



ACIPC

Australasian College
for Infection Prevention and Control

IPC News

OCTOBER 25



President's report

A/Prof Stéphane Bouchoucha

Welcome to the October 2025 edition of IPC News.



As my term as President of ACIPC draws to a close, I want to take a moment to reflect and thank all members, for your ongoing support, commitment, and passion. It has been a great honour to serve as President over the past two years. During that time, I have witnessed the extraordinary resilience and professionalism of our IPC community, and I leave this role feeling hopeful, inspired, and incredibly proud of what we've achieved together.

Infection prevention and control has never been more needed in the community. The impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic continue to be felt across our health systems and communities, and we are now facing additional challenges: increasing rates of antimicrobial resistance, growing vaccine hesitancy, and the erosion of public trust in science and public health. All these challenges can make us feel overwhelmed and like we are losing control, despite all this, the work has continued with major achievements along the way.

Over the past two years, I've seen ACIPC members across the country continue to lead, educate, advocate, and innovate. Whether through research, policy development, education, or daily practice, you are all making a real difference to people's lives. The work that the IPC community is engaged in, really matters and is deeply valued.

As a College, we've made strong progress in strengthening our national voice. Our advocacy for IPC representation in the new Australian CDC has brought together members, partners, and policymakers around a common purpose.

We've grown our international partnerships, increased engagement across member sectors, and continued to build on our commitment to credentialling, education, and inclusion for a world free of preventable infections.

To our Board Directors, Committee Chairs and members, College staff, and especially to our President-Elect Dr Sally Havers, thank you. Your energy and leadership behind the scenes have been essential to our momentum. I am confident the College is in very good hands, and I look forward to seeing where the next chapter leads.

There is still so much work ahead, but I am convinced that the IPC community will continue to work to rise to any challenges put in the way.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve, and I look forward to catching up with as many of you as possible at our ACIPC International Conference next month in Hobart.

Kind regards,

A/Prof

Stéphane Bouchoucha

President, ACIPC



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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: Phalmean Tim

Advanced credentialling: Shabnam Idres

Primary re-credentialling: Magdalena Di Giacomo, Erica Discombe

Expert re-credentialling: Michelle Kennedy, Gerald Chan

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

FOR MORE
INFORMATION
CLICK HERE

Credentialling Information Session

A Credentialling Information Session will be held at the 2025 ACIPC International Conference and we'd love to see you there.

This session will provide valuable insights into the ACIPC Credentialling Framework, including the different levels of credentialling, how to prepare your application, and tips from the credentialling assessment panel members. It's a great opportunity to ask questions, clarify requirements, and learn how credentialling can support your professional growth and recognition in the field. Whether you're just starting to explore credentialling or ready to take the next step, this session will help guide you through the process with confidence.

Date: Monday 17 November 2025

Time: 12.20PM

Location: Grand Ballroom 1, Hotel Grand Chancellor, Hobart

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

**DON'T MISS
OUT!**
**REGISTER
NOW!**

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.

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

Associate Professor Noleen Bennett
Infection Control Consultant



Noleen Bennett is a senior Infection Prevention and Control consultant, employed at both the Victorian Healthcare Associated Infection Surveillance System (VICNISS) Coordinating Centre and National Centre for Antimicrobial Stewardship (NCAS). She oversees multiple aged care surveillance initiatives:

- 1. VICNISS Aged Care Infection Indicator Program;** 170 public residential aged care homes (RACHs) continuously participate,
- 2. Aged Care National Antimicrobial Prescribing Survey:** 823 RACHs participated in 2023,

3. National infection Surveillance Program for Aged Care (NISPAC) project: 64 RACHs participated in the pilot, and

4. Safe At Home research project. These surveillance programs include a suite of modules that monitor infections and antimicrobial use.

Joyce Roache-Levaai

Principal Officer Infection Prevention & Control, Ministry of Health, Samoa



Joyce Roache-Levaai is the Principal Infection Prevention and Control Officer for the Ministry of Health in Samoa with 13-years' experience in IPC, following 7-years of Nursing in the Paediatric Unit and 1-year in the Outpatient Department.

She obtained her Bachelor Degree of Nursing in 2006 from the National University of Samoa, and later went on to pursue a Graduate Diploma in Infection Prevention and Control from the Waiariki Institute of Technology, New Zealand in 2015.

She is a certified Hand Hygiene Gold Standard Auditor and is an active member of the Pacific Infection Prevention and Control Network (PICNet) and current chair for both PICNet and PICNet Technical Working Group.

Professor Geraint Rogers

Director, Microbiology and Host Health Programme, SAHMRI



Professor Geraint Rogers is a microbiologist and Director of the Microbiome and Host Health Program at the South Australian Health and Medical Research Institute. He holds a conjoint professorial appointment at Flinders University and is internationally recognised for his work on microbial ecology and its impact on human health. His research focuses on the role of the microbiome in ageing, infection, chronic disease, and antimicrobial resistance, with a strong translational emphasis. He has published extensively, leads multidisciplinary teams, and is committed to advancing microbiome science to inform healthcare innovation and improve patient outcomes.

Dr Megan Young

Public Health Physician, Metro North Public Health Unit



Dr Megan Young is a public health physician at the Metro North Public Health Unit in Brisbane. She holds a PhD in Public Health and Adjunct Associate Professor positions at the University of Queensland and Griffith University. Her research interests in notifiable conditions have led to more than 50 publications. She regularly sits on State and National communicable disease policy working groups, recently including the working group responsible for the national public health guideline for measles. She also has significant experience leading the public health response to notified measles cases.

2025 ACIPC LECTURE

Each year, the ACIPC Board invites an individual who has made an outstanding contribution to the field of infection prevention and control to present the ACIPC Lecture at our ACIPC International Conference.

On behalf of the board of directors, it gives me great pleasure to announce Dr Peta-Anne Zimmerman will present the ACIPC Lecture at our 2025 conference in Hobart.

The ACIPC Lecture is scheduled from 1.40 to 2.10pm on Tuesday 18 November 2025 at the Hotel Grand Chancellor, Hobart.

Stéphane Bouchoucha - President



The Last of Us: Infection Prevention and Control, Global Disruption, and Circles of Influence.

Abstract

In an age where health is tested by politics, conflict, and collective fatigue, infection prevention and control (IPC) stands at the fault line between endurance and collapse. Drawing on *The Last of Us* as a mirror to our times, this lecture explores what happens when systems fracture, trust erodes, and fear spreads faster than facts. Still, people keep showing up to protect others. Through the lens of global disruption and shared professional experience, it examines how IPC holds both the line and the memory of what matters: evidence, integrity, and care. It considers the circles of influence that shape our field, from global governance to local leadership, and asks how we sustain moral courage and human connection when the world feels like it is tearing itself apart. As it is for us, *The Last of Us* is not a story of endings but of the quiet strength of those who stay. Infection prevention and control remains a quiet act of defiance. It is a commitment to protect, connect, and uphold what matters. In every circle of influence, no matter how small, there is power in choosing care.

Dr Peta-Anne Zimmerman is an internationally respected clinician, educator and researcher in infection prevention and control. Dr Zimmerman's experience includes consultancy work with the World Health Organization (WHO), the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT), AusAID, the Asian Development Bank (ADB), the Pacific Community (SPC). Her expertise has led her to work extensively in China, South East Asia, and the South Pacific, directly on outbreak response, and the development of comprehensive infection prevention and control programmes, infrastructure development and renovation, and integration of public health and acute care response in infectious disease emergencies in low- and middle-income country settings. Peta-Anne is a Board Director of the Australasian College for Infection Prevention and Control (ACIPC), ACIPC representative and senior faculty for the Global Outbreak Alert and Response Network (GOARN), and member of the ACIPC Credentialling and Professional Practices (CAPS) Committee.

Peta-Anne directs the Graduate Infection Prevention and Control Program at Griffith University and is a Visiting Research Fellow with the Gold Coast Hospital and Health Service, Australia. Her research focus is infection prevention and control, public health, and outbreak response, including novel approaches to the teaching and learning of this discipline, and health education in general.

PRE-CONFERENCE WORKSHOPS

Join Us for the Reusable Medical Devices Reprocessing Workshop – 16 November 2025

Are you involved in the reprocessing of reusable medical devices? Don't miss this engaging, scenario-driven workshop designed to strengthen your understanding and practice in safe, compliant reprocessing across diverse healthcare settings. The day begins with an overview of key principles, followed by powerful storytelling that brings real-life incidents to light such as environmental contamination caused by a leaking pipe in the reprocessing room and temperature and humidity fluctuations in the sterile store room. These stories highlight the critical importance of a well-designed reprocessing environment.

Dive into interactive sessions including:

- Design to Commission: Best practices for setting up reprocessing areas.
- Scenario-Based Discussions: Practical problem-solving with peers.
- AS 5369 Gap Analysis: Identify and address compliance gaps.
- Regulatory Requirements: Stay up to date with standards and expectations.
- Education & Resources: Explore tools to support ongoing learning.

We'll also spotlight non-hospital reprocessing facilities, from oral health and GP clinics to satellite services sharing lived experiences, enablers, and barriers. Whether you're new to reprocessing or looking to refine your approach, this workshop offers valuable insights and connections. Register now to secure your place and elevate your practice!

Aged Care Workshop: Circles of Influence

Join us for an engaging workshop series designed for aged care professionals, focused on enhancing care quality, infection prevention, and clinical skills. This interactive program features three sessions:

10:45 – 12:15 | Gentle Shield – Compassionate IPC for Cognitive Impairment

Perri Waddell, Carrie Spinks, and Nicole Smith will explore practical strategies to implement infection prevention and control (IPC) while maintaining a compassionate approach for residents with cognitive impairment.

13:00 – 14:30 | The Aseptic Edge – Mastering Wound and Skin Care in Aged Care – with a home care focus

Hayley Ryan, Tanesha Sant, and Lainy Taylor guide participants through advanced wound and skin care techniques, combining clinical excellence with evidence-based aseptic practice.

A-PRECISE Study (Australia – PReventing infECTIONS In reSidential agEd care)

Phillip Russo, Karen Harris, and Helen Rawson present insights from this Medical Research Future Fund (MRFF)-supported study, highlighting research-driven strategies to prevent infections in residential aged care settings. Participants will gain practical skills, current evidence, and actionable strategies to enhance care and safety.

For a full outline of this workshop, please see page 28.

PRE-CONFERENCE WORKSHOPS

Demystifying the Micro lab for the ICP Sunday, 10:00AM – 5:00PM

Understanding microbiology is a vital skill for Infection Control Professionals (ICPs), and this dynamic pre-conference workshop is designed to bridge the gap between infection prevention and the microbiology lab. Demystifying the Micro Lab for the ICP offers a practical and engaging deep dive into microbiological concepts and lab processes that underpin infection control practice.

Participants will explore topics such as basic microbiology, antimicrobial resistance, interpreting pathology reports, and environmental sampling. Expert presenters will share insights into emerging technologies, public health case studies, and how ICPs can collaborate effectively with laboratory teams. The day features interactive panel discussions and networking opportunities, making it ideal for both newcomers and experienced professionals seeking a refresher.

The workshop features interactive panel discussions and networking opportunities, making it ideal for both newcomers and seasoned professionals seeking a refresher. Attendees will leave empowered with the knowledge and confidence to navigate the complexities of microbiology in both clinical and public health contexts.

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ACIPC INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE 2025

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ACIPC BOOTH

Come and say hello to the ACIPC team at booth 48 in the exhibition foyer (next to the registration desk).

We have lots of fun planned for you this year!

- Embrace your inner artist with our IPC-themed colouring wall
- We want to hear from you:
 - Have your say by posting your note on our ACIPC activity boards.
 - Get involved in our campaign to embed IPC the new Australian CDC and see the impact of your action on our live IPC in the CDC interactive screen (Australian residents only).
- Interested in joining one of our Special Interest Groups? Come along and meet the SIG convenors to find out more about SIGs and how they can add value to your IPC career (see below for details and times).

GET YOUR FREE CONFERENCE HEADSHOT

This year we are once again pleased to offer delegates the chance to get a complimentary professional headshot so come along to the Exhibition Foyer and get your picture taken!

Great to have for LinkedIn, resumes, or any professional purposes, and your image will be emailed to you directly after the conference.

MASSAGES

Monday and Tuesday 10AM-4PM, Wednesday 10AM – 1.30PM.

Location: Booth 37, Exhibition Hall
We are once again supporting the International Federation of Infection Control (IFIC), so come along and treat yourself to a neck and shoulder massage for a small donation (EFT facilities available).

MEET THE SIGS

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

Come to the ACIPC booth 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
Morning Tea: 1030 - 1100	Morning Tea: 1030-1100	Morning Tea: 1030-1100
SA - Nicole Vause	Veterinary - Angela Willemsen	WA - Kristie Popkiss
	Rural, Remote & Regional - Maggie Di Giacomo	
Lunch: 1220-1320	Lunch: 1220-1340	Lunch: 1220-1320
Paediatric - Claire Nayda		
Afternoon Tea: 1525 - 1600	Afternoon Tea: 1535-1605	
VIC - Donna Cameron	Sustainability - Karen McKenna	

ACIPC INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

**ACIPC congratulates all conference scholarship winners.
We look forward to seeing them at conference!**

AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND

Carmel Couch
Jacky Meyer
Leanne Muir
Narelle Briggs
Suzanne Alexander
Chris Russell
Susan Whyte
Magdalena Di Giacomo
Patricia Knight
Katerina Perkovic
Carla De Marco
Luis Mata Mendez
Nicole Sarader
Amanda Birkin
Kaye Bellis

PACIFIC REGION

Betty Mundua (Papua New Guinea)
Muni Nadan (Fiji)

RURAL AND REMOTE

Kasia Benson
Anita Tyrell
Arishma Devi

SEED GRANT RECIPIENTS

A key strategy focus of the College is to enable members to identify areas for research that will lead to improved knowledge, evidence-based education and practice, and improved outcomes. In alignment with this strategy, the College provides opportunities for our members to undertake research with the assistance of research grants.

We are excited to announce the recipients of 2024/25's grants.

Early Career Research Grant - Josie Lovegrove

"Barriers and facilitators to implementing standards for peripheral intravenous catheter care: A descriptive qualitative study of hospital clinicians and policymakers across Australia"

Seed Grant - Margaret Leong

"Hand hygiene knowledge, attitude, and practices in Pacific Island Countries and Territories (PICTs) "

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

Nominations for the Board have now closed.

Regards,

Stephane Bouchoucha
President, ACIPC Ltd



STAND UPPP FOR INFECTION PREVENTION

UNITE
PREVENT
PROTECT
PREVAIL

INFECTION PREVENTION & CONTROL WEEK
19-25 OCTOBER 2025

That's a wrap on IPC Week 2025!

This year's theme, STAND UPPP for IPC, called on all of us to Unite. Prevent. Protect. Prevail. – a powerful reminder that infection prevention is everyone's business, every day. Across Australia and beyond, members and colleagues shared their creativity, commitment, and community spirit through quizzes, word games, and workplace celebrations.

Quiz, Wordle, and Spot the Risk answers are now available on our website – [**how did your team go**](#)

Our Photo Competition showcased incredible engagement once again. Congratulations to our winner, Bushland Health Group in NSW, whose photo captured the essence of teamwork and prevention in action! They'll be receiving a custom-engraved trophy to show off in their workplace.

And a big shout-out to our runners-up – your entries were fantastic. Take a look at the full photo gallery on the following pages.

From posters and puzzles to inspiring team photos, this year's IPC Week truly highlighted the strength of our community.

Well done everyone for standing UPPP for infection prevention and control – together we're making a difference!



Bushland Health Group



Bushland Health Group



Baptistcare Karingal



St John of God Berwick



Liverpool Hospital





Bene Aged Care Campbelltown



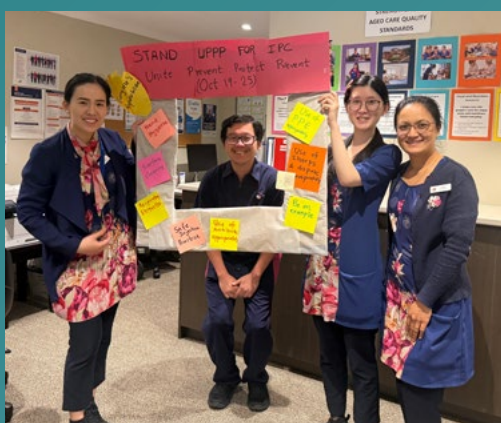
Matariki Concare, Health NZ



Murrumbidgee Local Health District



Far West Local Health District



Nellie Melba Retirement Village



Baptistcare Warena



NEOM Hospital, Saudi Arabia



St John of God Mt Lawler



Blacktown Hospital



Lismore Base Hospital



North Eastern Community Hospital



NSLHD Infection Prevention and Control & Physical Health (MHDA)



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Safe at Home Consumer Group

Do you work for an **in-home aged care (I-HAC) service**? Would you like to be part of our research project to improve the quality of care in I-HAC services, with a focus on infection prevention and control (IPC) and antimicrobial stewardship (AMS)?

If YES, you may be interested in being part of our Consumer Group for our NHMRC funded research project 'Safe at Home'.

What is this research project about?

The Safe at Home research project is aiming to develop, implement and evaluate an infection and antimicrobial use surveillance program specifically for use in I-HAC services.

The Consumer Group will:

- offer advice to the researchers based on their experience of working for an I-HAC service.
- meet online every 2 months, or as required to provide feedback.
- be supported by Assoc/Professor Noleen Bennett who is leading the research team.

Meetings will commence Wednesday 8th October 2025 8:30-9am (AEDT) and thereafter, time to be determined on the second Wednesday every 2 months for the duration of the 2 year project.

Why participate?

- Have the opportunity to provide feedback on the development of an I-HAC infection and antimicrobial use surveillance program.
- Help strengthen IPC and AMS practices for I-HAC services.

Register now!

Secure your spot by registering: nispac@mh.org.au

MEMBER PROFILE

Priscilla Singh & Shelley Cooper

October is Mental Health month, and we spoke with Priscilla Singh, Clinical Nurse Consultant (Infection Prevention & Control), St John of God Berwick Hospital St John of God Langmore Centre and Shelley Cooper Director of Clinical Services Mental Health St John of God Langmore Centre.



Tell us a bit about the Langmore Centre and the work you do there.

Shelley: The Langmore Centre is a 60-bed private mental health hospital providing inpatient and day-patient care. Our alcohol and other drugs unit supports detox and recovery from substances including alcohol, methamphetamine, cannabis, and prescription medications.

We also offer an ADHD program for assessment, diagnosis, and treatment of complex ADHD, plus a 27-bed mental health unit for anxiety, depression, trauma, and personality disorders.

Our 14-bed unit supports emergency services and defence personnel with PTSD or anxiety, and our day programs help people maintain recovery and build healthy, meaningful lives.

What does IPC practice look like in your setting?

Priscilla: Coming from an acute care background, I've had to rethink what infection prevention looks like in a mental health setting. In acute care, infection meant isolation and strict precautions — but that doesn't work here. Our patients are in rehabilitation, and connection is part of their recovery. I've learned so much from Shelley about finding that balance between maintaining safety and supporting recovery in a compassionate, realistic way.

Shelley: Every day is about managing risks while keeping treatment meaningful. Most of our patients are mobile, spending time in group therapy and social settings, so IPC here is about creative problem-solving. During the peak of COVID, for example, we had to weigh up the infection risk against the harm of isolation. Sometimes that meant switching to telehealth, discharging someone to recover at home, or spacing them apart in group sessions — but always with empathy. It's really about doing the most good with the least harm: keeping people safe while ensuring they still feel connected, supported, and cared for.

Do you work with the patients on IPC education as well as staff?

Priscilla: Absolutely — education is a big part of what we do, not just for staff but for patients too. Mental health nursing is quite different from acute care, so we've done a lot of hands-on training with staff around things like PPE use, swabbing, and specimen collection — skills they might not have used much before. There's also a lot of reassurance involved, helping both staff and patients feel confident that infection prevention can be part of care without feeling clinical or restrictive.

We really focus on empowering patients, encouraging them to take part in their own care. The nurses do a fantastic job explaining things in plain, simple language and using leaflets to help patients understand why precautions are needed, or why they might need to go home until they're well. This makes infection prevention something that feels supportive rather than punitive.

Do you find that caring for people in mental health crisis — who may already have other health issues or struggle with daily living — adds extra challenges to infection prevention and overall care?

Shelley: Caring for people in crisis does add a whole new layer of complexity. When someone is experiencing severe depression, they may struggle with basic self-care like showering or changing clothes, which increases infection risks such as UTIs. The team's approach is all about gentle encouragement and respect — using kindness, humour, and trust to motivate patients rather than directive or clinical language. Building strong relationships helps patients feel supported and cared for, not judged.

During COVID outbreaks, this is even more challenging. We have to balance infection prevention with the mental health risks of isolation, knowing that keeping people apart could worsen their condition. Education and collaboration are key — helping patients understand the “why” behind precautions, involving them in decisions, and finding safe ways to bring people back together through masks, hand hygiene, and testing.

Are you often surprised at the things that happen that you've suddenly got to develop a policy for?

Priscilla: Absolutely. things come up all the time that we could never have predicted. With shared dining areas, for example, we've had to think creatively about infection control, introducing disposable wipes instead of alcohol-based hand gels to avoid the risk of ingestion while still keeping everyone safe and hygienic. Then there are the more unexpected challenges, like managing cases of scabies or bed bugs — situations that don't usually crop up in acute care. When someone arrives with their own belongings, the team must think on their feet about how to manage clothing, bedding, and furniture safely, all while keeping the patient's dignity intact. It's a constant balancing act between practicality, safety, and compassion.

What difference has it made having an IPC consultant working within the facility?

Shelley: Having Priscilla here has been a game-changer. We're a small hospital — sometimes there are only three people on a ward or five on a night shift — so flexibility is everything. Priscilla just gets that. She meets people where they're at, whether that means being here at 6:30 in the morning after night shift or standing there with her iPad and a lollipop ready to give flu shots. Since she joined, our vaccination rates have gone up so much because she makes it easy, friendly, and fun — it doesn't feel like another job on the list.

Priscilla: For me, working in IPC in a mental health setting is all about relationships and collaboration. In acute care, you can just hand over a policy and move on, but here, every case is different — every patient has their own needs and care plan. That's where Shelley and I really work well together. We bounce ideas off each other, find practical solutions, and make sure the approach fits our patients and staff. Having that trust, leadership, and support makes all the difference.

I've also become much more holistic since moving into this space. In acute care, it was all about following the policy — 5-7 days for chickenpox, isolate until crusted, that kind of thing. But in mental health, it's not that simple. People are mobile, they're in therapy, they're part of a community. So now it's about assessing each situation — maybe someone can still join group therapy, just sit a bit apart and wear a mask. Most people are vaccinated anyway, so we take a balanced, risk-based approach..

What's your message for Mental Health Month?

Priscilla: For me, Mental Health Month is about reminding IPC professionals that it's okay to be flexible — we're not the "policy police." Infection prevention doesn't have to be black and white. There are always ways to keep everyone safe while still showing compassion and understanding. People living with mental illness deserve the same standard of infection prevention as anyone else — it just needs to be adapted to their needs and delivered with empathy.

Shelley: From my perspective, mental health is no different from any other area of healthcare. The people we support are part of our community — they're our families, our friends, our colleagues. Many are also living with other conditions or receiving treatment in different settings, so they should be treated with the same respect and care as anyone else. Mental Health Month is a good reminder that it only takes the right set of circumstances for any one of us to need that same kind of support.

Veterinary Foundations of Infection Prevention and Control



Next course commences 6 March 2026

We are pleased to announce that in 2026 we will once again be offering – Veterinary Foundations of Infection Prevention and Control (VFIPC).

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

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

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

Topics include:

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

This course reflects recent evidence, guidelines and standards.

Cost

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

**BOOK NOW
FOR COURSE
COMMENCING
6 MARCH
2026**

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



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Aged Care IPC Workshop 2025

Circles of Influence - Advancing Safe Care, Connection & Confidence

Date: Sunday 16 November

9:00 AM – 4:30 PM

Venue: Hotel Grand Chancellor, Hobart.

Morning tea and lunch provided

A Day of Inspiration and Practical Learning

Join us for a dynamic day packed with interactive workshops, collaboration, and fresh ideas in aged care. Perfect for IPC nurses/leads, doctors, allied health, public health, academics, and leaders. Strengthen your skills, build confidence, and deliver care with compassion and excellence.

10:15 – 10:45 | Vision of IPC in Aged Care

Adjunct Professor Alison McMillan

10:45 – 12:15 | Gentle Shield – Compassionate IPC for Cognitive Impairment

Perri Waddell, Nicole Smith & Carrie Spinks

Discover how IPC can be compassionate and person-centred. Using the Open the Doors and CHA models, learn to reframe dementia care around ability, inclusion, and dignity. Join a hands-on team activity to break the chain of infection while keeping safety and personhood intact. It can co-exist.

13:00 – 14:30 | The Aseptic Edge – Mastering Wound and Skin Care (Home Care Focus)

Hayley Ryan, Tanesha Sant & Lainy Taylor

Sharpen your wound and skin care skills with a home/community care focus (applicable anywhere!). This practical session covers aseptic technique, clinical governance, and infection prevention, providing tools to improve outcomes, comfort, and dignity while reducing avoidable hospitalisations.

15:00 – 16:15 | The A-PRECISE Study – PReventing infEctions In reSidential agEd care

Phillip Russo, Karen Harris & Helen Rawson

Learn from the MRFF-supported A-PRECISE study — a co-designed IPC model developed with residents, families, and staff. Discover practical ways to embed co-design in your service and create effective, person-centred IPC strategies that last.

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TO RESERVE
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SUSTAINABILITY SIG

NOVEMBER MEETING

ACIPC members are warmly invited to attend the Sustainability Special Interest Group meeting on Thursday, 27 November 2025 from 12:00 – 1:00 PM (AEDT).

Date: Thursday 27 November 2025
Time: 12:00 PM AEDT
Online via Zoom

Topic: Driving Sustainability with Reusable Gowns and Drapes
Reusable sterile gowns and drapes: A case study on using existing evidence, collaborative policy development, and case studies of change to drive larger sustainability wins.

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NOVEMBER
MEETING**

Sustainability

SIG Special
Interest
Group



Speaker: Ben Dunne

Ben Dunne is a Thoracic Surgeon at Royal Melbourne Hospital and the Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre.

He is the RMH Clinical Sustainability Lead, he a Senior Fellow in Sustainable Healthcare and chairs the University of Melbourne Environmentally Sustainable Surgery Network, and is Chair of the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons Environmental Sustainability in Surgical Practice Working Party.

He is passionate about driving clinician engagement with sustainable healthcare initiatives, reducing low value care and improving collaboration in sustainability across the health system

Contact SIG Convenor:

Karen McKenna, ACIPC IPC Consultant,
karen.mckenna@acipc.org.au

BUG OF THE MONTH

Polio

Karen McKenna



What is it?

Poliovirus is the virus responsible for polio, an acute illness caused by gastrointestinal infection, that can lead to long-term disability, paralysis and death^{1,2}.

Since the 1980s, the World Health Organization (WHO) has led a global campaign to eradicate polio through mass vaccination programs and case surveillance³. Because of these efforts polio is now considered rare in most parts of the world, though it still circulate in some developing countries³.

The elimination of polio is considered one of the most important public health achievements. In 2000, the WHO declared the Western Pacific region polio free⁴. Today, only a few countries in Asia and Africa still have transmission of poliovirus, but the cases are sporadic and incidence is low². Afghanistan and Pakistan remain two countries where poliovirus continues to circulate².

Every year on the 24th of October, World Polio Day is observed to raise awareness about the importance of polio vaccination, and to celebrate the global efforts that have made eradication of polio achievable⁵.

Signs and Symptoms

Most people infected with poliovirus do not develop symptoms. Around 10% may experience mild symptoms which include fever, headache, tiredness, nausea and vomiting, before making a full recovery³. In rare cases more serious symptoms include stiffness of the back and neck, and paralysis².

The incubation period typically ranges from 3 – 21 days, most commonly around 7-14 days^{2,3}. Cases are considered most infectious from 7-10 days before the onset of symptoms until 7-10 days after symptoms start^{2,3}.

How is it transmitted?

The poliovirus is transmitted through the faecal-oral route, and occasionally the oral-oral route. After entering the mouth, the virus multiplies in the pharynx and gut, and is excreted in faeces for several weeks². Transmission can occur through person-to-person contact with infectious oral secretions or faeces, through drinking water contaminated with untreated sewerage, and when consuming food that has been in contact with contaminated water, or prepared by someone with polio³.

At risk groups?

Children under 5 years of age are mainly affected by poliovirus, but anyone who is not immune can contract and spread polio³.

Unvaccinated people are at increased risk when travelling to countries where polio still circulates, as they may carry the infection with them while travelling to other countries or when returning home³.

Prevention?

Polio is preventable through vaccination, which has dramatically reduced the global incidence³. Children and infants are recommended to be vaccinated, and in Australia this is available through the National Immunisation Program³. Travellers to polio-affected areas, laboratory staff, and healthcare workers who may have contact with poliovirus or polio cases are recommended to receive a booster vaccination every 10 years^{2,3}.

Additional preventive measures include practicing good hygiene when travelling to countries with known polio circulation, including hand hygiene and ensuring food and water are clean and safe to consume³.

Key messages:

- Polio is preventable through vaccination
- Polio still poses a global risk despite being rare
- Awareness and good hygiene are critical for prevention

References

1. Australian Government. Poliovirus infection. <https://www.health.gov.au/diseases/poliovirus-infection?language=en>
2. Australian Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation (ATAGI). The Australian Immunisation Handbook. Australian Government Department of Health and Aged Care; 2022.
3. NSW Health. Poliomyelitis fact sheet. Updated 11 November 2022. <https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/Infectious/factsheets/Pages/poliomyelitis.aspx>
4. Adams A, Boualam L, Diorditsa S, et al. Maintaining polio-free certification in the World Health Organization Western Pacific Region for over a decade. J Infect Dis. Nov 1 2014;210 Suppl 1(Suppl 1):S259-67. doi:10.1093/infdis/jiu164
5. World Health Organization. World Polio Day. WHO. <https://www.who.int/europe/campaigns/world-polio-day>

Infection Control Matters Podcast

Infection Control Matters Live from the 2026 IPS Brighton Conference

In this episode, Martin Kiernan hosts a panel discussion at the 2026 Infection Prevention Society Conference in Brighton, United Kingdom.

The Panel comprised:

- Dr Stephane Bouchoucha, Associate Professor in Nursing and Associate Head of School (International) in the School of Nursing and Midwifery at Deakin University in Melbourne, New South Wales Australia. Stephane is the current President of the Australasian College of Infection Prevention and Control
- Dr Mark Garvey, Consultant Clinical Scientist in Microbiology and Deputy Director of Infection Prevention and Control for the Infection Prevention and Control Service at University Hospitals Birmingham NHS Foundation Trust (UHB)
- Kerry Holden, Lead Nurse and Deputy Director of Infection Prevention and Control at Gloucestershire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust in the UK. Kerry is the current IPS Vice-President.
- Dr Maura Smiddy, Director of the MSc in Infection Prevention and Control at University College Cork in Ireland and Chair of the IPS Research and Development Group.
- Lorraine Williams, Deputy Director of Infection Prevention & Control and Lead Nurse for IPC. Lorraine is a former IPS Vice-President.

Topics we discuss include:

- Why are infection rates not falling?
- What can be done to reduce infections in long-term care that require readmission to hospital
- If each panel member were given £1,000,000 for an implementation, what would they do?
- If each panel member had to stop doing something that the infection prevention team currently does, what would that be?



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Cutting CDC and IPC funding in the US – Implications and what can we do?

In this podcast, Brett and Phil have a chat with Professor David Weber on the sidelines of the ICPIC conference in Geneva. We chat about the funding cuts for the WHO and the US CDC, including the disbandment of HICPAC - and what this means for IPC. We discuss what is being done and what needs to happen to fill the void and to ensure contemporary IPC evidence and guidelines are available.

Prof Weber, a distinguished leader in infection prevention and healthcare epidemiology, is the current President of the Society for Healthcare Epidemiology of America (SHEA). Prof Weber has also held many leadership and committee roles, including with HICPAC.

Latest articles from Infection, Disease & Health

Cost-effectiveness of antimicrobial stewardship programs in Indian tertiary care hospitals: A Markov model analysis comparing ASP and non-ASP intervention scenarios

Yuvaraj Krishnamoorthy, Salin K. Elias, Monica Karunakaran, Muneera Parveen, Anaswara Manohar, Jaffar A. Al-Tawfiq

Validation of performance qualification of ultrasound probe high-level disinfection devices in clinical settings

David Bellamy, Karen Vickery

Testing the waters - The public acceptability of key population-level infection control measures in post-pandemic Australia

Chris Degeling, Su-Yin Hor, Emma Campbell, Jane Williams



Clinical Nurse Consultant - Infection Prevention & Control (521317)

Department of Health

Position: Permanent, part time, day worker position, working up to 64 hours per fortnight, commencing from 29 December 2025.

The role of the Clinical Nurse Consultant (CNC) - Infection Prevention & Control is to liaise, consult and support the North West Primary Health Services (District Hospitals, Aged Care and Community Health Services) in the development and implementation of infection control policies, practice, programs and education and training programs in conjunction with the Tasmanian Infection Prevention and Control Unit (TIPCU) to provide safe quality patient/resident/client care.

Identify the learning and support requirements of the Primary Health Services in the North West and, with the support of TIPCU, incorporate



these into the National and Statewide initiatives/direction framework. Work collaboratively with the Infection Prevention and Control CNC - Mersey Community Hospital and North West Regional Hospital in the delivery of infection control programs throughout the North West. Provide the Nursing Director - Primary Health North West with high level quality and authoritative advice and support.

Salary: \$114,851 to \$121,886 per annum (Pro rata). Our Employer 12% superannuation contribution is on top of this amount.

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Selected Publications of Interest

Bacteriophage cocktail to combat superbugs

Could slow water flow be risky when handwashing?

What are the benefits of an RSV vaccine for older adults?

**Germicidal UV Light and Incidence of Acute Respiratory Infection in Long-Term Care for Older Adults
A Randomized Clinical Trial**

Understanding factors influencing sustainability and sustainment of evidence-based bronchiolitis management of infants in Australian and New Zealand hospital settings: a qualitative process evaluation

Staff perceptions of their roles in infection prevention and control in residential aged care homes: A qualitative study

Events Calendar

**ACIPC 2025 International Conference
16-19 November 2025**
Hobart, Tasmania and online
[Register now](#)

**World AMR Awareness Week
18-24 November 2025**
[More info](#)

**Sustainability SIG November meeting
Thursday, 27 November 2025 from 12:00
– 1:00 PM (AEDT).**
Online via Zoom
[Register here \(ACIPC members\)](#)

**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](#)

**National Centre for Antimicrobial
Stewardship Seminar – Digital AMS
Wednesday 17 December 2025, 8.30AM**
[Register here](#)



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