

Editor's Comments



We have now absorbed the information that was presented at the National Conference and for those who were unable to attend, this issue has two papers presented at the conference so you too will be able to benefit.

The AGM each year is a time to say farewell and thank you to some of the members of the AICA Inc Executive. To Meredith Ochota, Janine Clark and Elaine Graham we say a fond farewell and thank you for all your hard work. Welcome to Jacqui McLean - Secretary (SA), Bronwen Mander - Treasurer (Vic) and Helen Bedford (ACT) who have joined the executive to represent their respective states and fulfil their elected positions. Welcome also to Anne Arthur, who has taken over the job of Sub Editor Northern Territory.

The business of running AICA Inc is co-ordinated by the President - Madeleine McPherson with the help of the Secretary and the Treasurer. The Executive only meet face to face twice each year, in May the day before the National Conference and then again in October for a weekend. All other meetings are held by teleconference.

Conference Sponsorship

The Australian Infection Control Association holds one national conference in May each year. The venue rotates around Australia and the conference is organised by a committee from the host State.

THIS IS THE ONLY OFFICIAL CONFERENCE OF AICA INC AND THE ONLY ONE SUPPORTED AND ENDORSED BY AICA INC.

Other conference convenors may use the words "Infection control" in the title of their conferences or seminars BUT they are not endorsed by AICA Inc.

Most state Infection Control Associations organise a state conference/seminar annually.

The planning for 10th National

Conference 1996 is going well. Have you thought about giving a paper? The NSW Committee are now calling for abstracts, closing date 20.12.95

The NSW Infection Control Association has officially moved into offices. This is a first for any of the State Associations, and the move has certainly made life a lot easier for the members of the Executive. All the equipment and records of the Association now have a permanent home, instead of rotating around or riding around in someones' boot. The offices are not staffed but all meetings of the Association are held in there with access to resources such as an extensive Medical Library, photocopying facilities and the mail is collected regularly. All this has helped

Control and finally the people working actively in the role are being recognised. This recognition has meant that our profile has come to the attention of the media. The media have had a field day with headlines such as: "Infection Control Policies break down", "Needlestick injuries not reported", "Infectious Diseases on the increase", "City struck by killer gastro virus", and "Contaminated waste spills on city streets".

The National Executive and all State Executives have had to deal with the media pressure by responding to the sensational headlines with accurate and practical comments. The profile of the Infection Control Practitioners



AICA Executive at Canberra Meetings.

L to R - M Ochota (SA), J Clark (Vic), S Resnik (NSW), M Bates (Tasmania), M Mott (Old).
Seated Left to Right: M McPherson (WA), A Pyper (NT), E Graham (ACT).

the NSW Executive address State Infection Control issues in a professional manner.

"Infection Control" has become the catch phrase of the 90's. Many things come under the umbrella of Infection

has been raised. We must now work to keep all our colleagues informed and up to date with current practices and interesting research published in our National Journal.