



# Australian Infection Control Association

# National News

## Issue 33

**August 2009**

### In this issue...

President's Report	1
State & Territory Reports	
South Australia	2
NSW	2
Tasmania	3
ACT	4
Victoria	4
Queensland	5
Western Australia	5
Special Features	
AICA to go to Lithuania	5
Professional Opportunities	
Expertise Resource Group	6

*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

Recently I travelled to Macau to attend the APSIC 2009 conference\*. Apart from conference attendance being an important part of professional development, participation can open your eyes to a new way of doing things or re-visiting an age old problem with renewed vigour. Then primary purpose of my attendance was to raise the profile of AICA and the *Healthcare Infection* journal through discussion with peers, involvement in regional discussions and meetings with keynote speakers and, industry leaders including company representatives.

In many respects AICA is well placed to be a leader in the field through expanded regional readership and submission of articles to *Healthcare Infection*, but in other areas we experience the same difficulties as neighbouring countries particularly when we begin to discuss how to achieve a better understanding of the role and scope of the Infection Control Professional. Of note was a session dedicated to WHO activities regarding infection prevention and control. I listened with keen interest to presentations of colleagues from Thailand, Vietnam and WHO headquarters, Geneva as essential components and building blocks of infection prevention and control were discussed.

Over the past 18 months AICA has worked in collaboration with the ACSQHC (the Commission) to improve surveillance, antibiotic stewardship, infection prevention and control guidelines and, in establishing elements of an effective infection control program. We are fortunate that we have this avenue of collaboration and support and should embrace these opportunities.

\* 3M generously provided part funding to enable AICA attendance at the APSIC conference

### Lean six sigma course – UTS Sydney 18th September 2009

Congratulations to the 14 successful applicants from across Australia who will be undertaking the Lean Six Sigma foundation training program in Sydney. BD in conjunction with AICA is pleased to be offering this education to AICA members who will equip participants with the skills to lead, facilitate and support an organisation's improvement program at a high level of expertise. Participants will learn more about the key principles and practices of this methodology during the specially tailored 1 day course that will be held at University of Technology, Sydney. We look forward to hearing how the applicants have used the Lean Six Sigma training to improve patient outcomes in their workplace during a special presentation session at the AICA2010 conference.

### The AICA list

Most of you would be aware that following an upgrade of the ICASA website the AICA list was affected and is no longer operating. The AICA Executive is using the 'down time' to review the best way to provide a discussion forum for members. More information will be available via the AICA website in the coming months.

Claire Boardman, AICA President

**AICA Newsletter proudly sponsored by**



## State and Territory News

### South Australia

#### *State Infection Control Conference*

ICASA held its second biennial conference in Adelaide on Friday August 14th at The Lakes Resort, Westlakes. The conference was well attended by ICASA members and non members with an interest in infection prevention and control with over 150 people attending (including trade).

The theme "Change...the same only different" was apt as South Australia is currently going through changes both at a national, state and regional level. The impact of the economic crisis presented some additional challenges for infection prevention and control having to balance best practice options for infection prevention strategies with the finite resource of the healthcare dollar.

The invited and abstract speakers provided an opportunity to discuss the challenges in developing contemporary strategies to improve healthcare not only within Australia but in other nations such as the United Kingdom and Europe. We were given insightful opportunities to learn not only how to engage our healthcare workers but the wider community in simple practices such as hand hygiene, that can significantly assist with reducing opportunities for disease transmission. As we learnt some changes may mean returning to old ideas, while others may challenge our understanding and take us out of our comfort zone. But the one mission remains; prevention and control of infections.

#### *Post Conference Workshops*

There were workshops held post conference on the Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> of August, and one that I know that I thoroughly enjoyed when I undertook it in the past, was the Blood Borne Virus Exposure Management run by Philip Melling. The epidemiologists were keen to understand Mathematical Modelling and how they could apply it into their everyday practice within public health.

The ICASA Executive Committee would also like to take the opportunity to thank the 35 exhibitors at the conference, in especially our Gold, Silver and Bronze Sponsors.

The committee would also like to take the opportunity to thank BBraun in providing two scholarships. These scholarships helped to support two infection control link nurses to attend the conference. An opportunity they may not have had through their facility and one that they will share with the ICASA members in the next ICASA newsletter.

#### *ICASA AGM*

The ICASA AGM was held at the conference on the 14<sup>th</sup> of August. Nominations for the Executive were invited from the membership. The new ICASA Executive is looking forward to working closely with all ICASA members. The ICASA Executive would also like to take this opportunity

in thanking Beth Bint for all the support that she provided to the committee as both the Vice President and AICA representative and hope that she is enjoying her new position in NSW healthcare.

#### *ICASA Strategic Planning*

The ICASA Executive has been working hard over the past few months updating the strategic plan. The updated plan has now been posted onto the new ICASA website and will provide the committee with further opportunities to strengthen ICASAs profile as leaders with AICA in promoting "Infection Prevention and Control" and support the work of all ICASA members not only within their own facilities but also the community.

#### *Membership*

A reminder to all members that membership is now due for renewal.

All current members should have received a copy of the renewal forms, if not they are available on the ICASA website at [www.icasa.org.au](http://www.icasa.org.au) or from the ICASA secretary via email [mail@icasa.org.au](mailto:mail@icasa.org.au)

#### *AICA Credentialing*

The ICASA Executive would like to congratulate Lyndall Finn (current ICASA secretary) on being the first member in 2009 to achieve credentialing. ICASA members are encouraged to pursue AICA credentialing. It is a great opportunity to reflect on what you have achieved. For further information on the credentialing process and requirements please see the AICA website.

**Marija Juraja**

**President & Newsletter Representative – ICASA**

---

## New South Wales

#### *2009 State Conference*

*The Roller Coaster of Infection Control* is being held on September 3 and 4 at Luna Park in Sydney. Speakers and topics are being finalised. This promises to be a conference for the wide variety of infection prevention and control staff.

The ICA NSW AGM will be held at the conference. Positions will be voted on, and we would welcome new members onto the Executive.

#### *Membership Renewal*

Members are reminded that their membership is due for renewal in July. In an effort to encourage timely renewal and to boost our membership, we are offering two prizes, both of which will be drawn at the Conference.

**Draw 1** – all members (except the Executive) who renew their membership by the end of July will be entered into the draw for a prize of \$250.

**Draw 2** – all members (except the Executive) who introduce a new member by the end of July will be entered into a second draw for a prize of \$250.

### ***AICA Credentialing***

Many of our Executive members took advantage of the temporary decrease in fees to submit their credentialling packages. Due to the large number of applicants across Australia who submitted their applications at the same time we are awaiting our results. From a personal point of view, this was an interesting exercise in reflecting and reporting on my practice. The ICA NSW Executive recommends that eligible members consider applying to be credentialed. Please see the AICA website for further information.

**Helen O'Harae.**

**Newsletter Representative, NSW ICA**

## **Tasmania**

### ***TICA Conference – Evidence Vs Reality***

The TICA Biennial Conference was held in Launceston on the 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> of July 2009.

Over 120 delegates attended and the conference, which ran over 1.5 days and included a cocktail reception. The conference represented excellent value for money, with early bird non member registration commencing only \$195. The invited speaker list was exceptional and TICA would like to thank all the speakers for their valuable time and effort in supporting our conference. All sponsorship opportunities were taken by industry, including gold, silver and bronze level sponsorship. At the time of newsletter contribution, full details re the conference could not be included; however they will be posted on the TICA Website – [www.thetica.net.au](http://www.thetica.net.au), including some presentations.

### ***2009 Membership***

The TICA has had a record amount of memberships this year.

### ***Infection Control Strategy***

The Tasmanian Infection Prevention & Control Unit (TIPCU) in conjunction with the Office of the Chief Nursing Officer in the DHHS are developing a state wide strategy for the prevention of healthcare associated infection. TICA are involved in this process and welcome a state wide strategic direction in this area. Many elements of the strategy are thought provoking and challenging but are necessary. Some elements include:

1. Stronger governance and reporting arranging
2. Specifications regarding infection control education for DHHS staff
3. Minimum skills/qualifications for staff working in infection control

### ***Current TICA Developments***

#### ***New Website***

At the TICA conference, the TICA website was launched. The web address is [www.thetica.net.au](http://www.thetica.net.au). The website contains a wealth of information for TICA members, including a member's only section. In future, the TICA Exec is hoping that online payments such as membership subscription can be made from the website. The TICA has secured sponsorship for the website

#### ***New Scholarships/Support for Members***

Next year, the TICA are offering additional scholarship/educational support to members. This includes

- Financial support for flights, for five TICA members to attend the AICA conference (in addition to 5 early bird registrations)
- A new \$500 scholarship for TICA members

#### ***Other news***

- The TICA membership passed a resolution to accept new rules for TICA. The rule changes were significant and are designed to improve the transparency, flexibility and accountability within the TICA. Examples include appointment and removal of TICA Executive members, consultancy and external communication.
- The President of the TICA is expecting that the current TICA Exec become AICA credentialed. In addition, the TICA Exec are offering support to TICA members who wish to become credentialed.
- At recent GMs, TICA members have had discussions about position statements, relevant to Tasmania. Generally, TICA members are wanting this to occur. As a result, the TICA Exec are developing online surveys, so that such statements can be developed and to ensure that the TICA Exec respond to media issues appropriately.
- TICA members have also discussed at GMs the need for the TICA to have more a voice in Tasmania. To support this, the TICA Exec have developed media response guidelines and will respond to media issues as supported by the above point. Additionally, the TICA are considering other options.

**Jenny Stubbings**

**Newsletter Representative, TICA**

## Australian Capital Territory

### Membership

A reminder to all members that membership is now due for renewal.

All current members should have received a copy of the renewal forms, if not please contact myself on [kerry.gill@act.gov.au](mailto:kerry.gill@act.gov.au) or phone 6205 1376

### Education Sessions

Our breakfast meetings have continued to be a great success.

On Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> July Dr Craig Boutlis, Infectious Disease Physician from Wollongong Hospital gave a very informative talk about VRE.

The hot breakfast was well received on the chilly Canberra morning and the meeting was well attended with feedback being very positive.

### Scholarships

A reminder to members that scholarships are available to assist in furthering their education.

Members applying for credentialing with AICA can also ask for financial assistance from the association.

### AGM

The AGM will be held on 9th September at 7.30am. A light breakfast will be served.

Please put this date in your diary to ensure your attendance at the meeting.

**Kerry Gill**

**Newsletter Representative, ACT**

## Victoria

### VICPA Biennial State Conference 7 – 9 October 2009

The next VICPA Biennial State Conference is scheduled for 8 - 9 October 2009. The venue for the conference is the Grand Hyatt Melbourne, located near the top end of Collins Street.

The 2 day conference will be preceded on Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> October by three very interesting workshops. The workshops are:

- Introduction to statistical process control – how we can use SPC to improve safety in healthcare.
- Blood and body fluid exposure management: are we in line with best practice.
- Changing behaviours.

Remember that Earlybird Registration is available until Friday, 4<sup>th</sup> September 2009.

Further information about the conference can be found at [www.vicpa2009.com](http://www.vicpa2009.com).

### VICPA AGM and Study Day – Wednesday July 15<sup>th</sup>, 2009

Approximately 60 members attended the VICPA seminar and Annual General Meeting (AGM) held on Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> July at Caulfield General Medical Centre.

The varied seminar presentations were appreciated and well received by the audience. PowerPoint presentations from the day are available on the VICPA website “members only” section.

The AGM provided an opportunity to inform members of VICPA’s activities over the last 12 months - reports presented are also available on the VICPA website. VICPA would like to congratulate Wendy Bacalja on her re-election and also welcome new members Matthew Richards (Melbourne Health), Sue Flockhart (Ballarat Health) and Paul Simpson (Hand Hygiene Australia).

The new VICPA Executive line up for 2009 - 2010 is as follows:

- President: Judy Brett
- Vice President: Wendy Bacalja
- Secretary: Lorraine Wilson
- Treasurer: Matt Mason
- Membership Secretary: Paul Simpson
- Education Officers: Catina Eyres & Sue Atkins
- Publicity & Newsletter: Donna Cameron
- Conference Convenor: VICPA 2009: Judy Brett
- AICA Representative: Wendy Bacalja
- VACIC Representative: Donna Cameron (metro) & Sue Flockhart (rural)
- VAC Representative: Matt Mason (rural) & Matt Richards (metro)

VICPA would like thank and acknowledge outgoing executive members Robyn Kelly, John Greenough and Louise Wright (resigned May 2009) for their hard work and significant contributions to the organisation and wish them all the best in their future endeavours.

### APSIC 2011

The 5<sup>th</sup> International Congress of the Asia Pacific Society of Infection Control (APSIC) to be held in Melbourne 8-11 November 2011 was launched at APSIC in Macau in July this year by Judith Brett, VICPA President. The conference will be held at the Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre. For further updates leading up to the conference go to [www.apsic2011.com](http://www.apsic2011.com) or alternatively links can also be found on the VICPA website.



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

Date and venue for the last Journal Club of the year are as follows:

11<sup>th</sup> December      Baptistcare (Camberwell)

For speakers and articles to be discussed see the VICPA website [www.vicpa.org.au](http://www.vicpa.org.au) closer to the date.

**Donna Cameron**

Newsletter Representative, VICPA

## **Queensland**

### *ICPAQ Conference 2009 'Prevention in Paradise'*

The Infection Control Practitioners' Association of Queensland (ICPAQ) offers you a warm invitation to join with some of Australia's key visionaries and infection prevention opinion leaders at what promises to be 2009's most stimulating and invigorating infection prevention event, "Prevention in Paradise".

Our scientific program includes the most recent science, national and state government insights and a special "late breaker" H1N1 Panel session. Our exhibitors will showcase technologies, devices and infection prevention solutions designed to make your job a whole lot easier. Equally compelling is the opportunity for you to network with state, national and international experts in infection prevention and related fields.

ICPAQ 2009 is being held 27<sup>th</sup> – 28<sup>th</sup> August 2009, at the Gold Coast International Hotel in Surfers Paradise, Queensland, Australia. Your online source for everything you need to know is [www.icpaq2009.com](http://www.icpaq2009.com), and all enquiries should be sent to [icpaq2009@icms.com.au](mailto:icpaq2009@icms.com.au)

### *ICPAQ AGM*

The ICPAQ Annual General Meeting (AGM) will be held on 27 August 2009. The following Office Bearer and Ex-officio Member positions are vacant, and nominations are called, for the Office Bearer positions of President, Secretary, and the Ex-officio positions of Membership Secretary, Editor and Public Relations Officer.

### *AICA Credentialing*

ICPAQ Members are encouraged to pursue AICA credentialing. Several ICPAQ members are currently awaiting the result from their submitted packages and several ICPAQ members have already been successfully through the process. For further information on the credentialing process and requirements please see the AICA website.

Four (4) Credentialing Scholarships are available from ICPAQ to provide financial assistance of \$250 each, annually. Applications from members for 2009 will close at the end of September. If Members require further information on the Credentialing Scholarships, please contact the ICPAQ Secretary on [www.icpaq.org](http://www.icpaq.org).

### *Education and Conference Scholarships*

Applications have now closed for the 2009 ICPAQ scholarships; however the successful members are yet to be announced (as at this newsletter submission deadline).

**Meagan Hunter**

Newsletter Representative – ICPAQ

## **Western Australia**

### *ICAWA Seminar*

The annual one-day ICAWA seminar will be held on 21st October 2009 during Infection Prevention Week.

### *AICA Conference 2010, Perth WA - "The 2010 Infection Control Odyssey"*

The conference organising committee is progressing well with planning of the 2010 conference to be hosted by ICAWA in Perth, 11 – 13 October (inclusive). The Burswood Convention Centre has been chosen for the venue. Progress has been made with the selection and contact of key speakers; the conference website and E-mail; scholarship brochures; and 'Call for Abstracts' dates and information.

**Allison Peterson**

Newsletter Representative – ICAWA

## **Special Features**

### **AICA to Talk the Talk in Lithuania**

The 2009 International Federation of Infection Control conference will be held in Lithuania in October. AICA have been invited to showcase our organisation and will chair a 90 minute session entitled "Communication in Infection Control".

Ms Wendy Beckingham (Canberra Hospital) and Ms Diedre Edmonds (Austin Health) will provide consecutive presentations: "Meet the press" and "Communication during an outbreak". Dr Walter Popp from Germany will provide a 30 minute presentation entitled "Using news media to promote infection control".

Ms Elizabeth Gillespie will chair the 90 minute session, which will provide an opportunity to showcase and promote our journal, *Healthcare Infection*.



**Australian  
Infection  
Control  
Association**

## *AICA Area of Expertise Database (AED)*

### **INFORMATION SHEET**

#### *Why is the AICA AED required ?*

Many members would be aware that AICA liaises with a great number of external bodies such as the Commonwealth Government, State Governments, Australian Standards, Universities, NGOs and other agencies. Each of these bodies request AICA's participation in document development or reviews.

#### *What is the AICA AED ?*

In late 2008 the AICA Executive developed a project brief for the AICA AED. The brief is to establish and maintain the AICA AED. The aim is to respond to requests for AICA consultation through the provision of specialist Infection Prevention and Control knowledge available from the AICA AED members. These members can then represent AICA on these external bodies.

Initially the Database will be for 12 months (May 2009 to May 2010), with review at the end of this period.

#### *Who is eligible to be listed on the AICA AED ?*

An AICA AED member is a, or has:

- Credentialed Infection Control Professional, or
- Infection prevention and control qualifications, or
- 5 years of experience within a specific infection prevention and control field within. Such fields can include, but are not limited to:
  - Environmental Health;
  - Surveillance;
  - Strategic Planning;
  - Wound Care;
  - Sterilizing;
  - Antimicrobial control;
  - Education;
  - Aged Care;
  - Policy writing.

#### *What is required from an AICA AED listed member ?*

The level of participation and content input required for AICA participation varies. Based on past experiences this can vary from a 1 hour document review to 12 month membership on a government committee.

Members of the expert database would be contacted following a request to AICA from an external agency for AICA representation or consultation. The AICA Executive would determine who may be best suited for the request and will then approach the member to identify their availability.

#### *How do I apply to be listed on the AICA AED ?*

To apply for AICA AED membership please submit your current CV and area of infection prevention and control expertise, with supporting evidence to AICA via: [admin@aica.org.au](mailto:admin@aica.org.au)

This database will be administered by AICA and will remain confidential with access limited to the AICA Executive when required.