



New South Wales State News



PRESIDENTIAL REPORT

1 996 has started in earnest for ICA NSW Inc. Members of the AICA 1996 National Conference are working furiously to finalise the scientific content of the program. A record number of abstracts were received with representation from all states and territories other than Queensland. The difficult decision for the abstract committee was selecting the presentations. We believe that the content is exciting and will reflect the current work being undertaken by Clinical Infection Control staff throughout the country. In addition a number of delegates from New Zealand will be attending the conference and will enhance the opportunity for Trans Tasman networking.

The first of a series of four exhibitor meetings has been undertaken and it is hoped that these meetings provide an avenue for the needs of both exhibitors and delegates to be aired and accommodated so that the mutual benefit from the conference can be maximised.

In an attempt to make the conference more accessible to members of each of the 13 regions of NSW the NSW Executive offered each region one free Earlybird registration.

This offer has been taken up by each region and will ensure that all regions are represented. In addition the recipients of the registration will be expected to provide a conference report to their own local region.

Two more short courses in Infection Control are about to begin at the NSW College of Nursing and these courses are both fully booked, an indication of the realisation by management and staff of the importance of infection control in modern health care delivery.

The NSW Health Department is currently undertaking a further two initiatives relating to Infection Control. Firstly, the Infection Control Advisory Group has been established to advise the government on current issues and to review policy. Sue Resnik from the Infection Control Resource Centre was approached to stand on this Committee and we wish her well in her work.

Secondly, a private consultant has begun a project to develop a series of training modules for Infection Control for NSW Health. These kits will be targeting a variety of health care professionals and will provide a "user friendly" module to educate staff in the contents and interpretation of 95/13 "Infection Control Policy". I am representing ICA NSW Inc on this working party and I look forward to working more closely with members as this project expands.

Looking forward to meeting with you all in May at AICA '96!

City Tattersalls Club Infection Control Scholarship

Sydney Hospital and Sydney Eye Hospital are pleased to be able to offer an Infection Control Scholarship for the Course commencing in June 1996.

City Tattersalls Club have generously offered this opportunity to a Registered Nurse in rural New South Wales who is currently working in Infection Control. The Scholarship covers Course fees and accommodation.

Applicants are required to:

Write a letter of application for a position on the Course and include a copy of their Curriculum Vitae. Please include in your Letter of Application that you wish to be considered for the scholarship.

All applications will be reviewed by a panel on 1 May 1996. Applicants will be notified in writing by the Director of Nursing.

For further information please contact Clinical Nursing Services Department, Sydney Hospital.



MALMET.

SPECIALISED HOSPITAL EQUIPMENT MANUFACTURERS
ACN 001 717 791

All models
manufactured
to Australian
Standards.

Over 30 years manufacturing experience specialising in..

- * BED PAN FLUSHER-SANITIZERS * MACINTOSH RAILS * DRYING CABINETS
- * PAN-BASIN & BOTTLE RACKS * UTENSIL WASHER-DISINFECTORS * HOT AIR STERILIZERS
- * BLANKET WARMING CABINETS * INSTRUMENT WASHERS * FLUID WARMING CABINETS

Prompt sales and spare parts available..
Distributors in all states and overseas..

Telephone : (043) 243055
Facsimile : (043) 232669
PO Box 201 Gosford N.S.W 2250



Quality
Assured

CLINICAL WASTE AUSTRALIA

ACN 003 716 256

THE RESPONSIBLE ANSWER

For the secure transport and disposal, by
high temperature incineration of clinical and
related wastes, including sharps, pharmaceuticals
and security wastes

TELEPHONE: (02) 748 4552
FACSIMILE: (02) 748 2456

2 - 16 Wiblen Street
SILVERWATER 2128



West Australian State News



ICAWA Inc Executive Committee. From left to right: Back row: Barbara Elliott, Colleen Lark, Sylvia Gandossi. Front row: Sue Nikolett, Madeleine McPherson, Gabby Robathan, Sue Gruber. Absent: Helen Cadwallader.

On behalf of the ICAWA, I would like to introduce the members of this association's executive committee.

Madelaine McPherson (President and AICA President) is Clinical Nurse

Specialist in Infection Control at Fremantle Hospital and course co-ordinator of the Infection Control Course for registered nurses.

Helen Cadwallader (Vice President) is Clinical Nurse Specialist in Infection Control at Sir Charles Gairdiner

Hospital.

Sue Nikolett (Secretary) is Senior Lecturer, School of Nursing at Edith Cowan University.

Sylvia Gandossi (Treasurer) is Infection Control Consultant at Western Diagnostic Pathology.

Gabby Robathan (Newsletter Editor and AICA Sub Editor) is Clinical Nurse Specialist in Infection Control at Princess Margaret Hospital for Children.

Barbara Elliott (Conference Convenor) is Clinical Nurse Consultant co-ordinating Infection Control at Bethesda Hospital.

Sue Gruber (Membership Secretary) is Clinical Nurse in Infection Control at Cambridge Private Hospital.

Colleen Lark (Education Officer and Librarian) is Clinical Nurse in Infection Control at Osborne Park Hospital.

Gabby Robathan: Sub Editor



ACT State News



The ACT Department of Health's public hospitals, Calvary and Woden Valley have been under yet another review. The Infection Control Service in each hospital does not appear to be affected, so far. However, a rumour is rife that one of the WVH positions will be reduced from Level 3 Clinical Nurse Consultant to a Level 2 as a possible "trade off". This has been strongly opposed. In the meantime, we wait and see.

On hearing about the success of the Infection Control Association of South Australia's programmes during 1996, ICA ACT has decided to run "office practice" seminars after hours for general practitioners, dentists and

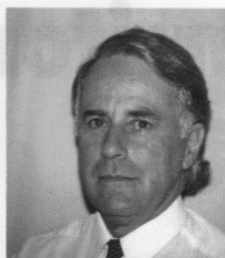
anyone interested in best practice in infection control. We hope that our efforts are similarly successful.

The infection control practitioners at the three major hospitals in the ACT, Calvary, John James Memorial and Woden Valley intend "revisiting" surgical site surveillance. As we've all no doubt found, early discharge programmes have affected surveillance and reporting of surgical site infections. Another problem: not all surgeons tick the wound classification on the operation sheet. Some we suspect tick the wrong box, some tick two! A Professor of Surgery has recently been appointed at WVH and we shall be seeking his help to solve the problems

of producing accurate surgical site infection data.

We are endeavouring to have the WVH revised Infection Control Manual placed on a computer programme which will be available to all wards and departments. It will probably be the first manual in WVH to "go electronic". If this happens, ongoing revision will be so much easier as guidelines and recommendations change. What other hospitals are considering or have computerised manuals? We'd be happy to hear about the highs and lows of this information technology.

Elaine Graham, Sub Editor - ACT
Telephone: (06) 2244 2512



Victorian State News



Conference Planning

National Conference, 1997

VICNA is the host organisation for the 1997 National Conference.

The conference will be held on May 21-23 at the Carlton Radisson Hotel in Queens Road, Melbourne.

Agenda planning is well advanced and an exciting and innovative program is promised.

State Conference, 1996

Venue and Dates to be advised.

VICNA Executive

The Executive continues its active involvement, directly and indirectly, (including through AICA) in the policy making processes of various bodies including the Victorian Hospitals Association, Victorian Standing Committee on Infection Control, NH & MRC and Standards Australia.

Life Membership of VICNA

For her commitment to infection control and the community of Infection

Control Practitioners, Life membership of VICNA has been conferred upon Barb. Pollett, O.A. This was announced at conclusion to the Annual State Conference in November 1995. Barb joins Mary McCrorie as the two Life Members of the association.

During her years at Fairfield, as a Charge Nurse, an Educator and the Infection Control Nurse, Barb Pollett was the focus for frequent requests for advice. Her considered responses have earned her the affection and respect of Infection Control personnel in this State. She is indeed a worthy recipient of Life Membership of VICNA.

Proposed closure of the Fairfield Infectious Diseases Hospital

The State Government has accepted advice that this facility be closed and the services transferred to other hospital campuses.

"Fairfield" has been the only specialised infectious diseases hospital in Australia and for many years the

focus for those requiring expert advice about all aspects of infectious disease management. It is hoped this advice and expertise remains accessible within the new structure. The closure of this hospital has created some disquiet in the community and anxieties amongst staff and those groups dependent upon its services. The President of AICA, Madeleine McPherson, has written to the State Minister for Health expressing the concerns of Infection Control Practitioners at the closure of this exceptional hospital.

Regional Groups

The VICNA Executive is actively promoting closer ties and better communication with regional groups throughout the state. It is hoped that the vast pool of expertise can be mobilised to assist when considering major policy matters. Publicising the activities of these groups, along the lines of the Queensland Association, is also a goal.

Be Smart, Think Sharp! Sharps Awareness Week

Sharps Awareness Week is an annual event sponsored by Becton Dickinson and coordinated on a rotational basis amongst hospitals in Adelaide. It involves both the healthcare setting and community working together to promote the safe handling of sharps, thereby reducing sharps

injuries in the workplace and community costs. Sharps Awareness Week is an ideal opportunity to educate the public to "Be Smart, Think Sharp!"

This year a local primary school was involved and posters painted by children illustrating unsafe scenarios relating to sharp objects were on display. The official launch was at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital. The

programme offered an array of informative lunchtime presentations from a number of guest speakers presenting topics relating to sharps. Guest and keynote speakers included: the Honourable Dr Michael Armitage, Minister for Health and Aboriginal Affairs; Shane Daw, Manager, Surf Life Saving South Australia; Colleen Dobson, Microbiologist, Environmental Protection Authority; and Jane Davey, WorkCover.

**Beverley Melville & Linda McCaskill
- Queen Elizabeth Hospital**



Northern Territory State News



Last week I was invited to pay a quick visit to the Gove District Hospital, in the mining township of Nhulunbuy located on Arnhem Land's Gove Peninsula, on the north east coast of the Gulf of Carpentaria.

I have been to Gove Hospital on several occasions and as always, found the climate to be kinder than that of Darwin. No matter what time of the year, a cooling breeze flows in from the Gulf. The temperature and humidity is tolerable and the countryside remains fresh and green with their year round rainfall. Darwin's beautifully dry season weather is magnificent but without rain it does mean we have a brown countryside.

This trip to Gove was prompted by the plan to relocate all inpatient services into self-contained, discrete units within the ground floor inpatient area. Gove Hospital was built as a 60 bed facility but has always run with only 30 authorised beds. This provides the township and greater district with primary services in medical, surgical, paediatric and maternity care. The town has a population of 4,000 with an additional 14,000 in the scattered, remote communities also served by the

hospital. Services are basic with all critically ill patients being air-lifted to Royal Darwin Hospital, an hours flight away.

The infection control issues were of no great significance and would have been easy to resolve with minor building works and community education. The overriding consideration proved to be the differing cultural mores of the local and remote communities. These issues were very real problems to the various groups and in the end a political decision was taken not to continue with the change.

Recognising the need to obtain greater involvement, we have created a network of infection control liaison nurses in Royal Darwin Hospital and the local urban community care centres. A nurse from each work unit acts as a conduit to disseminate infection control information, liaise with the core unit on research issues in their area, assist with reviewing documents and basically, sell infection control at the work face. We are currently expanding this system to other public hospitals and remote community centres in the northern sector of the Territory. For many years, the RDH infection control unit has provided a consultative service to external facilities. Creating an expanded network will mean that contact is more regular and consistent. (Who among us has not eventually found that an important

letter to a ward has been filed away for safe keeping and has never been seen by the ward staff?) Creating a network of staff with a special interest in infection control should promote a feeling of ownership of in-house reference material and in turn achieve greater compliance. I will keep you posted on our progress.

Royal Darwin Hospital Infection Control Unit

Anne Arthur

Infection Control Nursing Director
Royal Darwin Hospital, Rocklands Drive, Casuarina
or

Pam Boustead

Senior Clinical Nurse
Infection Control, RDH

PO Box 41326
Casuarina NT

Telephone: (089) 22 8045
or
(089) 22 8428
Fax: (089) 22 8860

SELECT SEWING 



BUY DIRECT FROM THE SPECIALIST MANUFACTURERS

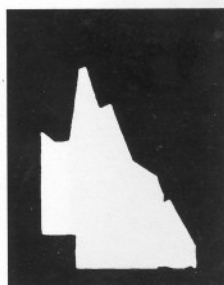
OPERATING THEATRE OVERHEADS TOO HIGH? THINK GREEN – GO FULLY REUSABLE "STATE-OF-THE-ART" SURGICAL TEXTILES

MAXIMUM PROTECTION FOR YOU NOW!

We manufacture a wide range of non-linting, impervious surgical gowns, theatre drapes, wraps, boots, handtowels. Also, attractive theatre suits and dresses, modern patient wear and general hospital linen.

SELECT SEWING PTY LTD
PHONE: (02) 477 5474 FAX: (02) 476 5487





Queensland State News



Credentialing

The introduction of this concept in nursing promotes professionalism. In order for Infection Control to develop at the same pace as our peers, will require collaboration with other specialists nurses and commitment to change.

The focus of ICPAQ Inc. for 1996, is to participate with other specialist groups, and in collaboration with the Queensland Nurses Union, address the framework of credentialing. In order to implement this framework the following criteria will need to be addressed:

- Define the term specialist;
- Develop Infection Control standards eg. AICA standards;
- Develop an educational framework

ie. addressing the needs of Infection Control Practitioners;

- Encourage, promote and publicise research activities.

Currently in Queensland the Association is developing an educational format to address the needs of the community and its practitioners. This is evidenced through the formulation of Infection Control workshops which will be acknowledged by our association. In addition, the associations educational sub-committee will be negotiating with a University regarding the introduction of tertiary education for Infection Control Practitioners in Queensland.

The role of the practitioner is expanding exponentially. We have the opportunity to develop our professional foundation through the expansion of our membership to other relevant

professions ie. Scientists, Pharmacists etc. This innovation will facilitate a multidisciplinary approach in Infection Control. Networking with associated health professionals will enable us to work towards a common strategic plan.

Our ability to develop professionally will only be limited by our vision. We need to review our professional philosophies and work towards raising our level of professionalism. This era of change calls for recognised qualifications amongst practitioners and the Association has a responsibility to provide the Charter for change.

Dolly Olesen
Sub Editor
ICPAQ



ICPAQ

presents

10TH ANNUAL STATE CONFERENCE

hosted by

SUNSHINE COAST INFECTION CONTROL NETWORK

Dates: 5th, 6th and 7th September 1996

**Venue: Novotel Twin Waters
Sunshine Coast**



BUGS ON VACATION

Keynote Speakers Will Address:

- * The Effects of Ecological Change on Infectious Diseases
- * Environmental Impact of Infection Control Practice
- * Infection Control: The Overseas Perspective
- * Infectious Diseases: The Recreational Risks

Call For Papers:

If you are interested in presenting a paper at this Conference, please obtain an official abstract from:

Trish Almond
Tel: (074) 98 0600
Fax: (074) 95 6053

or

Frances Birrell
Tel: (074) 41 9600
Fax: (074) 41 6650

Further information? Please contact:

Liz Macdonald
Conference Co-ordinator
Tel: (074) 41 2311 Ext: 435

Registration:

- * Early Bird \$250.00 plus Conference Dinner
- * Late Entry \$300.00 plus Conference Dinner