

Message from the AICA Executive

This issue of the journal focuses on infection surveillance, emphasising the value of adopting standard definitions and methods for surveillance in Australia. There is evidence from our colleagues overseas that well-established infection surveillance systems assist in identifying the socio-economic burden of health care associated infection (HAI), highlighting the cost-effectiveness of infection control programmes.

Currently, there is a lack of consistency in the approach to infection surveillance in Australia. This precludes us from access to reliable information on the current status of HAI in this country. Without this knowledge, we are unable to identify (and target resources towards) those areas posing the

greatest risk of infection in the health care system. Applying standard definitions and protocols nationwide will, over time, provide critical information on the impact of HAI in our country. It is essential that all those involved in surveillance of HAI embrace this ideal.

A unified approach to surveillance supports the AICA vision and values by highlighting our commitment and unique contribution towards minimising HAI in all health care settings. A national strategy will raise the awareness and credibility of the field of infection control and, ultimately, enable us to demonstrate that infection control programmes can effectively influence practice to reduce the socio-economic burden of HAI.

AICA strategic plan

The Annual General Meeting of the Australian Infection Control Association Inc was held in Sydney on 5 May 2001. Approximately 50 members attended. At the meeting, the strategic plan for the Association was presented by members of the AICA Executive. This plan is built around three core strategic intentions which support AICA's mission and vision.

Mission

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

Vision

AICA, as a partnership of state and territory associations, is the national peak body for management strategies to minimise health care associated infection.

AICA's core values and beliefs

- AICA advocates the principles of voluntary participation and consensus.
- AICA equitably represents the interests of ICPs and other related disciplines in all regions.
- AICA promotes accountability and empowerment of the membership through clinical and corporate governance. Corporate governance of AICA is provided by the AICA Executive.
- AICA promotes application of ethical strategies to minimise adverse events to improve health outcomes in all health care facilities.