

# President's Message



**C**ongratulations, AICA well done. What a thrill it is to welcome the first national Australian Infection Control Journal. The concept of a national journal has been in the hearts and minds of Infection Control Practitioners throughout Australia for a number of years. The need was identified, the enthusiasm was abundant, the market was ready and here it is. Thank you to all the States and Territories for your untiring efforts in making this dream a reality, it has only occurred because of the cohesiveness of our organisation and the terrific work that all the States and Territories have put into getting this production rolling off the press. It is your Journal, a product of your efforts, foresight and planning. Enjoy it and support it.

Since the days of Semmelweis in the middle of the nineteenth century, the importance of Infection Control was realised but acceptance of Infection Control practices did not automatically follow. A break in Infection Control practice in those days carried for many a 'Life Sentence'. So what has changed?? What was important then is equally important now, and who could have envisaged the emergence of a retrovirus such as HIV and the part it would play on

the world stage in highlighting the importance of Infection Control. Somehow it seems vastly unfair that with improved knowledge, high powered antibiotics, our educated personnel, research and progress, that we are still fighting to 'beat the bugs'.

The age long battle and our recognition of the research that is required to keep that one step ahead is of major importance. Research and education cannot be understated in their importance, nor can the valuable contribution of Infection Control Practitioners.

AICA was formed by a small group of Infection Control enthusiasts from all States and Territories (except NT who sent an apology), with the inaugural meeting held in Sydney on 10th October 1985. This meeting was to investigate and discuss the possibility of the formation of a national group and had the vision of a united Australian Infection Control Association. The vision included the holding of an annual national conference which would rotate through each State and Territory. So, AICA was born and the first national conference was subsequently held two years later in Canberra on the 18th-19th June 1987. In 1995 we have come full circle with this vision a reality and an annual national

conference having been held in every State and Territory culminating in the eighth conference which was held in Alice Springs, NT in 1994.

Clearly the way is now onward, we have about 1300 members, we have acknowledgment and we have the expertise. Infection Control is a speciality in its own right and as a group we must continue to fight for credentialling and further recognition. AICA represents its members on many national committees in the area of health, and provides consultancy to all National or State/Territory organisations on request, and holds a position on the board of the International Federation of Infection Control.

This Journal is your voice, a medium for updating knowledge, sharing experiences, uniting members, and raising the profile of AICA. Please keep those letters and articles coming and let us make this Journal our most successful venture yet.

**Alison Pyper**  
President AICA

## AICA Aboriginal Dot Painting Logo Interpretation

**I**nterpretation of the AICA logo was commissioned for the 8th National conference held in Alice Springs in 1994. The interpretation was painted by Sarah Pwerele of Inkowenyerre Outstation, Utopia, NT. The painting depicts a meeting/gathering place where people come together for a meeting. The Conference meeting place is depicted by the centre circle and surrounded by smaller circles depicting other areas from whence people will come. The medium is Acrylic/Canvas.

**Alison Pyper**

