



Australian Infection Control Association

National News

Issue 32

June 2009

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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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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

How is H1N1 affecting you?

At the time of writing * 62 countries had officially reported 17410 cases of influenza A (H1N1) infection, including 115 deaths. The advent of H1N1 has emphasised the need for the public and health professionals to be practicing effective hygiene practices and to wear personal protective apparel appropriately. There have been many images in the media that inaccurately portray the use and wear of PPE. This provides an opportunity for ICPs to educate the public and to emphasize other infection prevention issues. Although H1N1 is a significant public health concern it is a great time to promote understanding of the ICPs role and their importance within the healthcare environment. While pandemic planning can at times be tedious, there is nothing like a good outbreak to get to know your colleagues who may never have known that such a role and function existed within their healthcare facility.

Development of educational materials for ICPs – ACSQHC request for quote

Congratulations to Elizabeth Gillespie and the Infection Prevention team at Southern Health, Victoria who were awarded the ACSQHC contract to develop education modules for the novice ICP. The proposal for module development was based on the outcomes and recommendations of the Implementation Advisory Committee who recognised the importance of supporting the clinicians undertaking infection prevention and control in healthcare facilities. This work forms part of the Commission's Building Clinician Capacity initiative that has been endorsed by AICA. We look forward to seeing the results of the Southern Health team's efforts later in the year.

Farewell to Beth Bint, AICA Executive

The AICA Executive on behalf of the members wishes to acknowledge Beth Bint's achievements while part of the AICA Executive. Beth has resigned from the Executive of both ICASA and AICA and, her position in South Australia to take up a new role in Wollongong NSW. Beth has developed a series of AICA position papers and has been the Newsletter editor since she joined the Executive in 2007. We wish Beth all the best in her move across the country and in her new position.

Call for Expressions of Interest – AICA President position

In the last newsletter I mentioned that AICA will be holding our Annual General Meeting on August 27th 2009 on the Gold Coast. This meeting will be the venue for the election of the President for the next 2 year term. At this point I am planning to seek re-appointment for another term however; I welcome any individuals who wish to join me in the election process. If you would like to nominate please contact Lorelei Broadbent for a nomination form and the key selection criteria.

report continued page 2

**(3 June 2009 WHO website)*

AICA Newsletter proudly sponsored by



Presidents report continued

Infection Control Today online – who's who in infection prevention

ICT publishes a list of people nominated by peers as Who's Who in Infection Prevention. This year's list includes the editor of Healthcare Infection (AICA's journal) Elizabeth Gillespie. Congratulations Elizabeth. To learn more visit the AICA website.

Claire Boardman
AICA President

State and Territory News

Victoria

VICPA Biennial State Conference 7 – 9 October 2009

The next VICPA Biennial State Conference is scheduled for 7 - 9 October 2009. The venue for the conference is the Grand Hyatt Melbourne, located at the top end of Collins Street. The 2 day conference will be preceded by several interesting workshops.

Conference organisers are calling for abstracts to be submitted. Important dates to keep in mind are:

- Abstract submission deadline: Friday, 31st July 2009.
- Earlybird Registration: Friday, 4th September 2009.

Further information about the conference and abstract submission can be found at www.vicpa2009.com.

VICPA AGM and Study Day – Wednesday July 15th, 2009

The VICPA AGM will be held at the Caulfield Medical Centre, Kooyong Road, Caulfield on Wednesday 15th, 2009. A study day will be held prior to the AGM as this has been popular in previous years. For the first time last year, a journal club was also run in conjunction with the study day. Following excellent feedback it has been decided that another journal club will be held at the start of this year's AGM study day as well.

More information about speakers and topics will be available on the VICPA website as they are finalised.

Echuca Study Day

The Echuca study day was held at CVGT Training Echuca, Friday 29th May, 2009. Some of the topics covered during the study day were construction and renovation infection control issues, outbreak management, the national hand hygiene rollout and the updated DHS Cleaning Standards.

VICPA is keen to assist other Victorian rural regions to hold an infection control study day. If you would like assistance with organising a study day please contact:

Judy Brett Judy.Brett@mh.org.au or
Catina Eyres CEyres@bendigohealth.org.au

Bi-monthly VICPA/VICNISS Journal Club

Dates and venues for the Journal Club for the rest of the year are as follows:

- 15th July Caulfield General Medical Centre
- 11th December Bapticare (Camberwell)

For speakers and articles to be discussed see the VICPA website www.vicpa.org.au closer to the date.

Donna Cameron
Newsletter Representative, VICPA

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.

Website

We have obtained quotes to have our website updated and by the time this goes to print we should be complete. Please check it out.

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.

Scholarships

Members are reminded that ICA NSW have set aside funds for scholarships to assist with costs in attending International, National and State Conferences, as well as for continuing education.

Anyone wishing to apply for a scholarship to attend our State Conference will need to have applied by the end of May. This is to allow time for the scholarship committee to meet, reply to the applicant/s, and give successful applicants time to organise rosters, accommodation, etc. Please see the website for application information and forms.

AICA Credentialling

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

Australian Capital Territory

Education Meetings

The second of our breakfast meetings was held on 1st April. ACT Chief Nurse, Veronica Croome gave us an informative talk about her background in nursing, her role within ACT Health and her vision of the future of nursing in the ACT.

Attendees at the breakfast meeting on 13th May were treated to a delicious full breakfast followed by a very informative lecture by Ashley Watson on Ca MRSA.

Judging by the feedback we received, the event was a great success.

Hand Hygiene

The ACT Hand Hygiene program manager has been appointed and commenced work on 28th April 2009. The project manager will be focusing on developing a project plan to manage the implementation of the changes in hand hygiene in the ACT. The ACT already has a comprehensive surveillance program in place to provide data on infection rates.

The ACT coordinated the launch of the program on 5th May 2009 as part of the WHO Save Lives: Clean Your Hands Day.

Scholarships

A reminder to all ACT members that scholarships for attending the conference and assistance with study are available and application forms can be obtained from any member of the ACT executive committee.

Credentiailling

Members are encouraged to apply for credentiailling with AICA. Should you require assistance or funding please contact members of the executive committee.

AGM

A reminder to members that the AGM will be held in September. (date to be confirmed)

This is an excellent opportunity for members to meet people who work in or who have an interest in infection control

Kerry Gill
Newsletter Representative, ACT

Queensland

ICPAQ Conference 2009 'Prevention in Paradise'

Message from Assoc. Prof Cathryn Murphy MPH PhD CIC
(ICPAQ Conference Convener)

Planning for the ICPAQ 2009 conference being held at the Gold Coast International Hotel from 26-28 August 2009 is well under way. We have had overwhelming support from our partners in medical industry and fabulous abstracts submitted from multiple countries. We are very much looking forward to hosting Australia's largest and best infection prevention meeting in 2009. We would warmly welcome any of our AICA and international colleagues to this meeting. There are a series of half-day workshops planned for the 26th August and formal presentations slated for the 27th & 28th.

All Early-bird prices listed below are available up until 30th June 2009, and as quoted are in Australian Dollars including the Australian Goods and Services Tax (GST).

Registration Fees

- Member \$590.00
- Non Member \$650.00
- Day Registration: Member \$375.00
- Day Registration: Non Member \$425.00

Group Discount

A 10% discount will be offered for Group Registrations of three or more delegates from the same organisation before the Early Bird Deadline of 30 June 2009. Please be aware that all group registrations must be received at the same time via post or fax.

Full Registration Entitlements:

- Entry to all sessions,
- Entry to selected Professional Development Workshops,
- Lunch, morning and afternoon tea daily,
- Attendance at the Welcome Reception,
- Attendance at the Conference Dinner,
- Conference Satchel,
- Copy of Final Program and Abstract Book Pocket Program,
- Entry to the Exhibition.

Airfares to the Gold Coast are really reasonable at the moment so we hope that you will seriously think about joining us. Registration is available online at <http://www.icpaq2009.com/register.asp>

ICPAQ Scholarships

Our annual scholarships will soon be decided for 2009. Applications from ICPAQ members will be due shortly for The Dolly Oleson Education Scholarship Fund, and The Richard Kemp Memorial Scholarship for Education/Research to provide financial assistance towards

education and/or research. Our Conference Scholarships provide financial assistance for two (2) members to attend ICPAQ or AICA Conferences. The Mary Mott Conference Scholarship is open to all ICPAQ members, while The Darling Downs Rural Scholarship is open to non-metropolitan members only.

Meagan Hunter

Newsletter Representative – ICPAQ

Tasmania

TICA Conference – Evidence Vs Reality

The TICA Biennial Conference will be held in Launceston on the 23rd and 24th of July 2009.

The Launceston Tramshed Conference Centre will be the venue for this event. The event will commence on Thursday afternoon and include a number of speakers followed by a cocktail party reception and opening of the trade. The cost of the event is very reasonable and extremely good value for money with the current line up of confirmed speakers. For TICA member's early bird registration is \$125, non members \$195. Speakers include Professor John Pearman, Dr John Ferguson, Dr Celia Cooper, Professors Peter Collingnon and Lindsay Grayson, Dr Alistair McGregor, Tanya Farmer & Airlie Ward (State Line). Abstracts can be submitted online via the conference web site, <http://www.thetica.com.au/>

2009 Membership

Membership of the TICA continues to grow with this year's membership projected to exceed last years with a record number of new members. The Association continues to attract members from a diverse range of backgrounds which include dental practices, education and training, acute and non-acute hospitals, long term care facilities, the funeral industry, medical laboratories, health insurance and mental health.

In part the increased membership can be attributed to the recent establishment of the Tasmanian Infection Prevention and Control Unit (TIPCU) within the Department of Health and Human Services which has improved the profile and recognition of infection control in the state.

The TICA Executive and members warmly welcome new members to TICA and look forward to their attendance at general meetings, discussion forums and the July conference.

Current TICA Developments

- Cynthia Bryce award just launched and to be awarded at conference – for details please visit web site
- A donation of \$500 was made on behalf of TICA members to the Vic Bushfire victims

- A launch of the first co-ordinated validated summary of healthcare associated infection control indicator data in Tasmania occurred in March with the Minister for Health. TICA was invited to the launch and welcomed the report. Details of the report can be found on the Tasmania Infection Prevention & Control Unit's website. The report contained information relating to rates for SAB, CDI and MRSA for each public hospital in Tasmania. There was media involvement with many television and newspaper articles.

Jenny Stubbings

Newsletter Representative, TICA

South Australia

State Infection Control Conference

Planning for the State Conference to be held in Adelaide on Friday August 14th at The Lakes Resort, Westlakes is progressing well. Registration for the conference is open to ICASA and AICA members, and all other persons with an interest in infection prevention and control.

We believe the theme "Change...the same only different" is apt as we are currently going through enormous changes within society at large and the healthcare system. The impact of the economic crisis presents additional challenges for infection prevention and control balancing best practice options for infection prevention strategies with the finite resource of the healthcare dollar.

Whilst rising to this challenge to prevent infection and control diseases, we must develop contemporary strategies that are both innovative and creative to engage healthcare workers and the wider community. 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.

Registration Fees:	Early bird	General
	17 July '09	7 August '09
• Member	\$230.00	\$280.00
• Non Member	\$280.00	\$330.00

For more information please visit our conference page: www.icasa.org.au

We look forward to seeing you at our conference.

Post Conference Workshops

There are several workshops being conducted post conference on the Saturday 15th of August, these include:

1. Blood Borne Virus Exposure Management
2. Publish or Perish
3. Mathematical Modelling
4. Credentialling for the ICP

The workshops will be held at The Queen Elizabeth Hospital. We encourage everyone to take this opportunity to attend at least one of these very popular and informative

workshops. We believe that they not only interesting, but will benefit both yourself and your workplace.

ICASA AGM

The ICASA AGM will be held at the conference on the 14th of August. Nominations for the Executive are invited from the membership. For more information on how you can become involved with ICASA Executive please contact any of the current executive members.

ICASA Seminar Night, 21st May

A lively debate by both ICASA members and trade sponsors titled "Hand hygiene is more effective than gloves in the prevention of infection", was well received and attended by ICASA members. It was an interesting night as both sides argued the pros and cons of hand hygiene and glove use with the audience both challenged and enthused by the lively debate.

The evening also provided the ICASA executive with an opportunity to call for a general meeting to discuss proposed changes to the current constitution that reflected ICASA's member's needs and future vision.

Marija Juraja

President & Newsletter Representative – ICASA

Western Australia

ICAWA Quarterly Education Sessions

- An update on Hepatitis and HIV was presented by the Hepatitis Council of WA and a Clinical Microbiologist/ Infectious Diseases Consultant at the May education session.
- An education survey was completed by members and analysis of the survey has informed future ICAWA education planning.

ICAWA Seminar

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

The 'Call for Abstracts' has been circulated with a 16 July 2009 deadline.

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.

Update from the Healthcare Associated Infection Unit (HCAIU)

- The 3rd Annual Report of Healthcare Infection Surveillance WA (HISWA) has been distributed and

available in hardcopy by contacting the HCAIU or downloaded from the website.

http://www.public.health.wa.gov.au/2/37/3/healthcare_associated_infection_unit.pm

- Haemodialysis access-associated bloodstream infection surveillance has been added to the suite of mandatory indicators for reporting to HISWA. This will include dialysis units in both the public and private sector.
- The HCAIU has completed a validation study of data reported to HISWA of surgical site infections following hip and knee arthroplasty. That confirms the validity of the reported data. This can be downloaded from the HCAIU website.
http://www.public.health.wa.gov.au/2/37/3/healthcare_associated_infection_unit.pm
- In WA, 'Micro-Alert' is an electronic system for flagging carriers of resistant organisms and the HCAIU has secured a project officer to undertake an extensive review of it.
- Draft Clinical Waste Guidelines for WA have been completed in conjunction with the Department of Environment and Conservation and is undergoing review prior to release.
- The HCAIU has developed guidelines and resources for the management of virulent Community-associated MRSA strains that carry the Panton-valentine leukocidin (PVL) gene. A letter and information is sent from the unit to all notified cases of these strains and their GP. Public Health Units follow-up cases when a GP has not been involved. HCAIU staff conduct a 'search & destroy' for specific novel emerging strains such as USA-300.
www.public.health.wa.gov.au/3/896/3/camrsa.pm

Allison Peterson

Newsletter Representative – ICAWA

Special Features

Lean Six Sigma

AICA 08 pre-conference workshop

During the AICA National Conference, Melbourne 2008, BD sponsored Amy Richmond, from the USA to present her experiences on implementing Lean Six Sigma methodology's to achieve zero CR-BSI rates within Barnes Jewish Hospital.

Further Training Opportunity

To continue the momentum, BD generated a web-based survey to gather feedback on individual's intentions to develop their Six Sigma knowledge. The response of the survey indicated a strong interest to pursue Six Sigma learning, and as a response, we has isolated a one day course though the University of Technology, Sydney (Faculty of Business), that we would like to offer to 12-15 Infection Control individuals.

The course is titled: *Lean Six Sigma Foundations - an intensive program on key principles and practices*. This is an intensive, one day course, running from 8.30am to 5.30pm. The course will be facilitated by 2-3 UTS business professionals and will use Healthcare scenario's, as the workshop examples.

BD will cover course costs and provide the venue at our new training room, at our Sydney Head office. It is planning to be held in September 2009.

AICA has welcomed the opportunity to partner with BD to further equip Australian ICPs in the skills necessary to facilitate infection control improvements in their facility. To this end AICA will cover the cost of accommodation for the course attendees.

Both AICA and BD believe it is important for any individuals attending to have the support of their facility, and would hope that their employers would demonstrate this by covering the cost of airfares.

Expressions of Interest

As the attendee placements are limited, we feel it best to release an expression of interest, to allow individuals to summarise their interests in pursuing Six Sigma education and potential to implement programs / initiatives within their current facility. The successful attendees will then be requested to be involved in a Six Sigma 'experience sharing' workshop or presentation at AICA 2010.

More information will be available regarding the process for application, and specific date in the coming weeks.

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 Di Dreimanis and Ms Wendy Beckingham from The Canberra Hospital 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*.

Strategic Partnerships

Paul Smollen has been appointed to the newly created AICA role of Strategic Partnerships. This role will build and strengthen existing relationships AICA has with external agencies and foster and develop new relationships. The position will act as a contact point for all external agencies and trade for contact to AICA. The position will also keep these external agencies briefed on AICA developments.



**Australian
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Healthcare Infection

Assistant Editor Required

Healthcare Infection, the official journal of the Australian Infection Control Association, is a highly successful international infection control journal that is in its 14th year of publication and requires an **assistant editor**.

Term:

2 years, with the option to continue for a second term conditional upon their performance being considered satisfactory by the Executive of the Australian Infection Control Association Inc. (AICA).

Position Description:

Key responsibilities:

- To assist with the coordination of the quarterly production of the journal
- To liaise with the Editor-in-Chief and CSIRO Publishing to produce a financially viable journal in a timely manner
- To liaise with and contribute as a member of the AICA Executive team, when required

Reports to:

- Healthcare Infection Editor-in-Chief
- AICA membership: assists with providing a report on journal activities for the AICA membership

Primary Tasks: assists with

- Submitting specific publication deadline dates annually
- Ensuring that the financial management of the journal is in accordance with accepted practices
- Coordinating and periodically reviewing the Editorial Board
- Enlisting new peer reviewers
- Ensuring production of four issues of the journal per year in accordance with publishing deadlines
- Proof reading material submitted for publishing
- Acknowledgment and forwarding complimentary copies of the Journal to authors
- Ensuring content on the AICA website is current
- Evaluating opportunities to market the journal both within Australia and internationally

Selection Criteria

Essential:

- Currently a credentialed infection control professional
- Has published at least one article in a peer reviewed journal as the first author
- Has published additional articles as a co-author in a peer reviewed journal and has had experience as a peer reviewer.
- Is a current financial member of AICA

Desirable:

- Has a higher qualification such as masters degree
- Has had previous editorial experience
- Has demonstrated ability to work to structured timeframes

Must be able to provide 2 professional referees

All enquiries and applications to be directed to:

Elizabeth Gillespie, Editor-in-chief

Healthcare Infection

elizabeth.gillespie@southernhealth.org.au

Applications Close:

COB Friday 26 June 2009



**Australian
Infection
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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 please submit your current CV and area of infection prevention and control expertise, with supporting evidence to AICA via: admin@aica.org.au

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