO Regional Office for the Western Pacific, the National Critical Care and Trauma Response Centre (NCCTRC), and the Australian Government's Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade under the PHOENIX Program, the training brought together 22 experienced public health professionals from 13 GOARN partner institutions across 12 Member States.

Participants engaged in a scenario-based simulation replicating the complexity and uncertainty of a real-time public health emergency. Multidisciplinary teams included experts in epidemiology, logistics, case management, infection prevention and control, laboratory operations, and risk communication, reflecting the integrated approach promoted by GOARN and WHO.

Dr Peta-Anne Zimmerman, ACIPC/GOARN focal point, represented ACIPC as senior teaching faculty for the training. This marked her fifth time serving as faculty for GOARN Tier 2 training.

The simulation aligns with the goals of WHO's Global Health Emergency Corps (GHEC), which aims to build a globally connected, surge-ready workforce.

GOARN plays a critical role in this framework by ensuring timely access to technical expertise during emergencies.

Participants demonstrated technical proficiency, leadership, adaptability, and communication skills which are all essential for deployment in cross-cultural and resource-constrained environments.

GOARN Capacity Strengthening Programme

GOARN's training programme, developed by WHO and global experts, provides structured learning across career levels. It combines foundational modules, immersive simulations, and leadership development aligned with the GOARN Strategy 2022–2026. By investing in human capital GOARN, in collaboration with partner organisations such as ACIPC, strengthens national and regional capacities to prevent, detect, and respond to public health emergencies ensuring trained professionals are ready where and when they are needed most.



ACIPC
Australasian College
for Infection Prevention and Control





L to R: Dr Sharon Salmon (WHO /GOARN, Western Pacific Regional Office of WH), Dr Peta-Anne Zimmerman (ACIPC/Griffith University, Australia), Mrs Margaret Leong (SPC/ACIPC, Fiji), and Dr Takuya Adachi (Chief Physician, Department of Infectious Diseases, Toshima Hospital, Tokyo, Japan)





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INCLEAN



Co-Design Communities of Practice for IPC Leads

Be part of shaping a supportive learning community tailored for your needs!

What is this about?

As an IPC Lead in residential aged care, you play a vital role in infection prevention and control. This project aims to develop Communities of Practice specifically for IPC Leads like yourself across Australia.

A Community of Practice brings together people with shared roles and interests to learn collaboratively, share knowledge, and support each other.

How can I get involved?

We are inviting IPC Leads, residential aged care managers, quality and executives to co-design these Communities of Practice through workshops. Your input will help shape:

1. Practical aspects – When/how to meet, sharing information etc.
2. Learning needs – Topics, training, and support for your role

Have your say by attending one of our 60-minute online co-design workshop.

Workshops will be held on the following dates:

- Friday 17 October 2025 10am-11am AEDT (IPC Leads)
- Tuesday 21 October 2025 10am-11am AEDT
- Tuesday 21 October 2025 12pm-1pm AEDT (IPC Leads)
- Thursday 23 October 2025 10am-11am AEDT
- Thursday 30 October 2025 12pm-1pm AEDT (IPC Leads)
- Friday 31 October 2025 3pm-4pm AEDT (IPC Leads)

Why participate?

- Opportunity to create a tailored Community of Practice for IPC Leads
- Connect with others in similar roles across Australia
- Help strengthen IPC practices in aged care

Register now!

Secure your spot by registering: [IPC Leads Workshop Registration Form](#)

This project has human research ethics approval from The University of Melbourne, Project ID 32579.

BUG OF THE MONTH

Chikungunya virus

Karen McKenna



What is it?

Chikungunya is vector-borne viral disease that is caused by the chikungunya virus^{1,2}. It is prevalent in the Americas, Asia and Africa with large outbreaks and case numbers reported each year². People become infected with chikungunya through the bite of an infected mosquito³.

In 2004-2005 a chikungunya epidemic spread across the Indian Ocean before extending globally, affecting around half a million people⁴. Similar patterns of transmission and outbreaks are now being observed in 2025, with large outbreaks in the Indian Ocean islands, and imported cases being identified in Europe⁴.

Since the start of 2025 to the beginning of June, there have been around 220,000 cases and 80 deaths of chikungunya reported in 14 countries⁵. Countries with the highest reported case numbers are in the Americas, including Brazil (141,436), Argentina (2,521) and Bolivia (605)⁵. Epidemic transmission is occurring in South Asia, with over 33,000 cases having been reported, including in India, Sri Lanka and Pakistan^{4,5}, and more recently a large outbreak in China, with over 7000 cases reported since July⁶. There have been no locally acquired cases reported in Australia, however the mosquitos that spread the virus are present in parts of Queensland^{1,5}.

The tiger mosquito (*aedes albopictus*) is one of the common vectors that spreads the chikungunya virus, primarily active during daylight hours and known to be spreading further as global warming increases due to climate change⁴.

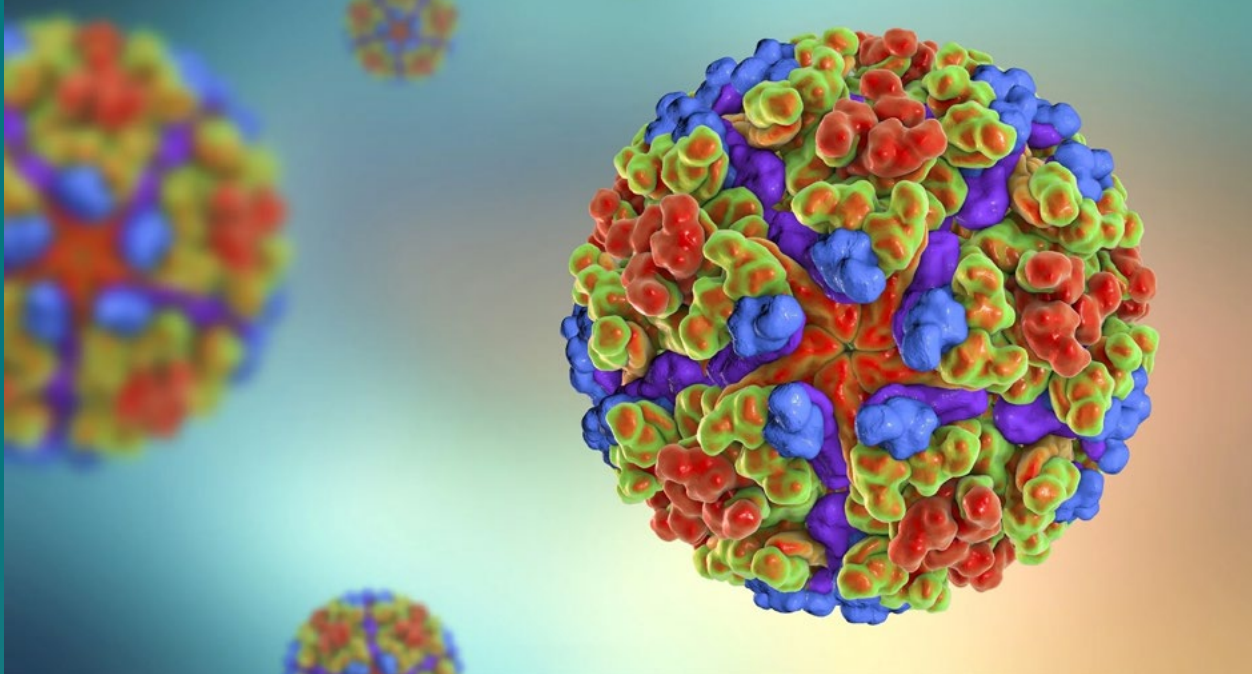
Signs and Symptoms

The symptoms of chikungunya are debilitating fever and joint pain, as well as joint swelling, muscle pain, headache, nausea, fatigue and a rash². These symptoms are similar to that of dengue and Zika². Severe symptoms that include eye, heart and neurological problems and death caused from chikungunya are rare, and are usually seen in the elderly with co-existing health problems, or young babies².

The onset of symptoms is usually 4-8 days after being bitten by an infected mosquito, with symptoms usually lasting a few days to full recovery within a few weeks^{2,7}.

How is it transmitted?

Chikungunya virus spreads when people infected with the virus are bitten by a mosquito that then bites another person³. Chikungunya does not spread from person-to-person, though transmission can occur through blood transfusions, drawing blood from an infected person or in laboratory settings when there are high levels of the virus present in blood³.



At risk groups?

People are considered at risk if they spend time in a place where chikungunya occurs³. People at increased risk of severe disease include older adults over the age of 65 years, young babies, or people with underlying medical conditions including heart disease and diabetes⁷.

Prevention?

Chikungunya is prevented through measures to avoid mosquito bites, including control of mosquitos and breeding sites, insecticides and wearing clothing to minimise mosquito bites².

There are currently no vaccines approved for use in Australia. There are two vaccines that are available for at risk populations in overseas countries, however, they are not yet in widespread use². Current recommended for vaccine use in the United States are for people living in or travelling to high-risk areas³.

References

1. Department of Health. Chikungunya virus infection. Australian Government. Updated 11 April 2025. <https://www.health.gov.au/diseases/chikungunya-virus-infection>
2. World Health Organization. Chikungunya. WHO. Accessed 28 July, 2025. <https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/chikungunya>
3. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Chikungunya: Causes and How it Spreads. CDC. <https://www.cdc.gov/chikungunya/causes-and-spread/index.html>
4. AFP. Outbreak of Chikungunya Virus Poses Global Risk, Warns WHO. ScienceAlert. Updated 23 July 2025. <https://www.sciencealert.com/outbreak-of-chikungunya-virus-poses-global-risk-warns-who>
5. European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control. Chikungunya virus disease worldwide overview. ECDC. Updated June 2025. Accessed 28 July, 2025. <https://www.ecdc.europa.eu/en/chikungunya-monthly>
6. Ng K. China reports 7,000 cases of chikungunya virus. Website. BBC News. Updated 5 August 2025. <https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/cvg0edj332yo>
7. NSW Health. Chikungunya factsheet. NSW Health. <https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/Infectious/factsheets/Pages/chikungunya.aspx>

Infection Control Matters Podcast

What's new in Surgical Site Infection Prevention? Update from EUCIC

In this episode, Martin Kiernan talks to Dr Gabriel Birgand, Clinical Co-ordinator of EUCIC (European Committee on Infection Control) which is part of ESCMID Global (European Society for Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases). Gabriel is the lead of the Regional Center for Infection Prevention and Control (Pays de la Loire region), Nantes University Hospital and also Head of the National Center for Surveillance and Prevention of AMR (antimicrobial resistance) and HAI (healthcare associated infections) in primary care and nursing homes. EUCIC have recently published a set of slides that have reviewed recent papers relevant to SSI prevention and we had the opportunity to discuss these papers. The link to the slides is below.

You can find out more about the activities of EUCIC here: <https://www.escmid.org/science-research/eucic/educational-activities/>

To download the freely available slides, follow this link: https://www.escmid.org/fileadmin/escmid/media/pdf/eucic/Review_EUCIC_02_07_2025.pptx

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
ISBN: 1-0364-4766-9 and ISBN13: 978-1-0364-4766-3

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Latest articles from Infection, Disease & Health

Infection prevention and control priorities to improve peripheral intravenous catheter care- setting a national priority agenda

Sally M. Havers, Claire M. Rickard, Josephine Lovegrove, Andrew J. Stewardson, Diana Egerton-Warbutone, Rebecca L. McCann, Gillian Ray-Barruel, Karen M. Davies, Christine Brown, Samuel M. Mathias, Jessica A. Schults

Gloves off!: Environmental and financial impacts of an educational intervention to improve hand hygiene. A quality improvement study

Tina Wilkie-Miskin, Mya Abigail Acosta, Sarah Browning, Kristen Pickles, Sally Munnoch, Patricia Knight, Amy Bernotas, Stanley Chen, Rachel Ng, Erin Mathieu, erin.mathieu@sydney.edu.au on behalf of the NSW Health Net Zero Clinical Leads Program

Surgical bundle sustainability in caesarean section births: An integrative review

Bern Squires, Thea van de Mortel, Peta-Anne Zimmerman

Selected Publications of Interest

From Pandemic to Endemic: How the Protective Face Mask Market Is Evolving

IP LifeLine: You're a Mover and a Shaker

Infection Prevention in Behavioral Health: Critical Strategies for a Safer Care Environment

Why do infection preventionists leave a job? A qualitative evaluation of infection preventionist attrition in health care



User experience of air purifiers for the purpose of reducing acute respiratory tract infections: A cross-sectional survey in residential aged care settings

Bismi Thottiyil Sultanmuhammed Abdul Khadar, Brett G. Mitchell, Vanessa M. McDonald, Julee McDonagh, Jenny Sim

Which Surgical Hand Preparation Method Is More Effective? A Comparative Study of Hand Rub and Hand Scrub

Covering sterile instrument tables to prevent airborne bacterial contamination and surgical wound infections: A narrative review of operating room nursing practices

Implementation of reusable linen in the intensive care unit: Impact on pressure injury, staff satisfaction, and environmental sustainability

Events Calendar

ACIPC Aged Care IPC Webinar - Infection Control in a Home Care setting with a focus on aged care

Wednesday 17 September 2025, 2.00PM AEST

Speaker: Steve Neal, Head of Clinical and Leadership Programs,
Lorraine Poulos & Associates

[Register here](#)

National Centre for Antimicrobial Stewardship Semina - Sepsis

Wednesday 17 September 2025, 10.30AM AEST

[Register here](#)

World Pharmacists Day

Thursday 25 September 2025

[More info](#)

IP2025 - The Infection Prevention Society's annual conference

29 and 30 September 2025, Brighton, UK

[Register here](#)

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](#)

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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