



Australian Infection Control Association

National News

Issue 27

March 2008

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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

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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

During the recent Melbourne AICA Executive 2 day strategic planning meeting it was evident that 2008 will provide the Association with several opportunities to develop and strengthen our ability to meet our strategic goals as we work in partnership with the Australian Commission on Quality and Safety in Healthcare (ACQSHC). The next eighteen months will be an important and challenging time for AICA and our members while we embark on initiatives that aim to address issues raised by members at last year's ACSQHC forum held in Tasmania and, highlighted in the results of the AICA/ACSQHC survey. Key points of note for the AICA membership include:

- The AICA credentialing process – leading by example all members of the AICA Executive will have undertaken the credentialing process by June 2008 and will be shortly followed by State and Territory Association Executives by October 2008. All AICA members are encouraged to submit before the end of the year to take advantage of the reduced credentialing fee. To help you get started a credentialing workshop will be held at the 2008 AICA conference.
- National Scope of Practice – to address a number of the professional development issues facing infection control professionals (ICP's) the Standards of Practice project will be introduced. The project will enable identification of the role and scope of the ICP, core skill requirements, career pathing and, the development of formalised job descriptions for employers to assist in understanding the role and to ensure competent, adequately trained ICP's are employed by healthcare facilities.
- AICA 2008 conference – highlights of the program include 6 pre-conference workshops and continuation of conference themes into the following week which will be the inaugural AICA National Infection Control Awareness Week
- Launch of the *Healthcare Infection* journal - welcome to the first edition of the new look, new name journal which is now available on line. With an expanded editorial board and readership we are anticipating a rise in submitted articles. A number of incentives to encourage AICA members to publish will be put in place shortly.
- Australian Commission on Safety & Quality in Healthcare (ACSQH) - In November 2007 the Healthcare Associated Infection (HCAI) implementation committee chaired by Associate Professor Cathryn Murphy, was formed to provide feedback on prevention initiatives which will also assist in closing the gap in skills and resources of ICP's. Other Commission initiatives of note include:
 - review of the National infection control guidelines under the auspices of NHMRC (AICA Steering Committee member, Claire Boardman)
 - National Hand hygiene campaign (AICA Steering Committee member, Wendy Beckingham).
 - review of the national Surveillance document and survey of AICA members regarding surveillance activities

Detailed information regarding AICA's role and involvement with the Commission and planned initiatives are available via the AICA and Commission websites.

I am pleased to be working with a 'committed bunch' of individuals on the AICA Executive who have brought to the table a number of valuable skills and ideas and I thank each of them for their support in the first few months of my Presidency.

Claire Boardman – AICA President

Australian Capital Territory

Membership

New members are always welcome. Please contact me on kerry.gill@act.gov.au or phone 62051376 if you would like information concerning membership.

Education Sessions

Our first education session for 2008 will be a breakfast meeting to be held on 13th March. The guest speaker Rhea Martin will talk about culture change and hand hygiene. Further details will be circulated closer to the date.

It has been proposed that the Infection Control Week be held 13-17 October. Stay tuned for more information as the year progresses.

Scholarships

A reminder to our members that scholarships are available to members who wish to attend the conference in Melbourne in October.

Scholarships are also available for those who are undertaking education

Elaine Graham Robertson Scholarship

The Elaine Graham Robertson scholarship is to be awarded at the Melbourne conference. It is open to all AICA members presenting at the conference.

Information and application forms for the above scholarships are available from Wendy Beckingham at wendy.beckingham@act.gov.au

Congratulations

Dinah Morrison has been officially appointed to the AICA Credentialing Board. Well-done Dinah.

Other News

To help celebrate yet another productive year in infection control across ACT, members were invited to our annual Christmas dinner. The night was well attended and a good time was had by all.

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank Jan Roberts for the exemplary way in which she carried out her duties as the Public Officer and for her guidance.

Kerry Gill, Newsletter Representative

New South Wales

Welcome all to 2008. We would particularly like to welcome all new members to our Association. May 2008 be a time of

learning and pleasant experiences for all – and I hope that the person who stole months out of 2007 will not do the same in 2008!

Change of Newsletter Representatives

I am the new Newsletter Representative for ICANSW. I would like to thank Paul Smollen for his interesting newsletters, both State and National, and for his support in producing my first efforts. Paul is our AICA representative now.

Education Days

ICANSW has decided not to hold a Conference this year, but are instead planning a number of Education Days. In the past Education Days has occurred spasmodically, with programs being held in Sydney and in Dubbo. This year this program will expand with education days being held in various locations across the State. It is hoped this will give members in each geographical area greater access to these days. The program will be set in accordance to needs identified by members within each geographical area.

The first ICANSW Education Day for 2008 is 28th March in Tamworth. Further days will be announced at a later date.

Members are encouraged to attend the AICA National Conference in Melbourne in October in lieu of the NSW conference.

Helen O'Harae, Newsletter Representative.

Queensland

ICPAQ Conference 2009

In November 2007 ICPAQ sought nominations from members to join the 2009 ICPAQ Conference Planning Committee. Consequently a great group has been assembled including Belinda Henderson, Aby Foster, Vanessa Robinson, Sue Resnik and Jane Brooks who will join the conference convenor Cath Murphy. Over the next few months the group is looking forward to finalising the scope of our project, appointing a professional conference organiser and most importantly choosing a date, location and theme which will benefit all ICPAQ members.

Currently there are no firm dates or locations set but the option of holding the conference on the Gold Coast is being explored. One of our key aims will be trying to attract non-Queensland ICPs to join us and to share their experiences. Queensland is a very attractive destination for all Aussies and I'm confident that we could give a big, warm end-of-Winter welcome to our peers in 2009. We are also considering the potential to attract ICPs from New Zealand

and the Asia-Pacific region as infection control and prevention is growing rapidly in that region and ICPs look to Australia with great interest and respect.

The current buzz of national activity relating to the Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Healthcare's infection prevention work will potentially provide us with some exciting content. ICPAQ recognises the importance of also ensuring an adequate mixture of acute and long-term care content on the program. This formula has worked well in the past and is likely to be repeated in 2009.

December Meeting

The December General Meeting and Education Forum was held at the Southern Area Health Service in South Brisbane. Carol Cameron from the Mater Children's Hospital who is retiring soon was recognised for her valuable contribution to infection control over many years. Jan Evans was also acknowledged for stepping into the role of Vice President earlier in the year. The brief meeting was followed by a light hearted presentation from Louise Davis titled "Where not to stick your swab..". with the serious message to think twice before embarking on environmental sampling. Afterward we adjourned to the Era Bistro for the Christmas function generously sponsored by EBOS and Steam Australia Queensland.

March Meeting

The next Education Forum and General Meeting will be held on Wednesday 5th March from 2 – 4 pm at The Prince Charles Hospital Education Conference Room Rode Rd. Chermside. The Education Forum will be held prior to the General Meeting and aims to profile infection control initiatives in the local area. Presentations will be given by Janice Geary (TPCH), Debra Vesey (Caboolture), Min Tanuvasa Lene (Redcliffe) and Kathy Duggan (Sunshine Coast).

Future dates

The dates of General Meetings and Education Forums for the rest of 2008 are:

Wednesday 4th June

Wednesday 3rd September

Wednesday 3rd December

Louise Davis, Newsletter Representative

South Australia

State Seminars

This year ICASA in conjunction with the South Australian Wound Management Association (SAWMA) and the South Australian Society of Vascular Nurses (SASVN), are conducting two country seminar days. The first one will be held in June in Whyalla with the second to be held in Mount Gambier in November. These seminars will follow the patient journey from the community through the acute care setting and returning to the community. Throughout the roles of and interventions by each discipline will be identified and discussed. The hope is that these seminars will not only provide increased access to specialist education, but that it will also promote networking between country and city healthcare workers and benefits of being members of each of these associations. There will be a nominal fee for members of these associations and a higher fee for non-members.

We will also be holding our usual seminars in Adelaide, with the first being held on April 17th at Hindmarsh Education Centre. ICASA will be providing a light supper and drinks. Non-members may attend at a nominal fee. For further information please refer to the ICASA website www.icasa.org.au

Trade will be present at both the one day and evening seminars.

ICASA/FUSA Cocktail Party

ICASA held a cocktail party after the Flinders University of South Australia (FUSA) Infection Control Update day for local and country ICP's. The day and the event were quite successful with over 30 people attending the cocktail party. As various people clustered together over drinks and nibbles conversations ran the gambit of infection control hot topics; management of gastroenteritis, hand hygiene compliance, surgical site surveillance, and how to get surgeons and anaesthetist to comply with infection standards. We are sure some of these discussions will be around at next years gathering. The most important outcome was the opportunity to network and catch-up with people from both country and city.

ICASA Website

ICASA is currently in the process of seeking tenders for upgrading our existing website. This will include our new logo and front covers as well as a member's only section. This section will enable member only access to seminar presentations ICASA Newsletters. It is also hoped that a

secure access will be included to for online membership payments.

ICASA Scholarship for 2008

The ICASA executive committee would like to congratulate Ms Gillian Edson for being selected as the ICASA 2008 Scholarship recipient. Gillian is the current clinical nurse-infection control at LHI Retirement Services and has been an ICASA member for over two years. Gillian will be using her scholarship to undertake post-graduate studies in infection control. Her key objectives identified in her application set her apart from other applicants, these included: to gain educate for herself and use this to educate other staff members, implement and refine infection prevention and control programs, and to improve outcomes for not only residents, but their families and staff.

Thank you to all who applied for this scholarship but were unsuccessful. We encourage you to consider applying again in 2009.

A very early reminder.....

The scholarship application for 2009 will be advertised in the December Newsletter, so you have plenty of time to consider how you could use this opportunity. The scholarship can be used to assist with conference and workshop attendance, additional training, and post-graduate studies related to Infection Prevention and Control.

Marija Juraja, ICASA President

Tasmania

2008 TICA Members

A reminder to all current members that the 2008 TICA Membership Subscription was due on the 29th February. The 2008 Membership Form is available as a download from the Tasmanian page of the AICA Website or alternatively contact the TICA Secretary S.Brown@calvarytas.com.au

TICA Education Grant & Conference Bursary

TICA will be offering both the Cynthia Bryce Education Grant and the AICA Biennial Conference Bursary to members during 2008. Submissions are now invited for either fund.

The Cynthia Bryce Education Grant was established in recognition of Cynthia Bryce's long-standing contribution and commitment to Infection Control in Tasmania. The purpose of this grant is to enable persons with Infection Control responsibilities in Tasmania to obtain, maintain or develop their knowledge/skills.

The AICA Biennial Conference Bursary is offered to members of TICA to encourage attendance at this important national event. This bursary will allow TICA members exposure to a scientific and practice based meeting as well as network opportunities. Funding is aimed at assisting members to cover the costs of travel, accommodation and registration for the conference.

Please visit the Tasmanian page on the AICA Website to download an application form for either funding. Members are encouraged to contact the TICA Secretariat to discuss submission details if required.

Tasmanian Infection Prevention & Control Unit (TIPCU)

The TIPCU is currently being established. At present the team consists of Brett Mitchell (Clinical Nurse Consultant) and Dr Alistair McGregor (ID Physician).

The terms of reference, governance and operating structures for the unit are currently being developed and further information will be disseminated once these details have been formalised.

On behalf of TICA members the Executive would like to extend a warm welcome to Brett Mitchell and congratulate him on his appointment as the Clinical Nurse Consultant of the TIPCU. We look forward to Brett's participation in the Tasmanian Infection Control Community.

Anne Wells, AICA Newsletter Representative.

Victoria

VICPA Annual Planning Day for 2008:

Earlier this year the VICPA Executive held a strategic planning meeting to discuss agenda items such as membership, AICA Conference 2008, budget planning and educational issues. Details of the outcomes can be found on the VICPA website.

Membership Renewals:

A reminder to all members that membership is due for renewal in April. Continuous membership will ensure you continue to benefit from all VICPA initiatives, including VICNISS/VICPA Journal club and upcoming educational days. For all membership enquiries contact Robyn Kelly, Membership Secretary, at membership@vicpa.org.au

Infection Prevention Awareness Week 2007 Competition Winner

Congratulations Melbourne Health. To encourage sharing of their Infection Prevention Awareness Week experiences VICPA members were invited to enter a competition

outlining activities undertaken. Melbourne Health provided the most original entry and is the winner of the book voucher. To view the winning entry, go to www.vicpa.org.au.

Launch of the 2008 VIC Healthcare Worker Influenza Vaccination Program

On the 18th February 2008 Sanofi Pasteur held a HCW flu meeting in Melbourne. Noleen Bennett represented VICNISS giving feedback on Victorian 2007 influenza season. Dr Victor Carer, Medical Director, Sanofi Pasteur presented clinical evidence to support the myths of flu, including a Q & A session and Jane Pappin from Sanofi Pasteur presented evaluation results from 2007 and new promotional tools for 2008

Attendees received a Healthcare Worker Vaccination Support Kit containing promotional tools for the 2008 hospital vaccination programs.

VICPA/VICNISS Journal Club

The VICPA/VICNISS journal club has now been successfully running for over 12 months. Journal clubs are conducted bimonthly at a different hospital each time attracting more than 25 members to each meeting. Two VICPA members nominate and present an article of interest and then the audience has the opportunity to discuss all aspects of the research. To date this event has been confined to the metropolitan area however the VICPA Executive would like to encourage and assist any rural area/group in conducting a local journal club. Any enquiries to enquiries@vicpa.org.au. The next journal club is schedule for: 11th April 2008, the venue is yet to be confirmed.

Richard Bartolo, Newsletter Editor (VICPA)

Western Australia

ICAWA Education Session

The next ICAWA education session in February will be presented by the Vaccine Trials Group on Australia's involvement in the Avian influenza vaccine research. They will also give an update on the Australian influenza resource website. Rural infection control nurses will participate by video teleconference.

A general meeting for ICAWA members will be held prior to the education.

ICAWA Strategic Plan for 2008

ICAWA executive met in January to develop the strategic plan for 2008 -2009 which includes the following recent developments:

- Planning for both a State Seminar and the 2010 Biennial conference
- Succession planning for 8 vacant ICAWA executive positions in 2008
- Review of ICAWA's organisational policies and procedures in relation to the new Associations Inc Act
- Promotion of ICAWA membership among other healthcare organisations
- Compilation of a historical profile of ICAWA's achievements for the AICA history project

AICA Biennial Conference 2010

An Organising Committee for this event is in progress. Expressions of interest placed on the website for a working party, led to the recruitment of eleven ICAWA member volunteers.

ICAWA executive members support medical student education

ICAWA executive members were approached to provide support for the IC education of medical students from the University of WA. Several members participated in collaboration with other hospital IC nurses and formal feedback will be provided regarding input in future years.

Allison Peterson, Newsletter Editor (ICAWA)

AICA Conference 2008 – update

Melbourne, MCG, 8th - 10th October

The AICA2008 Conference Organising Committee recently met with a number of industry representatives during the first AICA Industry Forum held to promote strategic alliance with healthcare industry. By developing strategic partnerships AICA will be able to improve the quality of our conferences and other meetings by the sponsorship of international speakers and to offer other value added initiatives for both AICA and Industry. We are very keen to meet the expectations of companies who choose to support AICA and the State and Territory Associations at our conferences and education days and, to ensure ongoing benefit for both parties.

A reminder that abstracts submissions are now invited and will close in July 2008.

Please visit the conference website for further abstract and programming details including an introduction to our keynote speakers: www.aica2008.com

Claire Boardman, AICA2008 Chair Scientific Program