



# Infection Prevention and Control ...

# Beyond the Pandemic

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## **Acknowledgement of Country**

Regis acknowledges the Traditional Owners of Country throughout Australia and recognises the continuing connection to lands, waters and communities.

We pay our respect to Elders past and present.



# Infection Control Nurse in Aged Care



What my friends  
think I do,



What my parents  
think I do,



What society  
thinks I do.



What management  
thinks I do.

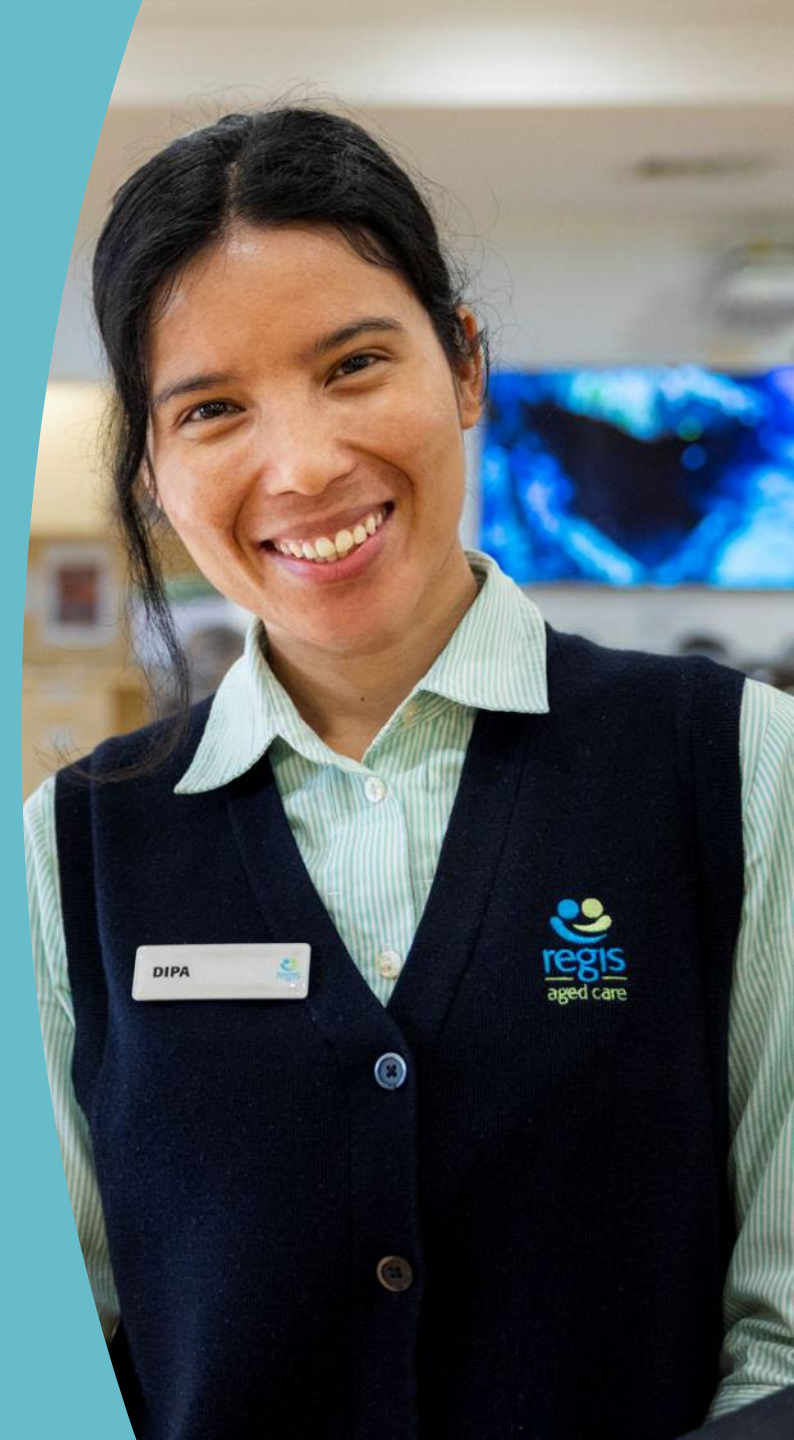


What I think  
I do.



What I actually do.

# What next for Infection Control in Aged Care ?



# Strengthened Aged Care Quality Standards

## Expectations for aged care workers



- 1.1 Person-centred care
- 1.2 Dignity, respect and privacy
- 1.3 Choice, independence and quality of life
- 1.4 Transparency and agreements

**Standard 1**  
I understand the people I care for and support them in choices that impact their lives

- 7.1 Daily living
- 7.2 Transitions

**Standard 7**  
We work together to build a connected residential community

- 6.1 Partnering with individuals on food and drinks
- 6.2 Assessment of nutritional needs and preferences
- 6.3 Provision of food and drinks
- 6.4 Dining experience

**Standard 6**  
I make sure our residents enjoy appetising and nutritious food every day

**Standard 5**  
I understand the clinical needs of the person I'm caring for

- 5.1 Clinical governance
- 5.2 Preventing and controlling infections in delivering clinical care services
- 5.3 Safe and quality use of medicines

- 5.4 Comprehensive care
- 5.5 Safety of clinical care services
- 5.6 Cognitive impairment
- 5.7 Palliative care and end-of-life care

- 2.1 Partnering with individuals
- 2.2a Quality, safety and inclusion culture to support aged care workers to deliver quality care
- 2.2b Quality, safety and inclusion culture to support individuals
- 2.3 Accountability, quality system and policies and procedures
- 2.4 Risk management
- 2.5 Incident management

**Standard 2**  
I feel empowered to do my job well

**Standard 3**  
I understand who I'm caring for and what is important to them

- 2.6a Complaints and feedback management for aged care workers
- 2.6b Complaints and feedback management for individuals
- 2.7 Information management
- 2.8 Workforce planning
- 2.9 Human resource management
- 2.10 Emergency and disaster management

- 3.1 Assessment and planning
- 3.2 Delivery of funded aged care services
- 3.3 Communicating for safety and quality
- 3.4 Planning and coordination of funded aged care services

**Standard 4**  
I create a safe and supportive environment

- 4.1a Environment - services delivered in the individual's home
- 4.1b Environment - services delivered other than in the individual's home
- 4.2 Infection prevention and control



Find out more

# Resources

**Australian Government**  
Aged Care Quality and Safety Commission

**Engage Empower Safeguard**

## Infection prevention and control (IPC) operational readiness self-assessment checklist

**Does your service have the following to support your Infection Prevention and Control program:**

- Plans: Management, IPC, Risk Management, Outbreak etc.
- Workplace policies, procedures and written operational documents
- Information and planning to support and facilitate access to vaccinations for older people (including boosters)
- Record keeping and reporting protocols (including vaccination records)
- Compliance and quality measures
- Plans for continuous improvement around IPC and risk management
- Staff have ready access to information on IPC that is current
- Staff, visitor and volunteer communication processes
- Qualified and trained aged care workers proficient in IPC practices (for example: do you have a system of competency assessment for key IPC procedures e.g. hand hygiene, aseptic technique, use of PPE)

**Continuing professional opportunities for trained IPC staff**

- Measures for rapid access to and use of oral antiviral treatments

**How does your service communicate about changes in your IPC program with your workers, students, volunteers and visitors?**  
*For example: communiques, training/learning, policies, posters, meetings.*

Requirement may vary between residential, home services and flexible care.

**AUSTRALIAN COMMISSION**  
on SAFETY and QUALITY in HEALTH CARE

## The Aged Care Infection Prevention and Control Guide

A supplementary resource for the **Australian Guidelines for the Prevention and Control of Infection in Healthcare** for aged care settings

**Australian Government**  
National Health and Medical Research Council  
Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care

## Australian Guidelines for the Prevention and Control of Infection in Healthcare

**NHMRC** AUSTRALIAN COMMISSION on SAFETY and QUALITY in HEALTH CARE

**Australian Government**  
Aged Care Quality and Safety Commission

**Engage Empower Safeguard**

## Infection prevention and control

The flipbook guides have been designed as supplementary supports for the learning modules. The guides include key messages and insights for your continued reflection.

**Disclaimer:** The new Aged Care Act 2024 (the Act) starts on 1 November 2025. The Act replaces existing aged care legislation. The Aged Care Rules (the Rules) are expected to be finalised before the Act starts. The Rules give more information about how the new Act will work. This resource is in draft. We will update it when both the Act and the Rules come into force.

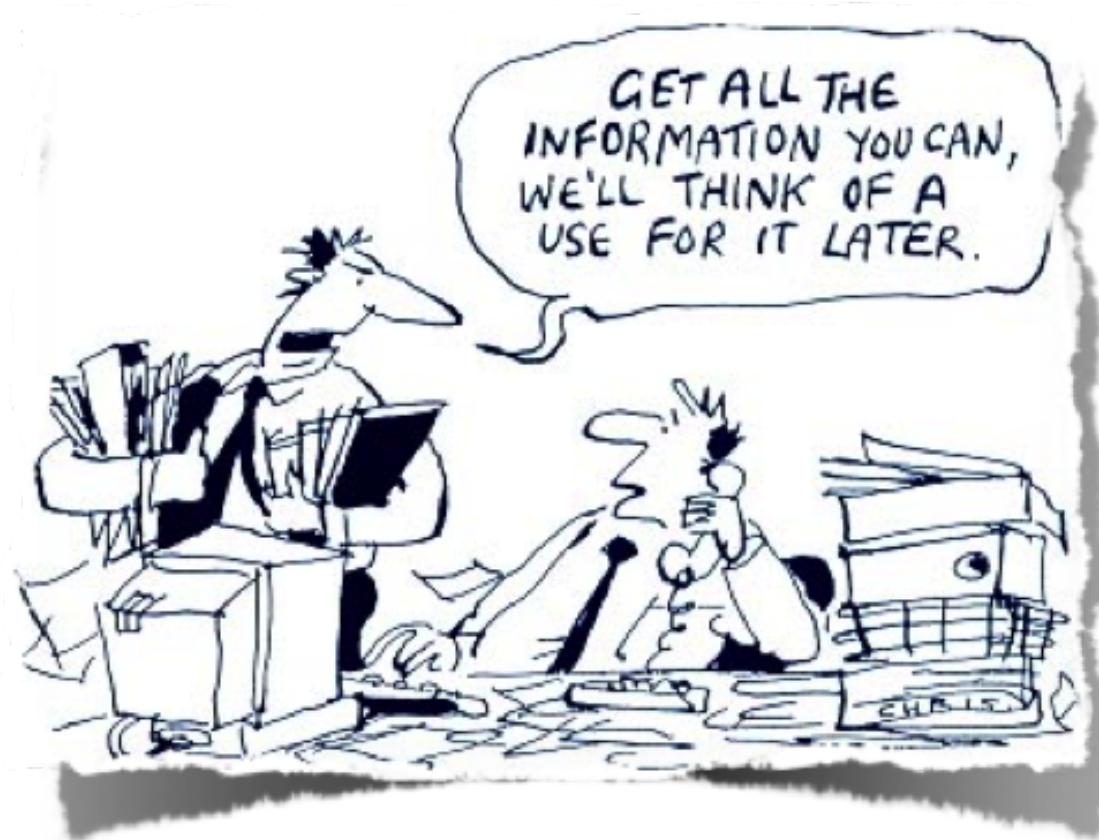
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## Infection prevention and control in aged care

### Cognitive decline and dementia

# What do we actually need ?



# Governing Body and Executives role in IPC



**Accountable** for the overall quality and safety

**Active** Governance role.

**Clear vision** and strategic direction in IPC

**Lead** the organizational culture

**Evaluate** IPC policies

**Allocate** resources

**Ensure** Compliance

**Review** Audit and monitor IPC practices

**Identify** emerging IPC practices, requirements or processes



# IPC Lead

**Support** the development of the IPC program

**Utilise** evidence-based practice

**Educate** and train colleagues

**Participate** in Outbreak Management

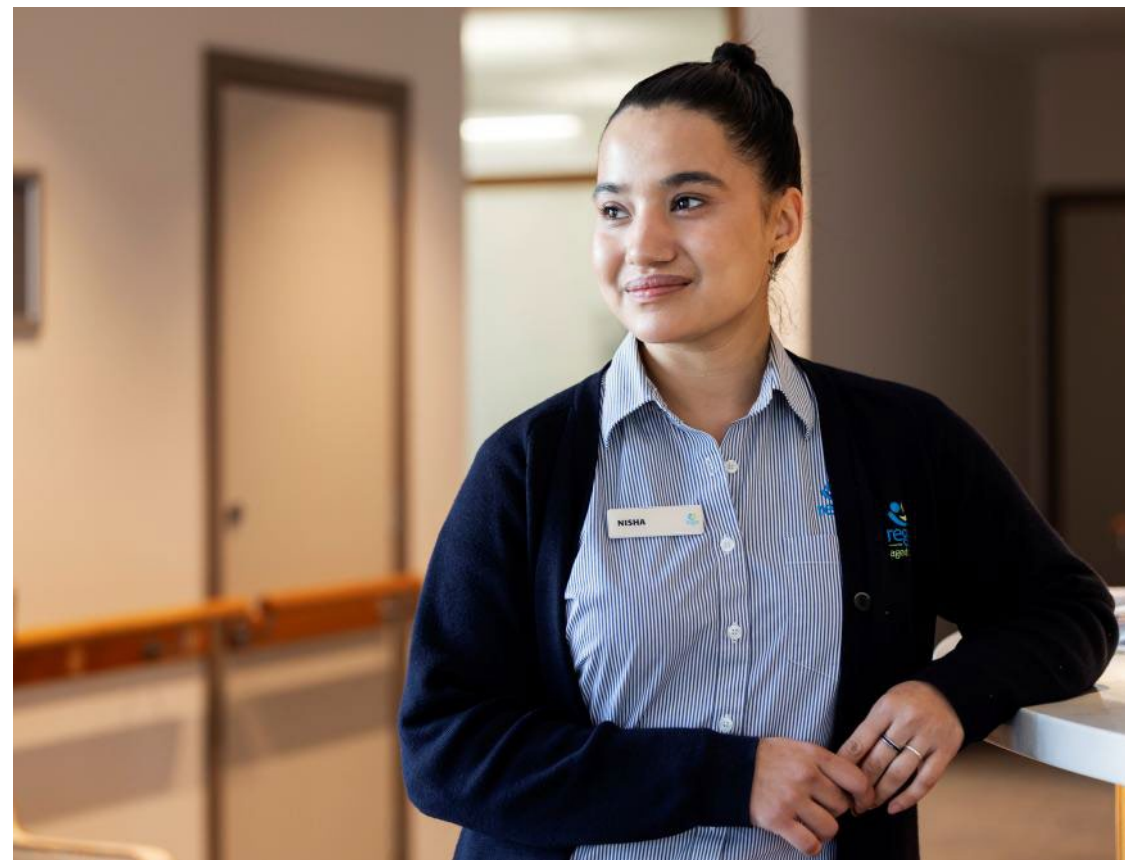
**Collaborate** with external stakeholders

**Audit** practices and the environment

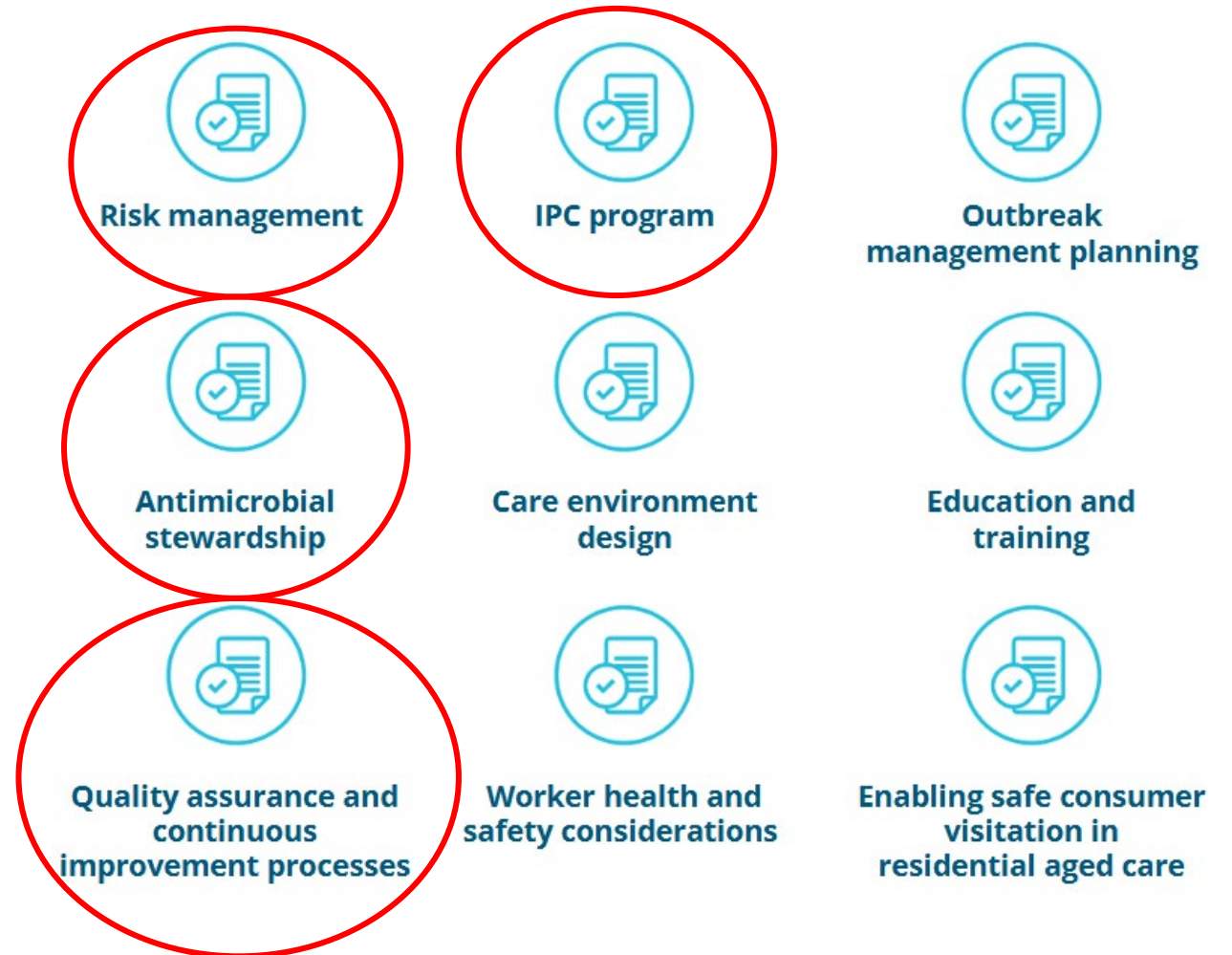
**Review** infections and outbreaks

**Enable** residents to live in Infections

**Model** good infection control practices



# IPC systems and processes in Aged Care



# IPC Program

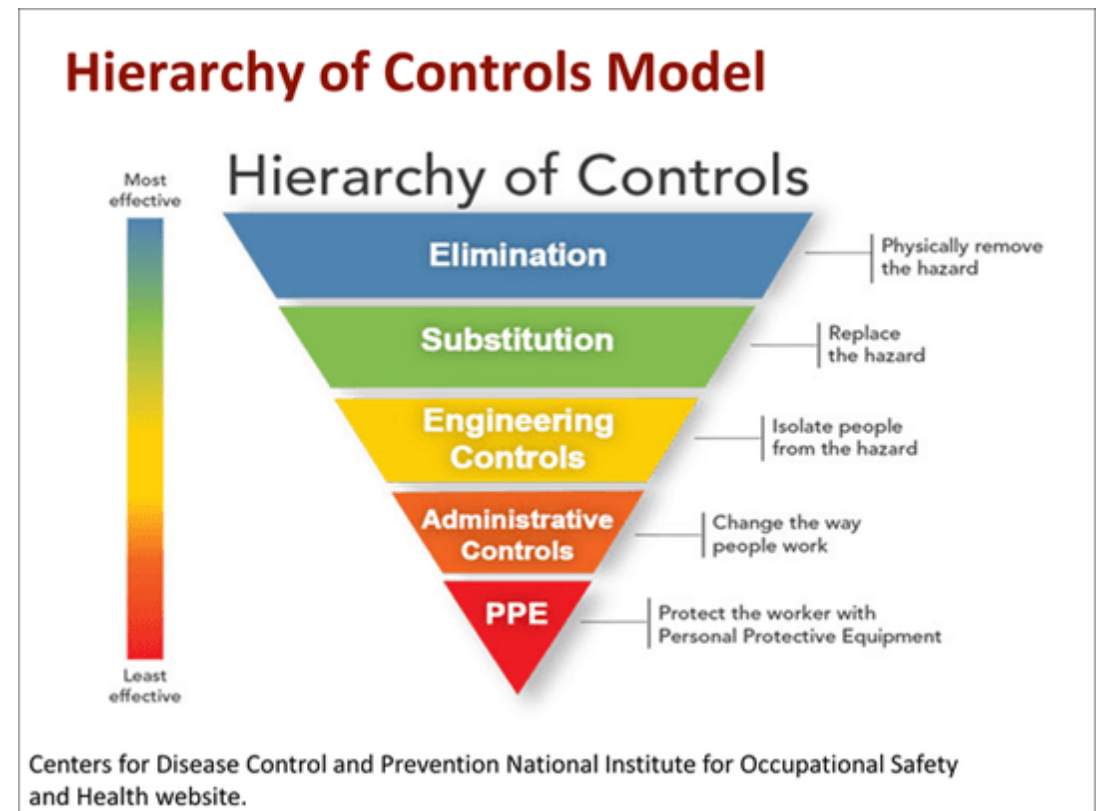
- **Documented IPC program**
- **Documented** policies, processes, resources and education
- **Consumer centered approach**
  - Regular communication and education
  - Do your consumers feel listened to and their concerns heard?



# Risk Management

- Does our IPC strategy include Risk consideration?
- How do we train or team to identify risk and make risk appropriate decisions?
- How do we create a safe environment while promoting independence?
- Do we follow the Hierarchy of Infection Control

principals for infectious events ?



# Antimicrobial Stewardship

- What is our AMS strategy?
- Do our Nurses understand AMS and the role they play?
- How do we audit our microbial use and what do we do with the information?
- How do we communicate AMS with prescribers?
- How do we engage pharmacists to support AMS ?
- **Have we engage our residents and their supporters in AMS?**

## Antibiotic stewardship



*"Don't forget to take a handful of our complimentary antibiotics on your way out."*

# Quality assurance and Continuous Improvement

- Oversight and Monitoring of IPC
- Do we collect and critically analyse data on infections?
- Make improvements to your Outbreak Plans
- Conduct regular audits
- Culture of transparency, communication and disclosure
- Quality improvement (like Infection Control) is...



**... EVERYONE'S RESPONSIBILITY**

# IPC Lead Nurse



# And finally...

