



# Australian Infection Control Association

# National News

## Issue 30

December 2008

### In this issue...

President's Report	1
State & Territory Reports	
ACT	2
NSW	2
Tasmania	3
Victoria	3
Western Australia	4
South Australia	4
Queensland	5
Special Features	
Infection Prevention Week	6
National Hand Hygiene Initiative	6
Covidien Scholarships	6
Credentiailling Committee Member Vacancy	7

*The aim of this newsletter is to keep all members informed and updated with the activities of the AICA Executive team. This newsletter is distributed to members quarterly as an insert to Healthcare Infection.*

Australian Infection Control Association  
PO Box 3254

Brisbane Queensland 4001

Email: [admin@aica.org.au](mailto:admin@aica.org.au)

Web: [www.aica.org.au](http://www.aica.org.au)

#### **Mission:**

*AICA provides infection control practitioners with a professional profile, identifies and promotes professional standards and lobbies with one voice on behalf of infection control practitioners.*

## From the President's Desk

Since the inception of AICA in 1985 there have been numerous changes in Infection Control in Australia. The association has made a significant contribution to both practice and professional aspects of Infection Prevention and Control.

Reflecting on the past year, AICA has continued to contribute to the field of infection prevention and control and the period since the last newsletter in September 2008 is no exception. Some of the key activities and achievements have been:

#### **5<sup>th</sup> Biennial Conference**

Over 500 delegates participated in the excellent pre-conference and conference activities hosted by VICPA. The program provided a mix of practice and professional themes that were both interesting and stimulating.

#### **6<sup>th</sup> Biennial Conference Committee**

ICAWA will be hosting the 2010 Conference. A planning committee has been formed and work commenced towards the "2010 Infection Control Odyssey" that will be held in Perth.

#### **Infection Prevention Week (IPW)**

The inaugural national week has been a great success. Each State and Territory actively embraced the theme "It's in Your Hands" and implemented local activities that were educational and informative on both the practice and role of infection prevention.

#### **Credentiailling**

There has been steady progress with 11 ICPs to date being credentialled and many others submitting applications. Strategies to encourage uptake of this process are continuing. Information has been added to the AICA website to assist and guide applicants.

#### **Finance**

AICA has maintained a strong financial position which will ensure the activities of the association can be sustained and developed. As funding for AICA is derived from the State/Territory Capitation fees, Conference profits and Standards Sales and Credentiailling fees the budget is constantly monitored and adjusted as required.

#### **Governance**

The AICA Executive has undertaken considerable work on governance related activities since the self-assessment of governance standards in February 2008. The action plan continues and the next planned self-assessment is scheduled for early 2009.

#### **External Relationships**

Throughout 2008 relationships with strategic external partners has continued to develop and grow. At present AICA is actively undertaking infection prevention related activities with eight external organisations.

**AICA Newsletter proudly sponsored by**



## From the President's Desk - continued

In our 23<sup>rd</sup> year, 2009 will be pivotal to AICA as we look forward to focusing more on AICA services, and the growth of our membership.

As I enter my second year as AICA President, I wish all members a very Happy Christmas and New Year.

**Claire Boardman, AICA President**

## State and Territory News

### Australian Capital Territory

#### *Infection Prevention and Control Week - 20-24 October 2008*

During Infection Prevention and Control Week several companies held exhibitions in several hospitals in the ACT. The displays were open from 10am – 2pm daily.

The companies had useful information and handouts with prizes to be won. The displays were well attended during the week and the celebrations for Infection Prevention and Control Week were deemed a success.

On 22 October, as part of Infection Prevention and Control Week, psychologist Liza Tozer, gave an informative interactive talk about how we, as infection control professionals can communicate new ideas and facilitate new behaviours in people. The session covered tips for:

- building rapport;
- asking the right questions; and
- giving feedback that people will listen to.

The talk was well attended and very well received.

#### *Education Meetings*

As part of our monthly ACT Infection Control meetings we have introduced a "getting to know you" segment. During the segment a member is asked to inform us about their particular occupation. At our November meeting Rick Creech, gave an informative talk about his work with the Immigration Department.

#### *National Hand Hygiene Initiative*

ACT Infection Control are looking forward to working with the Australian Commission on Safety & Quality in Healthcare during the National Hand Hygiene Initiative which started on 21 October 2008.

#### *Scholarships*

Several scholarships were awarded to members to attend the October conference in Melbourne. Scholarships were also granted for assistance with further education and attendance at interstate AICA meetings.

#### *Elaine Graham Robertson Scholarship*

This years Elaine Graham Robertson scholarship was awarded to Marija Juraja from The Queen Elizabeth Hospital in Adelaide. Congratulations Marija.

#### *Congratulations*

On behalf of the members who attended the AICA Conference in Melbourne I would like to thank the Victorian ICA for their great hospitality. The conference was both educational and enjoyable. Well done.

#### *Other News*

The AGM was held on 10 September 2008.

Wendy Beckingham was re-elected as president, Philippa Keating as secretary and I was re-elected as public officer.

Kristine Farrelly was elected as treasurer. Welcome Kris, we look forward to working closely with you in the coming year.

A reminder to all members that the calendar of events is listed on the AICA website under the ACT link.

**Kerry Gill**

**Newsletter Representative, ACT**

## New South Wales

Our 2008 Annual General Meeting and Education Day was held on 17<sup>th</sup> October. Those present had the opportunity to listen to, and ask questions of, the NSW Health Quality & Safety Branch Director, Kelvin Genn, as well as Marilyn Cruickshank from the Australian Commission on Safety & Quality in Healthcare. Our AGM followed after lunch. Two major announcements came out of this: our fees will rise from the beginning of the next financial year for the first time in about 10 years; and the date and venue for the 2009 State Conference were announced.

The ICANSW Executive is strongly recommending to all members that they look into taking advantage of the lowered fees and become credentialled this year.

#### *Education News*

The 2009 ICANSW State Conference is to be held at Luna Park on 3 & 4 September 2009. Work is underway to pull together a program. Calls will soon be made for abstracts and poster displays.

The Executive is interested in hearing from any areas in NSW who would like to host a local Education Day. We need to have a willing helper from the area to do the footwork – choose a venue and look for local speakers, then the bookings, payments, and other administrative work will be attended by the Association.

The Advanced ICP Workshop held in September was very successful, and we are looking into repeating this event for those who could not attend. The aim of the day is to encourage and foster more ICP networking and sharing of expertise and experiences. Topics included: Developing Strategic and Business Plans, Marketing, and Applying for Research/Funding. Thank you to Lindy for her efforts in providing this experience.

The Executive and members who attended the AICA conference in Melbourne in October would like to

congratulate the organisers on their well-run and successful conference. Some of your initiatives have given us food for thought for our own conference. We left Melbourne enthused and with a lot of ideas on changes, small and large, that we want to look into implementing. Some of us made some time to fit in a little retail therapy as well.

The Executive would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a safe and happy Christmas and a fulfilling 2009.

**Helen O'Harae.**

**Newsletter Representative, NSW ICA**

## Tasmania

### *TICA Conference Bursary*

The AICA Biennial Conference grants were awarded to 4 people and all attended the conference in Melbourne at the beginning of October. The conference was a huge success and all who attended both enjoyed the experience and networking opportunity. Congratulations to VICPA and the organising committee for a great job.

### *AGM*

TICA AGM Meeting 2008 was held on 20th November at Campbell Town. All members were encouraged to attend and participate. The Presidency, Secretary and Vice Presidency positions were up for re-election and interested TICA members were encouraged to contact current executive members to discuss position roles and responsibilities.

### *Immunisation Update*

Sanofi Pasteur held an education session in Hobart in September which was very well attended and a great success.

A similar session will be held in the North of the state later in the year and we would encourage all nurse immunisers and interested persons to attend. Confirmed details will be forwarded to all members.

### *HHI*

TIPCU hosted 2 ACSQH Hand Hygiene Initiative "5 MOMENTS" education sessions in Launceston at the beginning of October. There was high interest in gaining placement in the session and all participants were well supported by their own organizations for the 2 day session.

The sessions were facilitated by Phil Russo and Kaye Bellis. Approximately 20 people participated. The validation of approved assessors took place on day 2, and the participants were notified of their results by e-mail during the next week.

A validation session took place in Hobart for all those people who attended the Melbourne roll out. TIPCU and TICA support this very important initiative as it promotes consistency in assessing Hand Hygiene throughout Australia.

**Jenny Stubbings**

**Newsletter Representative, TICA**

## Victoria

### *AICA 2008*

The 5<sup>th</sup> Biennial Australian Infection Control Association Conference, hosted by VICPA was held at the Melbourne Cricket Ground from 8-10 October. The conference was a resounding success with more than 530 delegates registered for the conference, including over 50 international delegates. This is the largest number of delegates to have attended an AICA conference, a statistic of which we should all be rightfully proud. As such we would like to thank the following people for their contribution to the organisation of the conference:

- Judith Brett (Convenor)
- Claire Boardman (Scientific Program Coordinator)
- Jacqueline Kennon
- Wendy Bacalja
- Kathryn Williams
- Sue Atkins
- Lesley Lewis
- Mardi Tempest

The program was very successfully run with pre-conference workshops available to delegates on both the Tuesday and Wednesday and a very well attended "Meet the Experts" session held at The Alfred the Tuesday before the conference. International speakers Trish Perl, Dick Zoutman and Amy Richmond were well received. They provided not only valuable information via their lectures and workshops but important advice during discussion forums.

### *VICPA Biennial State Conference 2009*

The next VICPA Biennial State Conference is scheduled for October next year. As this would be Victoria's third year in a row organising and convening a conference we felt that perhaps another format other than a traditional conference may be preferred by our members. For your say go to the VICPA website, download the questionnaire and email Judy Brett ([Judy.Brett@mh.org.au](mailto:Judy.Brett@mh.org.au)) with your ideas.

### *Bi-monthly VICPA/VICNISS Journal Club*

The VICPA/VICNISS Journal Club will be continuing next year following another successful year. The proposed dates for next year's Journal Club are February, March, May, August, and December 2009. We are seeking volunteers for both venues and speakers for the dates as indicated. If you can provide either please contact Louise Wright via email [louise.wright@southernhealth.org.au](mailto:louise.wright@southernhealth.org.au) or Judy Brett.

### *Victorian Infection Control Competencies*

VICPA would like to congratulate Louise Hobbs for completing the final version of the Infection Control Competency document. Louise's study and development of the competency document was supported by VICPA through our scholarship fund. We would also like to thank the VICPA members who helped Louise by either attending

a series of workshops she held or providing feedback for her documents along the way. The competency document is available to VICPA members on the VICPA website.

#### *VICPA Reports*

We would like to remind our members that all reports from committees attended by VICPA representatives (e.g. Victorian Advisory Committee for Infection Control [VACIC] or VICNISS Advisory Committee [VAC]) and conferences also attended by VICPA members though financial support of VICPA are available on the VICPA website for you to read. If you didn't know then now might be a good time to reacquaint yourself with the VICPA website.

#### *VICPA Executive Planning Day*

The VICPA Executive will be holding their annual planning day in early February 2009. If you have any ideas, such as education days/sessions, or how you would like us to use your funds please let Judy Brett know your ideas.

#### *Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year*

The VICPA Executive would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone working in infection control a very Merry Christmas and all the best for the New Year. May 2009 be even better than 2008.

**Donna Cameron**

Newsletter Editor, VICPA

---

## **Western Australia**

#### *ICAWA Quarterly Education Sessions*

The CJD Support Network presented the August session. The topic planned for February 2009 is "Waste Management in Healthcare settings".

#### *ICAWA Scholarships*

Five members were granted \$500 to attend the AICA 2008 conference in Melbourne and have shared a report with members in the local newsletter.

#### *Congratulations VICPA*

The ICAWA Executive, on behalf of their members who have provided positive feedback, would like to congratulate VICPA on the success of the 2008 AICA conference.

#### *ICAWA Christmas Function*

The ICAWA Executive will organize this function for members in December. Food, drinks, quizzes and prizes are planned.

#### *ICAWA Seminar - "Evidence into Action - Infection Prevention and Control"*

The September one-day Seminar was attended by 98 delegates and 18 trades were represented. Dr Judith Finn (Director of Post Graduate Studies, Clinical Epidemiologist and Chair of Nursing Research of the University of WA), presented the opening address on "the systematic review of literature and application to IC practice". Dr Gary Dowse

presented the Aileen Plant Memorial lecture on "Vaccine Preventable Diseases in health-care settings - the tip of the iceberg". Other topics included: MRSA, neonatal issues, pandemic update, HCW vaccination, urinary tract infections, PPE and equine influenza.

#### *ICAWA Annual General Meeting (AGM)*

The AGM with election of office bearers was held at the September Seminar. Danielle Engelbrecht was elected to the office of ICAWA President and candidates for all other vacant positions were duly elected. The ICAWA Executive thanked Rosie Lee, the outgoing President, for her four years of service and considerable work in the role.

#### *AICA Conference 2010, Perth WA*

The conference organising committee is progressing well with planning of the 2010 conference to be hosted by ICAWA in Perth. A promotion of the event was presented at the AICA conference in Melbourne and ICAWA invites all AICA members to consider attending.

#### *ICAWA Newsletter*

The ICAWA Newsletter is distributed to all members each quarter. A survey is being conducted in November 2008 to ensure the Newsletter meets the needs of the members in the future and to determine access preferences. ICAWA awarded the annual \$150 prize for "best newsletter article" to Lynne Dailey for her article on constructing an epidemic curve

**Allison Peterson**

Newsletter Representative - ICAWA

---

## **South Australia**

#### *Congratulations VICPA*

ICASA would like to congratulate VICPA and the conference organising committee for all their hard work and many hours they put in to produce such a successful conference.

#### *ICASA Education Seminars*

In September ICASA held a seminar titled "It's Not Easy Being Green - Hospital Refurbishment and Development - Infection Control". This was a very informative and entertaining evening. Michael Taylor, Flinders University PhD Candidate, presented the topic "Slime is of the Essence - *Legionella*, Protozoa and Biofilm". Kaye Challinger, Director - Clinical Services Reform Marjorie Jackson-Nelson Hospital, presented "Meeting Expectations - 'Clean Green' Hospitals".

A combined one day seminar with SASVN "Bob's Healthcare Adventure" - a patient's journey will be held on Saturday 21 February. The Computer Course for ICPs will be held on Saturday 28 March.

#### *ICASA Committee Strategic Planning*

The ICASA committee came together on Friday 28 November for a planning workshop. Elaine Golding - Consultant Facilitator, worked with the committee to revise

our previous strategic plan and to set new strategic directions for the association for the coming years.

#### *General Members Meeting and Strategic Plan Presentation*

A presentation of the new ICASA Strategic Plan will be held on 27<sup>th</sup> March 2009. This will incorporate a General Meeting to address proposed revisions to the ICASA Constitution.

#### *ICASA Biennial Conference 2009*

Set this date in your diaries, 14th August 2009. Planning is under way for our second Biennial conference which is timed to include our AGM. Given the success of the 2007 conference we have high expectations of all that can be achieved in 2009. Stay tuned for more information in the coming months.

#### *AICA Infection Control Credentiailling*

ICASA is committed to the AICA credentialling process and in support of this has offered a further financial incentive to the first 20 ICASA members who apply to be credentialled before December 31, 2008. These members will receive a \$50 rebate on the \$100 credentialling application fee. For more details refer to the ICASA website: [www.icasa.org.au](http://www.icasa.org.au)

#### *ICASA Scholarships*

ICASA has revised the scholarship options available from January 2009. The most significant being the inclusion of an international conference scholarship e.g.: APIC. For more details regarding this and other scholarship opportunities refer to the ICASA website: see above.

#### *International Infection Prevention Week in SA*

ICASA took it to the streets on Monday 20 October to launch Infection Prevention Week. Unsuspecting Rundle Mall shoppers and workers came face to face with Infection Control Professionals asking them if they had washed their hands lately.

ICASA combined the IPW launch with the SA Department of Health Launch of the Wash, Wipe, Cover Campaign. This is a hygiene package developed by the Infection Control Service (ICS) in SA which contains a suite of resources promoting good hygiene practices. For more information go to the ICS website: [www.health.sa.gov.au/infectioncontrol/](http://www.health.sa.gov.au/infectioncontrol/)

The marquee was adorned with banners proclaiming Infection Prevention Week, the theme "it's in your hands" and Wash, Wipe, Cover...don't infect another. It was manned from 8am to 5pm by the ICASA Committee, ICS staff and The Queen Elizabeth Hospital staff. Everyone who came to the stand had the opportunity to practice correct hand hygiene using the available products and were given samples and various information brochures.

#### **Beth Bint**

Newsletter Representative – ICASA

## Queensland

#### *ICPAQ 2009 Biennial Conference*

The ICPAQ 2009 Biennial Conference "Prevention in Paradise" will be held at the Gold Coast International Hotel, Surfers Paradise from the 26-28<sup>th</sup> August 2009. Planning is still underway, though we urge you to keep an eye on progress for "Prevention in Paradise" through the ICPAQ website at [www.icpaq.org](http://www.icpaq.org). We will continue to provide updates to all AICA members through the AICA newsletter.

#### *Scholarships*

Congratulations to Janine Egart who was awarded the 2008 Darling Downs Rural Conference Scholarship. Unfortunately there were no applications received for the 2008 Education Scholarship, but these will be offered again in 2009.

#### *ICPAQ General Meetings - Education Forums*

The September AGM was held at the Royal Brisbane & Women's Hospital. The Education Forum held in conjunction with the AGM included a presentation by guest speaker Dr David Paterson (Infectious Diseases Physician & Microbiologist, Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital (RBWH)) whose "Hot Topics in Infectious Diseases" this month included 'Antibiotic Resistance Trends in Asia' and 'Hendra Virus'. Other presentations by Penny Marshall (ICP RBWH), and Trish Hurst (Oral Health Coordinator) gave insight into the current and ongoing battle with VRE and an update on the role of the Oral Health Infection Control Coordinator and current issues in oral health respectively.

#### *The ICPAQ Executive for 2008 – 2009 is as follows:*

- Vice President & A/President: Jodie Powell
- Secretary: Robyn Birch
- Membership Secretary: Deborah Macbeth
- Treasurer: Sara Godden
- Assistant Treasurer: Kathy Duggan
- Conference Convenor: Cath Murphy
- Education Coordinator: Vanessa Robinson

Expression of Interest have been called for the vacant ICPAQ executive and ex-officio positions (President, Editor, and Public Relations Officer) for the next General Meeting in December.

The ICPAQ December General Meeting and combined Christmas function will be held at Logan Hospital, Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> December. Invited guest presenter Dr Marilyn Cruickshank (Policy Manager, Australian Commission on Safety & Quality in Healthcare (ACSQH)) will present an update on the commission's activities.

#### **Meagan Hunter**

Newsletter Representative – ICPAQ

## Special Features

### Infection Prevention Week 2008 - "It's in your hands"

The inaugural AICA IPW was held in October with successful activities and events run in each state and territory. We hope that the resources made available on the AICA website were of use to you and are keen to hear about your experiences.

Please forward success stories, pictures and articles in relation to your IPW activities to the AICA secretariat [admin@aica.org.au](mailto:admin@aica.org.au)

Contributions from members will be posted on the website for reference by all members.

Planning is already underway for IPW in 2009.

**Anne Wells – AICA National IPW Project Coordinator**

---

### National Hand Hygiene Initiative

The **National Hand Hygiene Initiative (NHHI)** will be implemented early 2009. The project is lead by Professor Lindsay Grayson and the project manager is Phil Russo. The aim of the project is to improve hand hygiene (HH) practice and reduce the rate of health care associated infections (HAI).

The program aims for a sustained improvement in HH by promoting:

- greater use of alcohol based hand rubs (ABHRS) through healthcare facilities by HCWs and support staff.
- appropriate placement of ABHRS in healthcare facilities
- use of ABHRS before and after touching patients

Another important aspect of the HH program is to develop and maintain an ongoing education program to initiate and sustain HH behavioural change. To determine the behavioural change all staff will be assessed as to the HH compliance via an observation tool. Currently Phil Russo and his team are touring various parts of Australia to teach and credential potential auditors in the use of the observation tool. The observation tool depicts the 5 moments of HH set out by the World Health Organisation with some modification to suit Australia. Each facility will undertake audits three times per year.

With the implementation of the HH program *Staphylococcal aureus* bacteraemia rates will be monitored and reported. It is hoped with the increase of HH compliance we will see a decrease in *Staphylococcal aureus* bacteraemia and MRSA.

The launch of the HH program is planned for February 2009 by the by the Federal Minister for Health. HHA website at [www.hha.org.au](http://www.hha.org.au)

**Wendy Beckingham – AICA Representative, HHI**

### Covidien Scholarship

#### 2008 Successful Project Applicants

AICA Executive thanks Covidien for there ongoing support for infection control and congratulate the following successful scholarship applicants:

- Elizabeth Gillespie – Southern Health ,Victoria
- Vanessa Goodhand – The Queen Elizabeth Hospital, SA
- Ann Marie Dunk – The Canberra Hospital, ACT
- Debbie Schwebel – North Coast Area Health, NSW
- Dr Kate McCarthy – Sullivan & Nicolaides Pathology, QLD
- Elizabeth Joshland – St George Hospital, NSW
- Susie Rich – Christchurch Hospital, NZ
- Janine Harris – Klemzig Residential Care, SA
- Anne Wells – Calvary Hospital, Tasmania
- Jenny Johns Tanunda Lutheran Home, SA

For more information regarding their projects please refer to the AICA website.

#### 2009 Scholarships Available

There are four scholarship categories for which you can apply, these include:

- Major Research Project
- Minor Research Projects
- Educational Grant
- Articles for Publication

For more details and how to apply refer to the AICA website.

## APPLICATIONS ARE INVITED FOR THE POSITION OF CREDENTIALLING COMMITTEE MEMBER

*Dear Colleagues,*

*There is a vacancy for ONE REPRESENTATIVE to participate on the Credentialling Committee.*

The AICA Credentialling Committee was formed in 2000 and reports to the AICA Executive. The overall responsibilities of the Committee are:

- To develop, maintain and co ordinate a standardised, professional credentialling process for Australian Infection Control Professionals.
- To establish and maintain for key stake holders including the general public a database identifying a community of experts in the discipline of Infection Control.
- To assist in providing a framework for career advancement for Australian Infection Control Professionals

### **SELECTION CRITERIA:**

*Applications will be assessed against the following selection criteria:*

- Current financial members of AICA.
- Hold current Nurses Registration
- Reside in Australia for the term of their appointment to the Committee.
- Currently employed (full or part time) or self-employed in the field of infection control in Australia.
- Hold infection control credentials.

*Who can apply?* Financial members of the Australian State/Territory infection control organizations listed on the [www.aica.org.au](http://www.aica.org.au) Website.

*How to apply?* Interested applicants are invited to submit a written application to AICA.

The application must:

- Address all of the above selection criteria; and,
- Include a current CV

*Lodgement of applications:* Applications must be submitted electronically or in hard copy by **5.00pm (EST), 30<sup>th</sup> January 2009.**

### **POSTAL**

*Attention:* The Secretariat  
Australian Infection Control Association  
GPO Box 3254, BRISBANE QLD 4001

*or*

### **ELECTRONICALLY**

*Email:* [admin@aica.org.au](mailto:admin@aica.org.au)

*Further Information:* To discuss or clarify any aspects please contact Louise Hobbs -  
[Louise.Hobbs@mh.org.au](mailto:Louise.Hobbs@mh.org.au)