



Australian Infection Control Association

National News

Issue 28 - Amended

June 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.

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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

In the last newsletter AICA members were informed of AICA's involvement in a number of key strategy areas of the Australian Commission on Safety & Quality in Healthcare (ACSQH) particularly the Healthcare Associated Infection (HCAI) implementation advisory committee and the NHMRC review of the National Infection Control Guidelines.

Implementation Advisory Committee (IAC)

The key proposal of the IAC initiative is to provide ICPs with skills and resources to engage and educate clinicians, administrators and healthcare consumers in adopting a collective HAI-prevention mindset and to support associated clinical activities in reducing HAIs. At the time of writing this comprehensive strategy had been endorsed by all jurisdictions and will be further discussed during the June meeting of the IAC. If you would like more information about this strategy please contact your Association President or myself.

NHMRC review of the National Infection Control Guidelines

The NHMRC steering group has met several times to make recommendations for review and has included:

- Prioritisation of the top 20 infection control issues for the development of research questions which will form the basis of a systematic literature review
- Identification of all relevant State, National and International guidelines, standards and legislation which are part of a mapping exercise currently underway

To achieve a timely judicious approach in the identification of the top 20 priority areas the State Associations forwarded comprehensive feedback for inclusion in the final document. If you would like more information about this process and the document produced please visit the AICA website.

The steering committee is currently refining proposed questions for the comprehensive systematic literature review that will commence shortly. The review will include examination of the evidence for key areas of infection control practice where there is little or no evidence or, where there is no consensus approach to management of issues such as the prevention, management and control of Multi-resistant organisms (MROs) and, varied and unsafe practices associated with re-processing of reusable equipment.

Governance

Since March 2006 the Coalition of National Nursing an organisation (CoNNO), of which AICA is a member, have been involved in a project on governance for specialist nursing and midwifery organisations. In December 2007 CoNNO formally endorsed the governance framework and standards for nursing and midwifery organisations. The framework and underpinning standards have identified the key areas required for sound governance to: minimise risks; strive to improve performance; consider all available and current evidence to make decisions; and deliver a consistently high service to the membership, stakeholders and the wider community.

In February 2008 the AICA Executive undertook an internal self-assessment of the governance standards as part of the overall existing governance arrangements. The following were assessed:

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Australian Capital Territory

Education Sessions

Our first breakfast meeting for 2008 was held on 13th March. The guest speaker was Rhea Martin who spoke about culture change and hand hygiene. The meeting was well attended and Rhea's talk was well received.

TGA are extending an invitation to all stakeholders to present and discuss the "proposed changes to requirements for hospital, household and commercial grade disinfectants". The speaker will be Siepie Larkin. The venue is the pathology basement TCH on 22nd April at 7.30am and includes a light breakfast.

Our next breakfast meeting at the Ainslie Football Club is scheduled for 14th May. The topic is "Outbreak Management" and our guest speakers are Riemke Kampen and Dr Sanjaya Senanayake.

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 is available on the AICA website.

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

Other News

A nursing home liaison nurse position has been developed within the Infection Control Unit at Canberra Hospital. The objective of the role is to facilitate the discharge of long-term patients with multi resistant organisms to a non-acute setting. This will involve education and regular contact with nursing homes. We are planning to start with one nursing home and have this bedded down before moving onto other nursing homes within the ACT.

Kerry Gill
Newsletter Representative, ACT

New South Wales

Education

ICANSW is not holding a State Conference this year, and is encouraging members to attend the National Conference in Melbourne. With this in mind, we are holding a number of Education Days in different locations in NSW. The first of these was held in Tamworth on 28th March. Local speakers

presented topics such as management of patients with Multi-Resistant Organisms; Hepatitis C update; Tuberculosis update; Drugs and Bugs; Infectious Diseases update; Sterilisation; Occupational Exposures; and Staff Health. Participants came from local hospitals, other regional facilities, private hospitals and nursing homes. Many travelled long distances to attend, and we thank them for their support. The next Education Day is to be held in Sydney.

ICANSW is also in the process of planning an Advanced ICP Workshop in Sydney for later this year. We plan to provide professional development opportunity specifically targeting experienced ICPs. The aim of the day is to encourage and foster more ICP networking, and sharing of expertise and experiences which has been difficult to maintain since the link to the NSW Health Infection Control Coordinators Network (ICCN) was discontinued. Topics such as: Developing strategic and business plans for your service, Marketing, and Applying for Research/funding are some of the preliminary sessions being planned for the day. Further details will be provided via our website.

Website

The ICANSW website is to be updated. Members have been asked in a survey what they like/dislike and what they want in their website. Please check our website to see what is happening: <http://www.icansw.org.au>

NSW HAI Forum and News

NSW Health has developed a discussion forum that is currently available to NSW Health employees. The "HAI News" bulletin was recently distributed, with information on topics such as HAI Indicators, ICU Indicators, Links, Journals and Journal Articles.

The current version of the Indicator Manual is undergoing substantial review, and will include detailed instructions on the identification and reporting of HAI Indicators. All NSW Health facilities will be expected to report on *Staphylococcus aureus* blood stream infections, whilst facilities that do the nominated surgical procedures and those with an ICU will have to report on these Indicators. A new web-based database is being developed, and the revised Clinical Indicator Manual is expected to be released to coincide with the roll-out of the database.

Helen O'Harae
Newsletter Representative, ICANSW

Queensland

ICPAQ Education Forums

In mid-2007, the ICPAQ Management Committee decided to change the format of its general meetings to provide a greater focus on information sharing and the professional development of its members. Consequently, it was planned that the meetings for 2008 would be held at different sites

with the aim of involving the Infection Control Practitioners (ICPs) in the surrounding area in the organisation and presentation of the education forum. Videoconferencing of the education forum and general meeting would continue to be offered to members in regional areas.

On 5 March 2008, the first of the four education forums was held at The Prince Charles Hospital (TPCH), located in the northern suburbs of Brisbane. Presentations were given by four ICPAQ members on a diverse range of topics which included:

- Janice Geary (TPCH) - Settle Plates and CF (Cystic Fibrosis) Unit - a mixed bag of experiences.
- Debra Vesey (Caboolture & Kilcoy Hospitals) - Varicella zoster virus in a SCN (Special Care Nursery).
- Min Tanuvasa Lene (Redcliffe Hospital) - Using marketing modelling principles to increase the profile of Infection Control in the workplace.
- Kathy Duggan (Sunshine Coast & Cooloola Health Service District) - "On the 2nd day of Christmas my true love gave to me.... 2 outbreaks: Scabies and Norovirus...."

The forum was well attended and included the participation of seven regional sites from as far away as St George and Catherine (NT) via videoconference. The next education forum and general meeting is scheduled for 4 June at the Des O'Callaghan Auditorium, Mater Health Services, South Brisbane, commencing at 2pm.

ICPAQ Conference Scholarships

Each year ICPAQ offers scholarships to its members to attend either the State or National infection control conference. This year, two \$1,000 scholarships - the Mary Mott Scholarship and the Darling Downs Rural Scholarship, are available to provide financial assistance towards attendance at the AICA 2008 Conference. The Darling Downs Rural Scholarship is open to applications from non-metropolitan members only. The closing date for applications is 30th June 2008. For more information and application forms go to the ICPAQ website <http://www.icpaq.org/scholarships.shtml>

ICPAQ Conference

Planning is underway for the 2009 State Conference with the intention of holding the meeting in August at the Gold Coast. A Conference Organising Subcommittee has been established and a PCO appointed, to assist with the arrangement of the conference including scientific program. More information will be available over the ensuing months.

Louise Davis

Newsletter Representative, ICPAQ

South Australia

Education

ICASA held its first metropolitan education seminar evening for 2008 on April 17; it was a very successful evening with over 40 members and non-members in attendance. The topic was "Immunisation Guidelines & More" with presentations from ICASA members and an invited guest.

- Mary-Ann Humphris (CNC - Immunisation, CYWHS) Staff Immunisation Databases - More than one use!
- Julia Waddington-Powell (Nurse Consultant - Immunisation Section, SA Health) Update on Immunisation Handbook and, HCW Guidelines - the new, the old, and inspiring compliance.
- Lisa Ryan (IC Coordinator, Calvary North Adelaide Hospital) HCW Guidelines - putting them into practice.

Upcoming education seminars include:

- Thursday evening 11 September: Infection Control Considerations for Building and Renovation. More details available closer to the event.
- Saturday 1 November 2008 Mount Gambier: Combined ICASA, SAWMA & SASVN Country one day seminar "Bob's Health Care Adventure - a patient's journey, home to hospital to home". Check ICASA website for venue details closer to the date.

Member Survey

Earlier this year ICASA conducted a membership survey with the objective of giving members an opportunity to provide feedback on current service delivery and future directions for the association. The results of the survey are currently being collated, and the report will be available within two months.

Advance Notice

The Annual General Meeting is scheduled for Friday evening 15 August. Please ensure that you put this date in your diary and keep it free. More information will be available on the ICASA website over the next few weeks.

www.icasa.org.au

Beth Bint

Newsletter Representative, ICASA

Tasmania

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. Applications for the grant close on May 30th 2008

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. Applications for this bursary close 31st July 2008

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 has now been established. At present the team consists of Brett Mitchell (Clinical Nurse Consultant) and Dr Alistair McGregor (ID Physician). Brett has travelled the state and now met with most personnel coordinating Infection Control Programs. He also attended the TICA meeting in March to outline the purpose and functions of the unit.

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.

In March all interested parties providing acute care from both public and private sectors were invited to attend a meeting to participate in a State wide Infection Control Forum. Each representative gave a presentation to the group of their current surveillance programs.

This was followed by a discussion regarding HAI and what indicators from our current surveillance programs would be appropriate for us, as a group, to collect and submit to the unit for analysis and feed back. A total of 4 indicators were chosen. The next step is for the selected representatives to meet and develop the criteria and definitions for each indicator. This is an exciting project for Tasmania and will establish a state wide data base which we have not had in the past.

TICA together with TIPCU will be hosting 2 education sessions throughout the year. The sessions will be held in both north and south of the state. Topics and venues to be advised.

Jenny Stubbings
Newsletter Representative, TICA

Victoria

VICPA Annual General Meeting 2008

The VICPA Annual General Meeting is to be held at 5 pm on 22nd July at Caulfield General Medical Centre. As several VICPA Executive members will vacate their positions, nominations are sought from those interested in joining the VICPA Executive. The meeting will conclude at 6 p.m. for supper and drinks. All VICPA members are encouraged to attend.

Further information regarding the nomination process for VICPA Executive is available on-line at: www.vicpa.org.au

Metropolitan Study Day

The VICPA Annual General Meeting will be preceded by a half day Metropolitan Study Day commencing at 12:30 pm until 4:30 pm at Caulfield General Medical Centre. This promises to be a very informative event, and a varied and interesting program is assured.

Following Registration at 12:30 pm the afternoon's events will commence with two VICPA/VICNISS Journal Club presentations, by Martin Cutter and Phil Russo. These presentations are part of a popular VICPA/VICNISS Journal Club series entitled 'Where's the evidence?'

Also of note on the program are presentations from the Victorian Blood Exposure Surveillance group (VIBES) and, an update of the Australian Healthcare Safety and Quality Commission - Healthcare Infection Advisory Committee. In addition, Clinton Dunkley, Senior Program Advisor, Infection Control & Cleaning Quality and Safety Programs Unit, Department of Human Services (DHS), will be providing an update on the DHS projects and guidelines. All are welcome to attend. Further information on the Metropolitan Study Day is also available on line at: www.vicpa.org.au.

Hand Hygiene Victoria – Statewide meeting

Austin Health, the Hand Hygiene Co-ordinating Centre for Victoria, hosted a Hand Hygiene Statewide meeting on 18th April to discuss the implementation of a modified version of the World Health Organisation's '5 Moments for Hand Hygiene' for use in Victoria. The 5 Moments are: 1) Before patient contact, 2) Before a procedure, 3) After a procedure or body fluid exposure risk, 4) After patient contact, and 5) After contact with patient surroundings. According to Victorian Hand Hygiene Co-ordinator, Kel Heard, "This change was needed to bring us in line with the World Health Organisation's Global Patient Safety Challenge "Clean care is safer care" and will enable us to benchmark our Hand Hygiene compliance rate internationally."

Congratulations to Austin Health who have recently been awarded the National Hand Hygiene Coordinating Centre.

Bernadette Brogan,
Newsletter Representative, VICPA

Western Australia

ICAWA Quarterly Education Sessions

The next education session planned is planned for 13 May and the focus is the prevention and management of wound infections. This will be presented by an executive member of the WA Wound Care Association and Australian Stoma Care Association. Rural infection control nurses will be able to participate by videoteleconference.

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

ICAWA State Conference

A one-day conference planned for 15 September, 2008 is titled "Evidence into Action – Infection Prevention and Control". A brochure calling for abstracts has been finalised and will be available on the AICA website.

AICA Biennial National Conference, Perth 2010

The project brief has been completed and the inaugural meeting of the conference working party is scheduled for May.

Aileen Plant Memorial Lecture, April 2008

ICAWA promoted the memorial lecture held at Curtin University presented by David L Heymann (WHO's Assistant Director-General – Health Security and Environment). David's address titled "Dilemmas in Public Health" addressed a variety of topical issues from smallpox and polio eradication to SARS and Avian Influenza.

Update from the Healthcare Associated Infection Unit

- January 2008: The final stage of implementation of four mandatory clinical indicators for reporting by WA public hospitals (and licensed private healthcare facilities providing services for public patients) commenced as part of the WA surveillance program (HISWA).
 - Rate of surgical site infection following elective hip and knee arthroplasty
 - Rate of healthcare-associated infection due to MRSA
 - Rate of healthcare-associated bloodstream infections due to *Staphylococcus aureus*
 - Rate of occupational exposure to blood and/or body fluid
- Completion of the HISWA database with online data entry at hospital sites.
- The development of a new HCAI Unit website which includes links for HISWA surveillance and Infection Control Operational Directives:

http://www.public.health.wa.gov.au/2/37/3/healthcare_asso.p m. This is part of the new Public Health website with fact sheets and Operational Directives related to communicable diseases and links for immunisation and pandemic influenza topics.

<http://www.public.health.wa.gov.au/>

- The development of policy for the follow-up of community-associated MRSA in the community setting.
- The retrospective follow-up of cases with USA300 MRSA clones that have been reported in WA since 2004.

Allison Peterson

Newsletter Representative, ICAWA

From the president's desk continued

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Governance

Standard 1 Being clear about AICA's purpose and outcomes to the membership, stakeholders and wider community.

Standard 2 Performing effectively and demonstrating accountability through clearly defined functions and roles.

Standard 3 Promoting values for the whole organisation and demonstrating the principles of sound governance.

Standard 4 Taking lawful, informed, transparent decisions and managing risk.

Standard 5 Developing the capacity and capability of the board/governing body to be effective.

Standard 6 Engaging the membership, stakeholders and wider community and making accountability real.

The assessment has provided AICA with an enhanced understanding of governance and the resulting internal assessment has been used to develop an action plan for AICA's governance. To date the Project Brief and draft action plan has been completed and work has commenced on additional background information. The next step is to address the action items on a priority basis. Updated information will be provided through the AICA website and publications. Additional information on governance can be sourced through the Links Section of the AICA website www.conno.org.au

Credentialling

Congratulations to Brett Mitchell (Tas) and Elizabeth Gillespie (Vic) on the significant achievement of becoming AICA Credentialed ICPs. The end of June will see several more applications reviewed as the final members of the AICA Executive undertake this important process.

Claire Boardman

AICA President

Special Features

South Australian Infection Control Information Management

SA Health is currently in the process of developing a fully integrated state-wide infection control system within the public health system through its *careconnect.sa* program (www.careconnect.sa.gov.au).

The project objectives are to:

- deliver a solution that supports hospital based infection control professionals (ICPs) in their daily duties by automating data collection and providing a mechanism for monitoring, analysing and reporting of hospital acquired infections (HAIs)
- assist the clinical management of infectious diseases and outbreaks and give ICPs more time to further develop prevention strategies aimed at reducing HAIs.

The project is comprised of two distinct pieces of work:

1. data entry that incorporates real-time notifications and alerts
2. reporting through a standard suite of reports and ad-hoc reports as required.

The data entry component of the *careconnect.sa* infection control system has been developed to trigger real-time notifications to an ICP regarding laboratory isolates of interest, targeted procedures, and admission alerts for patients previously identified by an ICP as requiring follow-up on re-admission.

The *careconnect.sa* infection control system also provides a single point of access to read-only, integrated patient demographic and admission details, laboratory information, operating theatre records and cross-site infection control information. The result is an integrated view of a patient's infection control history.

The data entry component has been implemented in eight metropolitan public hospitals to varying degrees. Differences in some hospital and laboratory processes have resulted in a delay of full implementation but these are being addressed.

Infection control reports will be produced via the *careconnect.sa* clinical reporting system. This system provides access to infection control information with the capability to query, analyse, and explore the data held in the data repository (the clinical data warehouse).

A standard suite of infection control reports is currently being developed. These reports will provide pre-populated templates summarising infection control data, trends over time and also allow for drill-down to granular report details. In addition ICPs will be provided with training to allow for development of site specific ad-hoc reports.

While the initial project is close to completion, some potential enhancements have been identified. Approved recurrent funding will allow ICPs to prioritise these items, in consultation through the Infection Control Users Group, to ensure ongoing improvement to the system and standardisation across SA Health.

More information is available at www.careconnect.sa.gov.au.

Chris Cope
ICP Lead, Infection Control Project
Department of Health, South Australia

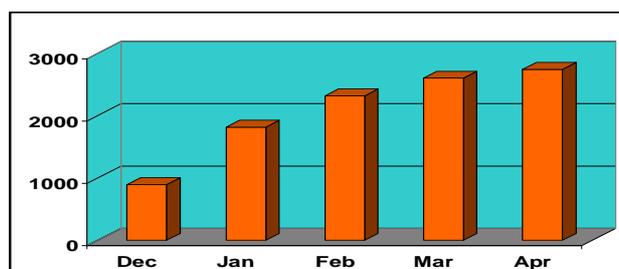
Healthcare Infection – Online

In 2008 *Healthcare Infection* migrated to CSIRO PUBLISHING. One of our first tasks was to provide an online presence.

First came a dedicated website, at www.publish.csiro.au/journals/hi. This website holds the journal and associated materials, including notice to authors, sign up for email Early Alerts or RSS feeds, and the *Healthcare Infection / Australian Infection Control* archives.

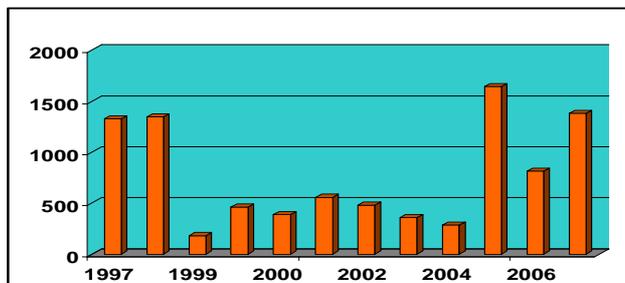
Healthcare Infection is online in both PDF and full-text HTML versions, viewable by AICA members and journal subscribers. (AICA members, go first to www.aica.org.au and then the Members Only site to enjoy these enhanced facilities.)

These online features are attracting attention to *Healthcare Infection* and AICA. During December 2007 the journal received about 850 downloads. With the March 2008 issue (Vol. 13 no. 1) published the download rate has tripled. These downloads come from AICA members, subscribers, and casual viewers. Authors in *Healthcare Infection* now enjoy increased and international prominence.



Downloads of *Healthcare Infection* by month.

The archive of older issues attracts interest too. Back issues to Vol. 1 no. 1 were available online in October 2007. *Healthcare Infection* readers use the archive, as shown by the downloads below.



Downloads of the *Healthcare Infection / Australian Infection Control* archive during Jan-Apr 2008.

We look forward to 2008 and watching *Healthcare Infection* expand further and the activities of AICA become more visible to an ever wider and increasingly international audience.

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