



ACIPC

Australasian College
for Infection Prevention and Control

IPC
News
January 26

President's report

Dr Sally Havers

Hi everyone and welcome to the January 2026 edition of IPC News — and Happy New Year.



As we step into 2026, I hope you've had even a small pocket of time to rest, recharge, and reset. I'm not someone who really believes in New Year's resolutions—if anything, I think the year ahead will bring its fair share of challenges for all of us. But what I do believe in is reflection. And sometimes the best part of taking a break is that it reminds us of who we are, what matters most and what brings us fulfilment.

Over the past few weeks (as I have tried to get back into work mode) I've found myself thinking about our IPC community—this committed group of people who show up for our consumers, each other, often in ways that go unseen. We may not be a large specialisation, but we are certainly strong because of our passion, and because we make the effort to look after one another.

As President, that reflection has helped me refocus on our year ahead. I'll be thinking a lot about how ACIPC can make connections across our networks easier and more visible for our members. Because belonging to a community shouldn't feel accidental; it should feel intentional, accessible, and strengthening, helping us to advance as a profession and individually.

Our mentoring program has been one of the most tangible ways we've created structured connection and support for our members. The program provides a formal pathway for those relationships to grow and strengthen across the College. I'm honoured to have been invited to speak at the close out of the 2025 program in February—it is a privilege to acknowledge the contribution of mentors and mentees who have invested their time and expertise in developing future leaders in our field. I would also like to thank Erica and the Membership Engagement Committee for their ongoing work in delivering and maintaining a well designed, well run program that consistently supports our members' professional development.

February will also mark an exciting milestone for our growing community of Special Interest Groups (SIGs), with the inaugural meetings of our new Veterinary and Rural, Remote and Regional SIGs. These SIGs reflect the diversity of IPC practice and the importance of tailored conversations across settings. If you are interested in joining or starting a SIG, please see the ACIPC's Special Interest Groups page on our website.

In other significant events, on 1 January, the new Australian Centre for Disease Control officially commenced operations. ACIPC strongly supports the intent of the Australian CDC to strengthen

national disease prevention and preparedness. However, we remain clear and consistent in our position that infection prevention and control expertise must be embedded within its structure. IPC is fundamental to protecting consumers, healthcare workers and communities, and we will continue to advocate for its formal inclusion as a recognised specialty within the CDC.

I'm also delighted to confirm a save the date for our 2026 ACIPC Conference, to be held from 8-11 November 2026 on the Gold Coast, Queensland. Planning is already underway, and further details on invited speakers, social events, registration, abstracts, sponsorship and exhibition opportunities will be shared shortly. If you have any suggestions at all for speakers (international or national) please get in touch with the office for them to forward on to the Committee – we would love to hear your ideas. As always, the conference will be offered in a hybrid format, ensuring there are multiple ways to connect, learn and participate. We very much look forward to seeing you there.

Finally, I was pleased to see such strong engagement in our recent joint Sustainability in IPC webinar with the Infection Prevention Society (IPS), UK. Collaboration with our international partners is vital as we navigate shared challenges, and my thanks go to Karen McKenna, ACIPC IPC Consultant and Convenor of the Sustainability SIG, for facilitating such a timely and important discussion. I'd also like to extend gratitude to IPS and to guest speakers Graham Pike, Holly Slyne, Susan Whyte and Carla DeMarco for their valuable insights. ACIPC Members can access the webinar recording in the ACIPC website Members' Area.

As we look ahead, 2026 will bring new plans, challenges and opportunities for the College and for us all. The Board and I remain committed to supporting your work, strengthening education and advocacy, and ensuring IPC remains at the forefront of safe, sustainable healthcare. And as we take on that work together, I am reminded that the strength of our College has always come from the community and network that sits behind each of us—something we will continue to nurture and prioritise in the year ahead.

Warm regards,

Sally Havers

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

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.

**ACIPC
EMAIL
CAMPAIGN**



Credentiallling

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

Primary credentiallling: Georgia Dunscombe

Primary re-credentiallling: Cheryl Spackman

Expert credentiallling: Marcus Kusiak

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

FOR MORE
INFORMATION
CLICK HERE

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

SAVE THE DATE

MORE
INFORMATION
COMING SOON

2026 ACIPC INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

November 8-11

Gold Coast, Queensland



Cutan®

**Cutan® handwash to sanitiser,
complete clinical protection for
every consultation.**

Support hygiene for patients, staff and visitors

[LEARN MORE](#)

1: Wash



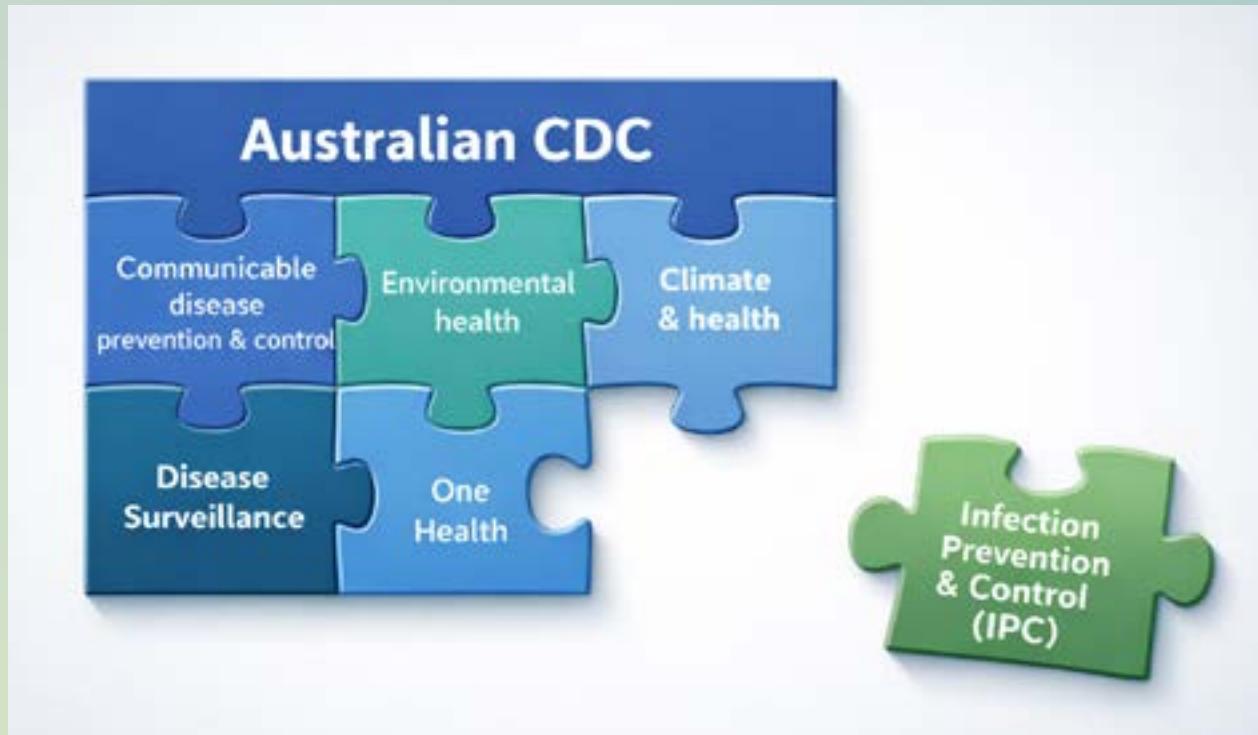
2: Sanitise



3: Moisturise



Paid Advert



ACIPC Advocates for IPC in the CDC

The new Australian Centre for Disease Control (CDC) commenced operation on 1 January 2026

While ACIPC recognises the importance of a national CDC, the exclusion of Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) as a recognised specialty risks undermining public health and safety.

IPC expertise is essential to protect consumers and healthcare workers, improve quality and safety across care settings, and strengthen Australia's preparedness for future infectious disease threats.

ACIPC strongly recommends the Australian CDC formally include IPC experts to ensure:

- expert IPC guidance during future pandemics
- standardised IPC protocols across healthcare and community settings
- effective prevention and control of emerging and future infectious diseases
- a robust national surveillance program for healthcare-associated infections (HAIs)

[Read ACIPC's full position statement here](#)

Meet the Board

Two new Board Directors were appointed at the ACIPC AGM in November 2025.

This month, we meet Kathy Dempsey, Board Director, CICP-E, FACIPC. Kathy is the NSW Chief IPC Practitioner and Healthcare Associated Infection Advisor at the Clinical Excellence Commission.

Tell us about your background and what led you to a career in IPC

I am a registered nurse with over 40 years in the system. I literally fell in to IPC. I was approached by the current ICP at my then hospital to see if I wanted to do some relief in the unit - I was relieving as a CNC for Central Venous Access and Nutritional Support (TPN) at the time and due to go back to my substantive role as CNS Critical Care. Having no idea what I was getting into, it was kind of a 'why not' moment, which turned out to be the best decision of my career. I was immediately thrown in to a massive learning curve shadowing our ICP learning the ropes for the next week before they took extended leave - definitely a sink or swim moment!

I became best friends with the medical book shop, using their only copy of Control of Communicable Diseases Manual until it was so worn they gifted the copy to me. I had also started a Masters of Critical Care at the time and quickly converted that to Infection Prevention and Control, Hospital Epidemiology and Microbiology.

What has been your career highlight so far?

There have been so many careers highlights to choose from among the weird and wonderful issues that come to IPC to be solved. Early in my career, I was awarded a scholarship to the then American SHEA/CDC Epidemiology course in the US, visiting the CDC, although I was very junior then and would love to revisit. The COVID-19 pandemic and the contribution of IPC remain career highlights, particularly the networking, national and international opportunities, and the inspiring women I've met—especially through GOARN's inaugural Women in Leadership training.

I have also recently been awarded my Doctor of Public Health (DrPH). Completing this milestone through a pandemic, the devastating loss of two supervisors and mentors—Prof Mary-Lou McLaws and Dr Annette Pantle—and the loss of my mother has been both incredibly challenging and deeply meaningful. The unwavering support of the IPC community made this achievement possible. I continue to be inspired by the many outstanding IPC leaders in Australia—far too many to name.



Kathy Dempsey, Board Director, CICP-E, FACIPC

What do you think are the main challenges for IPC in 2026?

The challenges facing IPC in 2026 remain significant, though not unexpected. IPC continues to operate across every dimension of health, quality, safety and strategic decision-making, consistently demonstrating its value through effective, action-oriented responses.

A key challenge is ensuring IPC is embedded at all levels of healthcare—integrated as a strategic priority from the outset, rather than treated as an afterthought when problems arise. Achieving this requires IPC services that are properly resourced, supported by strong governance, clear organisational structures and sustained strategic leadership.

How do you like to unwind - any hobbies and interests you'd care to share with us?

I've never been much of a sleeper—some of my best work happens late at night, shaped by more than 20 years of being on call. The past five years have been dominated by the pandemic and completing my DrPH, so only now do I feel I have some downtime. I enjoy shopping (I'm very good at it!) and I'm trying to be more active, including kayaking. Ultimately, though, IPC is my happy place, and continuing to make a positive contribution—while spending time with family, friends and my professional network—is what keeps me centred.

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




**APPLY
HERE**

CALLING ALL INFECTION PREVENTION PROFESSIONALS

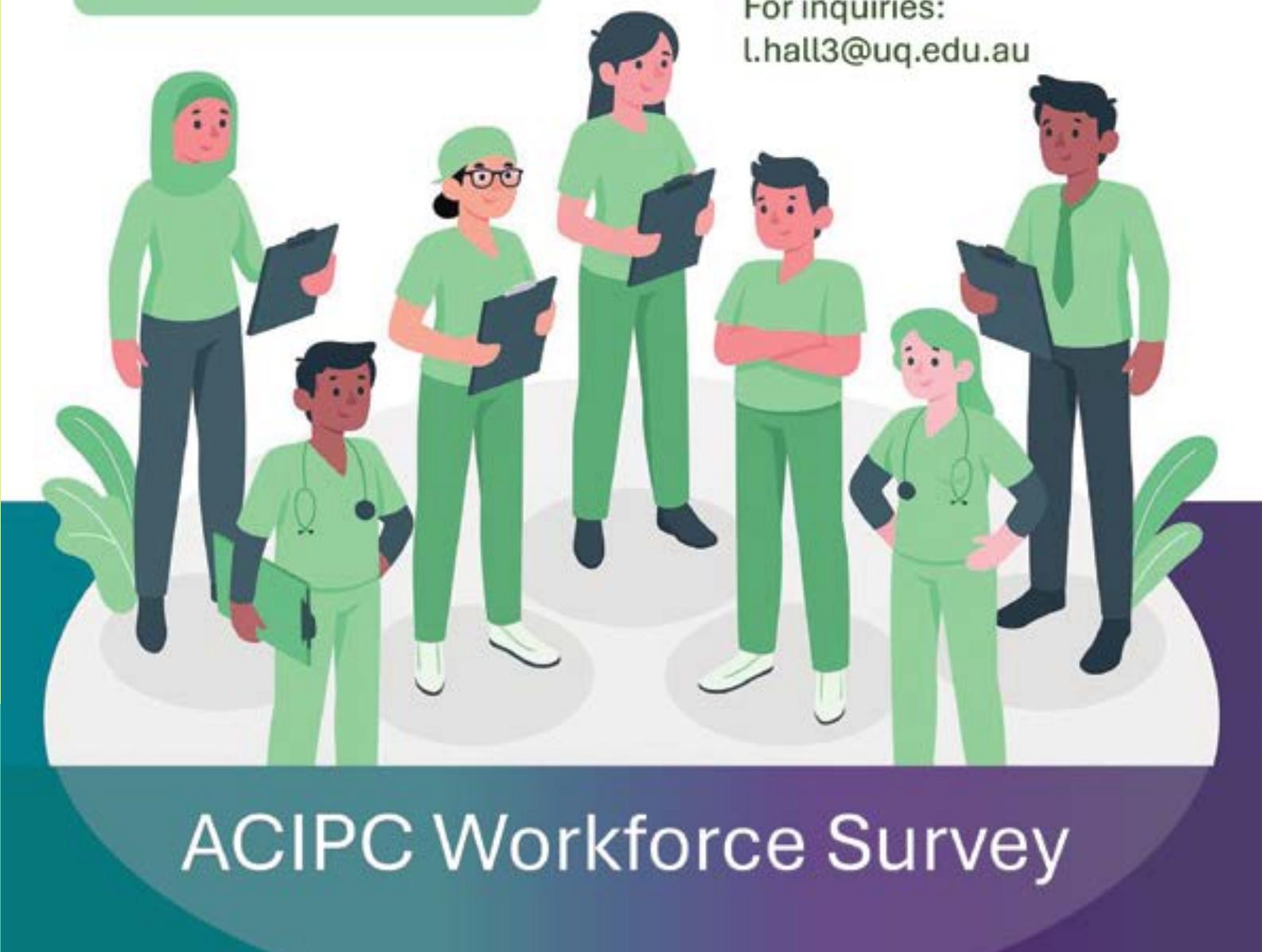
Australia's FIRST comprehensive ICP workforce survey

- ⌚ 30-45 minutes
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- 🎯 Direct policy impact
- 📢 Strengthen our collective voice

Take the Survey



For inquiries:
l.hall3@uq.edu.au



GAMAHEALTHCARE AND ACIPC IPC TOUR 2026



Join us for another year of infection prevention insights, networking opportunities and expert speakers to support you IPC Knowledge.

Hobart

Thursday 9 April 2026
C3 Convention Centre, South Hobart

Melbourne

Tuesday 21 April 2026
RACV City Club

Sydney

Wednesday 29 April 2026
Novotel Sydney Olympics Park – Parklands Room

Perth

Friday 1 May 2026
Bentley Technology Park – Global Streaming Centre

Adelaide

Tuesday 5 May 2026
Adelaide Convention Centre

Brisbane

Friday 8 May 2026
Education Centre, Royal Brisbane
& Women's Hospital

**BOOK
NOW**

**More details including guest speakers
and program coming soon!**

Veterinary

SIG Special Interest Group


VETERINARY SIG FEBRUARY MEETING

CLICK HERE
TO REGISTER
FOR THE
FEBRUARY
MEETING

You are warmly invited to attend the first Veterinary Special Interest Group (VET SIG) meeting. This is a free event offered online via Zoom.

Date: Wednesday, 4 February

Time: 7:00pm (AEDT)

Online: Zoom

Topic:

Reprocessing of Shared items

Event Description:

Reprocessing of reusable items occurs most days in most veterinary practices around the world. Effective reprocessing is required to ensure that no pathogens, including multi-resistant organisms are transmitted to other animals or staff. Consideration for where reprocessing should take place, products that can be used, and knowing when to discard equipment will be discussed. The implications of AS 5369:2023 – Reprocessing of reusable medical devices and other devices in health and non-health related facilities will be included.

- Please submit any questions when you register for the Zoom meeting. Questions can be submitted before the event.
- You will receive a digital survey the day after the meeting. Members of the Veterinary SIG would appreciate if you could spend a few minutes completing the survey to help plan our activities.

- A FAQ handout will be developed and uploaded to the ACIPC Veterinary IPC Resource Library after the event.

Speaker:

Carol Bradley is a Veterinary IPC Consultant and Auditor specializing in Infection Prevention & Control (IPC) in the veterinary industry. With over 40 years of experience at Melbourne University's Veterinary Teaching Hospital, she has worked as a Qualified Veterinary Nurse, Supervisor of the Small and Large Animal Operating Theatres, Manager of the Central Sterilization Department (CSSD), Head of the Veterinary Clinical Skills Program, Clinical Tutor, and Lecturer in Small Animal Surgery.

Her passion for IPC began as Clinical Head of the hospital's Sterilising Department and Supervisor of the operating theatres. Carol holds certification in sterilising and reprocessing medical devices, a Cert IV in Assessment and Workplace Training, and is an Associate Fellow in Veterinary Education (RVC, London). In 2021, she achieved primary credentialing with the Australasian College for Infection Prevention and Control (ACIPC). An accomplished educator, Carol designs training programs that raise clinical competency standards and now focuses on advancing animal care through effective IPC practices across veterinary healthcare.

Contact Veterinary SIG Co-Convenors

Angela Willemse - ACIPC Veterinary IPC Course Lead and FIPC Facilitator
angela.willemse@acipc.org.au

Carol Bradley - Founder & Principal, Bradley Veterinary Infection Prevention and Control Services
cbradleyconsulting@outlook.com

Rural,
Remote &
Regional

SIG Special
Interest
Group



Rural, Remote & Regional SIG FEBRUARY MEETING

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

You are warmly invited to attend the first Rural, Remote & Regional Special Interest Group (RRR SIG) meeting. This is a free event offered online via Zoom.

Date: Thursday, 26 February

Time: 3:00pm (AEDT)

Online: Zoom

Topic:

First Rural, Regional & Remote Special Interest Group (RRR SIG) Meeting

Event Description:

The RRR SIG is committed to promoting equity in access to IPC resources, strengthening professional networks across geographically dispersed healthcare settings and advocating for the needs of IPC professionals working in settings outside of major metropolitan centres. This event will provide a collaborative platform for you to connect and establish a network with IPC professional colleagues across all healthcare settings in rural regional and remote areas. We kindly invite you to join us to help guide the direction of this SIG Resource Library after the event.

Speaker:

Magdalena (Maggie) Di Giacomo is the Clinical Nurse Consultant for IPC at Townsville Hospital and Health Service, North Queensland. Maggie has over 9 years of experience in the field, and is a strong advocate for equitable recognition, representation and support for IPC practice in rural and regional healthcare settings. Maggie is committed to ensuring safer healthcare is accessible outside major metropolitan regions through increasing the promotion and visibility of the unique challenges faced by IPC professionals geographically dispersed locations.

Contact Veterinary SIG Co-Convenors

*Maggie Di Giacomo - Clinical Nurse Consultant, Townsville University Hospital
Magdalena.DiGiacomo@health.qld.gov.au*

South
Australia

SIG Special
Interest
Group



SOUTH AUSTRALIAN SIG **FEBRUARY MEETING**

CLICK HERE
TO REGISTER
FOR THE
FEBRUARY
MEETING

You are warmly invited to attend the South Australia Special Interest Group (SIG) meeting on Thursday, 26 February 2026 from 7:30 to 8:30 AM (ACST).

The meeting will be offered in-person and online via Microsoft teams. We would like to encourage as many people as possible to attend in person.

Date: Thursday, 26 February

Time: 7:30 - 8:30 AM (Adelaide time)

Venue: Royal Adelaide Hospital, Level 8D Lecture Theatre, 1 Port Road Adelaide

A light breakfast and refreshments will be provided, with networking opportunities afterwards (time permitting).

Topic:

Value, Vigilance and Vaccination: Using 2025 Insights to Drive a Smarter 2026 Flu Campaign

Speakers:

Session 1: Protect, Prevent, Progress: 2025 Reflections & the 2026 Flu Season

Maryanne Attard - Advanced Nurse Consultant Clinical Worker Health, Corporate & Infrastructure Division SA Health, DWH

Session 2: Minimising Vaccine Wastage - why is this important

Alison Schiller - Nurse Consultant, Immunisation Section, CDCB, DHW

Contact SIG Convenor

Marija Juraja - Nurse Unit Manager - CALHN Infection Prevention & Control Unit

marija.juraja@sa.gov.au.

Aged Care IPC Webinar Series

Understanding asymptomatic
bacteriuria Vs UTI in the
older person

18 FEBRUARY 2026
2PM AEDT



with Carrie Spinks &
guest speaker Brigitte Brodie



Topic: Understanding asymptomatic bacteriuria Vs UTI
in the older person

Presenter: Carrie Spinks

Guest speaker: Brigitte Brodie

**CLICK
HERE TO
REGISTER**

This presentation focuses on asymptomatic bacteriuria (ASB) in aged care residents and its high prevalence in older adults. Highlighting the importance of comprehensive assessment to distinguish ASB from urinary tract infections (UTIs). Understanding the differences in ASB and UTI in our aged care residents, supports appropriate treatment, reduces unnecessary antibiotic use and improves aged care resident outcomes.

Objectives

- Define ASB and differentiate it from UTIs in aged care residents.
- Describe ASB prevalence and risk factors in older adults.
- Outline assessment strategies to distinguish ASB from UTIs.

Promote evidence-based management to reduce unnecessary antibiotics and improve outcomes.

Our guest speaker will be Brigitte Brodie. Brigitte is a registered nurse with nearly 30 years of experience across various clinical areas at the Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital (RBWH). Over the past 10 years, she has worked within the Infection Management and Prevention Service at RBWH, developing extensive expertise in infection management, prevention and antimicrobial use. Brigitte now works as part of a multi-disciplinary team with the Queensland Statewide Antimicrobial Stewardship Program (QSAMSP), supporting clinicians in rural & remote Queensland Health facilities with antimicrobial stewardship through clinical advice, surveillance and education

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

2026 Aged Care Community of Practice Webinar series:

March

Diagnostic stewardship - from swab to requisition



April

Scabies in residential care: identification, management, and outbreak control



May

Aged Care - IPC Governance



June

A feel for ventilation in residential aged care



July

Risk management - aged care hierarchy of controls



August

Vaccination program in aged care



September

Actioning AMS



October

Community care - IPC



For more information, and to register please visit the ACIPC Aged Care IPC Webinar Series page [here](#).



NCAS

National Centre for
Antimicrobial Stewardship

2026

Seminar Series

January



18

February

Animal
Health

18

March

Paediatrics

15

April

Community

20

May

Aged Care

17

June

Environmental

15

July

Local to
global AMS

19

August

Audit and
Feedback

16

September

Sepsis

21

October

Digital
AMS

18

November

Sexual
Health

16

December

Surgery

Register

<https://www.ncas-australia.org/seminar-series>



INFECTION CONTROL MATTERS
DISCUSSIONS ON INFECTION PREVENTION

Infection Control Matters Podcasts



AMR at a National level - The 2025 ESPAUR Report

In this episode, Martin talks to Dr Diane Ashiru-Oredope and colleagues at the UKHSA (UK Health Security Agency) about the 2025 ESPAUR report, focusing on what the latest data mean for clinicians, infection prevention teams, and health system leaders.

We explore what the latest data reveal about antimicrobial resistance and prescribing trends in England, including changes in resistance patterns among major bacterial pathogens and what this means for patient safety and clinical outcomes.

We discuss what's improving, where challenges remain, and how infection prevention and antimicrobial stewardship teams can use national surveillance data to drive meaningful local action.

You can download the report in its entirety here:

<https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/6936ac34b612700b2cb73607/ESPAUR-report-2024-to-2025.pdf>

There is also a supplement and summary in the Journal of Antimicrobial Chemotherapy which can be accessed here:

https://academic.oup.com/jacamr/issue/8/Supplement_2

The TARGET antibiotics toolkit hub is available here:

<https://elearning.rcgp.org.uk/course/view.php?id=553>

e-Bug is available here:

<https://www.e-bug.eu/>



2025 Christmas Special

This is our traditional end of year Christmas special. In this episode we consider highlights from year and have a bit of fun - including a stakeout in London.

We talk about our views on the most significant systematic review, our favourite presentation/poster, RCTs we'd like to see and predictions for 2026.

TO LISTEN OR DOWNLOAD CLICK HERE

BUG OF THE MONTH

Ross River Virus

Karen McKenna
ACIPC IPC Consultant



What is it?

Ross River fever is a viral infection, transmitted through the bite of an infected mosquito.¹ It is the most common mosquito-borne disease in Australia, and is also prevalent in the Solomon Islands and Papua New Guinea.¹

Outbreaks of Ross River virus can occur in areas where mosquitoes breed, with the highest risks in warm, humid environments close to water sources.¹ Recent outbreaks have been reported in Victoria and South Australia. Notable, during 2025 the number of reported cases in South Australia were four times higher than in 2024.^{2,3}

Symptoms

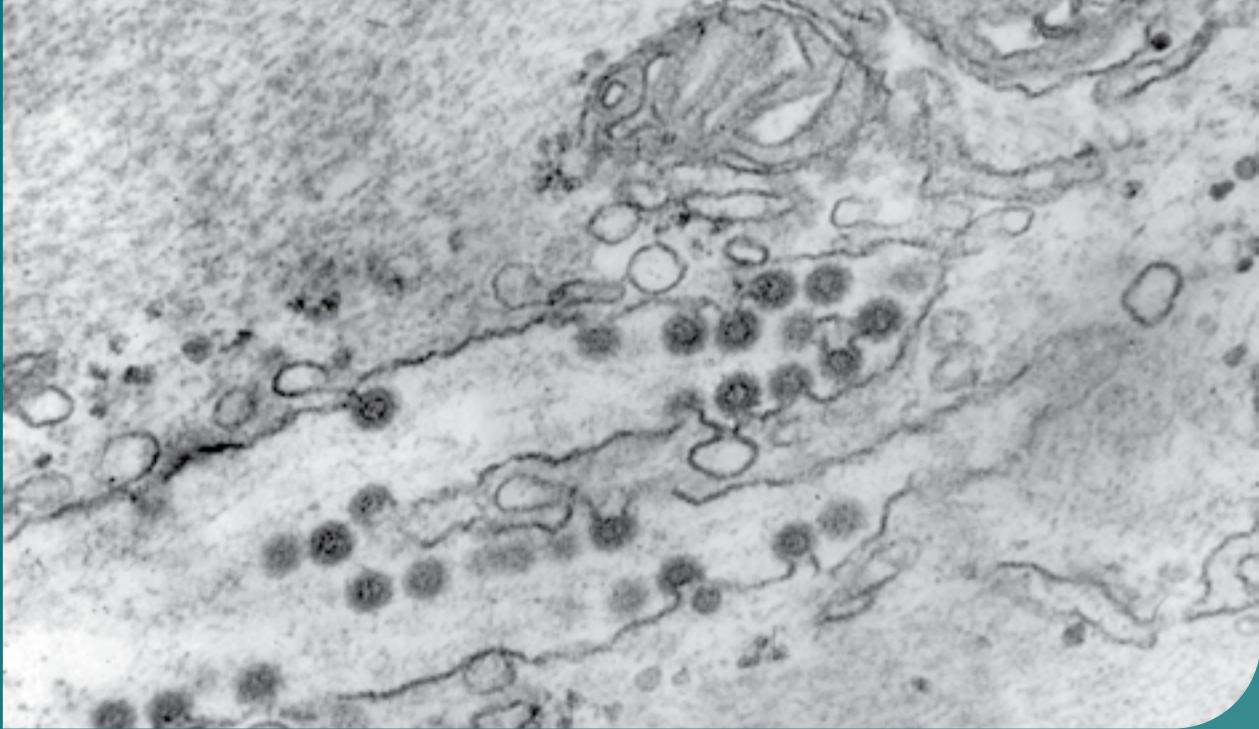
Symptoms of Ross River virus are wide-ranging and can vary in severity from no symptoms, mild illness, to serious, long-lasting symptoms.¹ Many people experience painful joints and muscle pain, most commonly affecting the wrists, ankles and knees.¹ Other symptoms include fever and chills, headache, joint pain and swelling, fatigue and a rash.¹

The incubation period typically ranges from 3 to 21 days following a mosquito bite, with symptoms usually lasting around 7 to 9 days.¹ However, some people may experience painful joints and tiredness for 3 to 6 months after diagnosis.¹

How is it transmitted?

Ross River virus spreads when people or animals infected with the virus are bitten by a mosquito that then bites another person. While many animals can be infected, marsupials such as kangaroos and wallabies are the main hosts.^{3,4} Ross River virus does not spread from person-to-person.^{4,5}





At risk groups

People at highest risk of infection are those who live and work in humid climates, near bodies of water and who spend a lot of time outdoors, including for work, hiking, gardening or camping.^{4,5} Adults are also more likely to develop symptoms than children.⁵

Prevention

There are no vaccinations or antiviral medications available for Ross River virus, and treatment focuses on symptom management and rest.¹

Preventing mosquito bites is the most effective way to reduce the risk of infection. Recommended strategies include covering up, wearing light coloured, loose, long clothing and covered footwear, and using mosquito repellents.¹⁻³ Additional measures include staying indoors during periods where mosquitoes are most active, particularly at dawn and dusk, installing flyscreens on doors and windows, and removing standing water from around the home to limit mosquito breeding.¹

Key messages

- Ross River virus is the most common mosquito-borne disease in Australia.
- Preventing mosquito bites is the best protection.

References

1. Health direct. Ross River virus infection: Healthdirect Australia Limited, ; 2025 [updated June 2025. Available from: <https://www.healthdirect.gov.au/ross-river-virus>.
2. Walters A. Ross River Virus cases quadruple in South Australia in 2025 [Webpage]. ABC News; 2026 [cited 2026 27 Jan]. Available from: <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2026-01-24/ross-river-virus-cases-quadruple-in-south-australia-in-2025/106206394>.
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4. NSW Health. Ross River virus fact sheet Sydney: NSW Government; 2022 [updated 21 November 2022. Infectious diseases fact sheet]. Available from: <https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/Infectious/factsheets/Pages/ross-river-fever.aspx>.
5. Australian Centre for Disease Control. Ross River virus infection: CDC; 2025 [updated 24 December 2025. Available from: <https://www.cdc.gov.au/diseases/ross-river-virus-infection>.

Latest articles from Infection, Disease & Health

Government funding for healthcare infection prevention research: A scoping review of the past decade

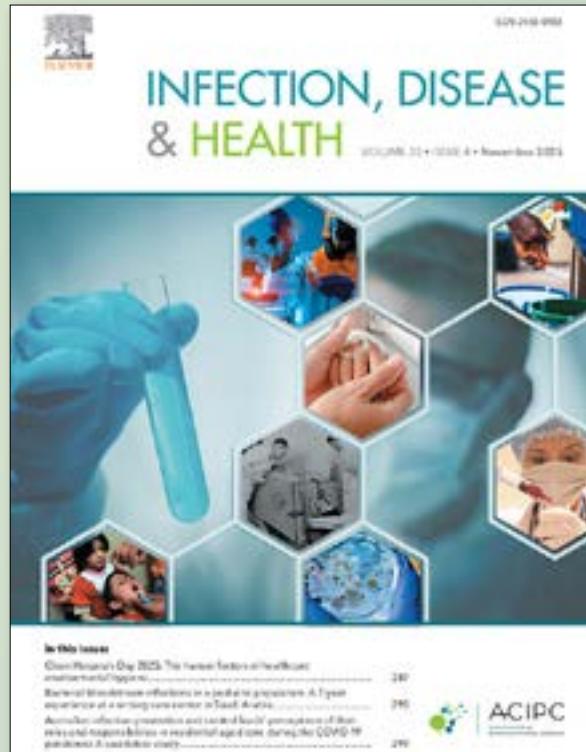
Schults JA, Mitchell BG, Smith A, Kwong JC, Havers SM, Russo PL, et al. Government funding for healthcare infection prevention research: a scoping review of the past decade. *Infect Dis Health.* 2025 Jun 19;xx(x):xxx-xxx.

Nurses' experiences of providing oral care to hospitalised patients: A qualitative study

Rawson H, Dawson S, Madhuvu A, McDonagh J, Browne K, Tehan PE, et al. Nurses' experiences of providing oral care to hospitalised patients: a qualitative study. *Infect Dis Health.* 2025 May 30;xx(x):xxx-xxx.

Zero-shot large language model application for surgical site infection auditing

Satheakeerthy S, Stretton B, Tsimiklis J, Booth AEC, Howson S, Evans S, et al. Zero-shot large language model application for surgical site infection auditing. *Infect Dis Health.* 2025 May 22;xx(x):xxx-xxx.



IDH MOVING TO ONLINE

Transitioning to online only access for Infection, Disease & Health



In recognition of the high carbon footprint of printing and distributing print copies, the board of ACIPC have taken the decision to move to online only publication of our journal Infection, Disease & Health (IDH) from 2026.

ACIPC members will continue to benefit from online access to the journal via the [member section of our website](#), linked to the [journal website](#). Note that you can also sign up for table of contents alerts by logging in or registering using links on the top right-hand side of the screen.

We have already seen some interest from ACIPC members in taking up an online only version of the journal in recent years and we understand that other colleges and associations have already successfully made this transition. The publisher has also seen a sharp reduction in demand for printed components in the journal's personal and institutional subscriber base, and is committed to achieving [net zero CO2-emissions by 2040](#).

Online publication also opens up some new opportunities for the journal. For example, in the future, we will consider a move to article based publishing (ABP). ABP is a workflow model that allows articles to be published online using full, final citation data as soon as the paper has been typeset and finalised, rather than waiting for it to be compiled into a complete journal issue. This model significantly speeds up the publication process for authors and aligns with reader preferences.

Selected Publications of Interest

> Health system drivers of antimicrobial resistance: a qualitative exploration of implications for infection prevention and control in hospitals and long-term care facilities in Merseyside

Alhassan Y, Moore M, Duda KA, Graf FE, Todd S, Lewis JM, et al. Health system drivers of antimicrobial resistance: a qualitative exploration of implications for infection prevention and control in hospitals and long-term care facilities in Merseyside. *J Hosp Infect*. 2025 Sep;166:12-20.

> Clean Hospitals Day 2025: The human factors of healthcare environmental hygiene

Peters A, Mocenic M, Parneix P, Mitchell BG, Dancer S, Weber DJ. Clean Hospitals Day 2025: the human factors of healthcare environmental hygiene. *J Hosp Infect*. 2025 Oct;166:207-208.

> Infection prevention and control in Swedish nursing homes for older adults before and after the COVID-19 pandemic: A descriptive study

Wiklund S, Stamm C, Tammelin A. Infection prevention and control in Swedish nursing homes for older adults before and after the COVID-19 pandemic: a descriptive study. *J Infect Prev*. 2025 Oct 31. doi:10.1177/17571774251394896.

> Have Australian researchers discovered the secret to treating sepsis?

Have Australian researchers discovered the secret to treating sepsis? Hospital + Healthcare [Internet]. 2026 Jan 16 [cited 2026 Jan 28]. Available from: <https://www.hospitalhealth.com.au/content/clinical-services/article/have-australian-researchers-discovered-the-secret-to-treating-sepsis--124016503>

> Economic impact of surgical site infection prevention across surgical units at Gemelli University Hospital: insights from a point

Cacciuttolo MG, Specchia ML, Bonacquisti M, Russo L, Murri R, Fantoni M, et al. Economic impact of surgical site infection prevention across surgical units at Gemelli University Hospital: insights from a point prevalence survey. *J Hosp Infect*. 2026 Jan;167:181-186.

> Surgical site infections after cesarean delivery

Hayasaka M, Landy HJ, Forbes L, Barger A, Navaz Gangji S, Saade G, et al. Surgical site infections after cesarean delivery. *Am J Obstet Gynecol*. 2026 Jan;233(6 Suppl):S524-S540.

> Evaluating Long-term Care Facility Antimicrobial Stewardship Programs with an Infection Control Assessment and Response Visit

Adre C, Watkins J, Russell DL, Evans CD, Wilson C. Evaluating long-term care facility antimicrobial stewardship programs with an infection control assessment and response visit. *Open Forum Infect Dis*. 2026 Jan;13(Suppl 1):ofaf695.1160. doi:10.1093/ofid/ofaf695.1160.

Events Calendar

VET SIG Meeting

Wednesday 4 February at 7:00pm AEDT

Online via Zoom

[Register now](#)

National Centre for Antimicrobial Stewardship Seminar – Animal Health

Wednesday 18 February 2026 at 8:30am AEDT

[Register here](#)

Rural, Remote & Regional Special Interest Group (RRR SIG) – First Meeting

Thursday 26 February 2026 at 3:00pm AEDT

[Register here](#)

SA SIG Meeting

Thursday 26 February 2026 7.30AM AEDT

[Register here](#)

OneTogether UK Expert Conference 2026

12 March 2026

Birmingham, UK

[Register here](#)

National Centre for Antimicrobial Stewardship Seminar – Paediatrics

Wednesday 18 March 2026 at 8:30am AEDT

Birmingham, UK

[Register here](#)

GAMA & ACIPC IPC Tour

9 April - 8 May 2026

[Register here](#)

IPAC Canada 2026 National Education Conference: A Golden Foundation

24 – 27 May 2026

Toronto, ON

[Register here](#)

ASM 2026

ASID Annual Scientific Meeting

27 – 30 May 2026

Hobart, Tasmania

[More info here](#)

ESPID 2026

44th Annual Meeting of the European Society for Paediatric Infectious Diseases

1 – 5 June 2026

Bologna and online

[Register here](#)

APIC 2026

15 – 17 June 2026

Nashville, Tennessee, USA

[Register here](#)



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