# ASSOCIATION

## **Australian Infection Control Association**

## **National News**

#### **Issue 31**

#### **March 2009**

## In this issue...

President's Report	1
State & Territory Reports	
NSW	2
Tasmania	2
South Australia	2
ACT	3
Victoria	3
Queensland	4
Western Australia	5
Special Features	
Credentialling Committee	5
Update	
AICA Position Statements	6
Healthcare Infection	6
Journal	
Survey Invitation	7
AICA Expert Database –	7
call for applicants	

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

"If you don't know where you're going chances are you'll end up somewhere else"

In February the AICA Executive met in Melbourne for two days to review current activities and prioritise key areas of importance and pursuit in 2009 some of which I would like to draw your attention to in this update. The current workload of the Executive continues to grow. New projects have been piloted and there has been lively discussion within the Executive during this face-to-face meeting regarding the way AICA currently operates and what the Association should look like in the coming years. The proposed changes to the process for appointment to the Executive and external bodies is in keeping with our internal review process as per the Governance standards and will also apply to the appointment of the Association's leader.

#### AICA National Expert database:

There has been encouraging growth in the demand for expert Infection Control advice provided by the Association to external bodies however, the resources required to provide ongoing, high quality, expert advice in Infection Prevention and Control is beyond the current capacity of the AICA Executive. For this reason we are looking to the broader membership to register their interest in joining the AICA National Expert database. Further information regarding this initiative can be found on page 7

Succession planning: Later in the year a number of the Executive members will be retiring from the group which again highlights the need for ongoing strategic succession planning. As an Executive the group's stability has allowed for cohesion and healthy constructive debate and AICA has been fortunate to benefit from the diversity of experience and views that each member has brought to the table. To assist the State and Territory Associations in appointing future representatives whom will be able to debate the issues from a National perspective, the Executive has drafted key selection criteria for appointment to the AICA Executive. As a minimum Executive members should have at least 5 years infection control experience and be credentialed.

The AICA AGM will be held at the ICPAQ conference in August this year which will coincide with the (re) appointment of the AICA President for 2009 -2011. Key selection criteria have been proposed for the President position and will be available to the membership should they wish to comment on what important attributes are necessary to ensure that AICA continues to have a voice at National and International tables.

#### Position papers:

The end of this month will see the introduction of AICA's first and subsequent position papers. We encourage members to comment on the release of these papers via our website. More information is contained on page 6. The Executive would like to acknowledge and thank Beth Bint for her significant contribution in leading this project.

Claire Boardman, AICA President

## **AICA Newsletter proudly sponsored by**



#### **State and Territory News**

#### **New South Wales**

On behalf of the President, Executive and all the members of ICANSW I extend our condolences and best wishes to everyone who has been affected by the Queensland floods and Victorian bushfires in February. We hope that you will contact our Association if there is anything that we can help you with. The Executive voted unanimously in February to donate \$2000 to the Red Cross for the Bushfire Appeal.

#### Education

ICANSW will hold conferences in alternate years to AICA's National Conferences. Our 2009 State Conference is on  $3^{\rm rd}$  and  $4^{\rm th}$  September 2009 at Luna Park in Sydney. A call for abstracts has been sent out, and further information will be distributed soon. We held a regional Education Day at Grafton on Friday  $27^{\rm th}$  March.

At the time of writing this newsletter, staff in NSW await the State's introduction of the 5 Moments program. Many of us are already educating staff, and trying to have hand gel available on the ends of beds.

In recent newsletters we have published reports from two members who received scholarships to attend the National Conference, and a report from a group of hospitals in Wollongong area on their activities in International Infection Prevention Week 2008. Congratulations to the staff on their impressive hand hygiene promotion.

#### Helen O'Harae.

Newsletter Representative, NSW ICA

#### **Tasmania**

#### TICA Conference - Evidence Vs Reality

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

The Launceston Tramshed Conference Centre will be the venue for this event. The event will commence on Thursday afternoon and will include a number of speakers followed by a cocktail party reception and opening of the trade. Confirmed 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 and conference information can be accessed via the web site http://www.thetica.com.au/.

#### AGM

The TICA AGM was held in November 2008. Brett Mitchell was elected President, Nicola Isles was re-elected to the position of Vice President and Sue Draycott was elected Secretary. The position of Treasurer was not due for renewal.

We welcome and congratulate Brett; TICA membership is looking forward to working with him and progressing work commenced by the previous President and Executive. Congratulations to Sue Draycott and Nicola Isles.

TICA members wish to thank the out going President, Anne Wells and Secretary, Saffron Brown for their commitment and hard work to the TICA Executive rolls. I'm certain their involvement with the association won't end with the completion of their elected terms of office.

#### Renewal of membership reminder

All current members are reminded that 2009 membership is now over due. New members are very welcome and membership forms can be downloaded from the TICA web page of the AICA website.

 $2^{nd}$  monthly meetings will continue to be held during 2009. These meetings will be held at Ross Bakery. For details see the TICA web page of the AICA website.

#### **Current TICA Developments**

- The TICA has developed a media protocol for members to respond to media events and initiate media contact. Forms and details are on the TICA website
- The TICA is in the process of discussing and developing position statements with its members. TICA is actively seeking a higher profile in Tasmania.
- Discussion forums for TICA members will occur after GMs during 2009
- Development of the conference website
- Cynthia Bryce Scholarship applications are welcomed, with the winner being announced at the TICA conference in July. Details are on the TICA website.

## Jenny Stubbings

Newsletter Representative, TICA

#### **South Australia**

#### Expressions of Sympathy and Support

ICASA wishes to acknowledge the pain and loss suffered over recent weeks in the Queensland floods and the unprecedented events of the Victorian bushfires and express our deepest sympathy to those who may have been affected in anyway. We have encouraged all of our members to take the opportunity to provide support by whatever means appropriate.

#### ICASA Mix and Mingle, FUSA

ICASA held its first event for the year with an informal mix and mingle cocktail party held at the end of the Flinders University Infection Control Update Day, 12<sup>th</sup> February, 2009. Over 30 people attended and had the opportunity to talk, network and relax after an interesting day of updates on Infection Control contemporary issues.

#### Combined ICASA and SASVN Seminar

"Bob's Journey" was held at The Queen Elizabeth Hospital on Saturday 21st of February. Over 70 people attended the day from both the city and regional areas. The focus of the day was taking "Bob" with his medical and multiple comorbidities, from the community into the hospital and back again with the correct information and supports to manage his diabetic foot infection and his ongoing health. Some of the attendees were allied health staff who were interested in the different models of care and the concept of a multidisciplinary foot clinic. There was also an opportunity for attendees to visit the 18 trade that provided displays on the day and both executive committees were grateful for the support provided.

The day would not have been a success if not for the hard work of the executive committees from both associations. We would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the time and effort provided by both committees over the past 12 months to make this day happen.

#### ICASA Seminars and Meetings

Regular education seminars have been scheduled throughout 2009, including whole day and evening seminars. Topics to be covered include: hospital and community management of patients with MROs and comorbidities; the 'how to' of computer software to assist infection control professions; food safety; and a 'great debate'.

ICASA will be presenting the new strategic plan and recommended constitutional revisions at a scheduled General Meeting on Thursday 27 March.

#### ICASA 2009 Biennial State Conference

Planning for the 2009 Conference, 'Change .......the same only different', is progressing well. A comprehensive program has been developed including invited International, National and State speakers. There will be four post-conference seminars available: Management of Blood and Body Substance Exposures; Mathematical Modelling; Publish or Perish; and Credentialling for Infection Control Professionals. For more information regarding the conference we invite you to visit our website on: www.icasa.org.au

#### **Beth Bint**

Newsletter Representative - ICASA

## **Australian Capital Territory**

Infection Prevention and Control "From Inside Out" Seminar March 5th 2009

On 5<sup>th</sup> March members of our association worked in collaboration with Southern Area Health Services to hold a one-day seminar at the Hellenic Club, Canberra

The aim of the seminar was to improve patient care by increasing knowledge and by developing collegial

relationships between nurses with different levels of experience.

Presentations included updates in:

- Specific infection prevention/control measures
- Immunisation
- Infectious diseases
- Sterilisation

The seminar was very well attended and from all reports deemed a great success.

#### **Education Meetings**

This year has seen the continuation of the Breakfast Meetings as a number of members have indicated on their membership forms that this time would suit them. We plan to continue to arrange guest speakers to attend and the ACT executive would welcome any suggestions for presentation topics.

Our first meeting was held on the Feb 18th. It was great to catch up with members over breakfast.

A schedule of this years meeting has been forwarded to our members. Please mark these dates in your calendars.

We look forward to seeing you all at the meetings.

#### ANU first year medical students

A big thank you to the association members who turned up once again this year to ensure that our fledgling medical students set off on the right foot that is thinking hand hygiene!, hand hygiene!. Our members fitted into their busy schedules an afternoon where we went through very basic infection control scenarios with 80 or more medical students in there first few weeks of training.

#### 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.

#### Kerry Gill

Newsletter Representative, ACT

#### 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 also be preceded by several interesting workshops. 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 is available at www.vicpa2009.com.

#### Bi-monthly VICPA/VICNISS Journal Club

The first VICPA/VICNISS Journal Club for 2009 was successfully held at St Vincent's Hospital on Friday, 13<sup>th</sup> February. Dates and venues for the Journal Club for the rest of the year are as follows:

17<sup>th</sup> April Eastern Health (Wantirna Health)
15th July Venue to be confirmed (to be held

prior to AGM)

• 11th December Bapticare (Camberwell)

Note there will be no journal club held in September due to the VICPA conference being held the following month.

A number of our members have been approached to present at a journal club but often find it hard to choose a journal article to critique. To make choosing an article easier, and therefore hopefully accepting to become a presenter at a journal club, VICPA will hold a "library" of journal articles of interest to critique. Now there will be no excuses!

#### VICPA AGM

The VICPA Executive extends an invitation to all its members to attend the VICPA AGM to be held at the Caulfield General Medical Centre on Wednesday, 15<sup>th</sup> July 2009. Once again a half-day Seminar including the Journal Club will be held prior to the AGM. VICPA has held a study day prior to the AGM for several years now and both events have always been very well attended.

#### 2008/2009 VICPA Scholarship

For a number of years VICPA has offered a major scholarship for research or education purposes to its members. The last scholarship awarded by VICPA was to Louise Hobbs which resulted in the very valuable and useful Victorian Infection Control Competencies document now available on the VICPA website www.vicpa.org.au VICPA would like to congratulate Tracy Sloane who is the winner of the 2008/2009 VICPA scholarship. Tracy is from the Angliss Hospital, Eastern Health. The study she will be undertaking is about the factors that influence a health care worker's decision to use surgical hand rub for preoperative hand sepsis in the operating theatre.

Donna Cameron Newsletter Representative, VICPA

#### **Oueensland**

The ICPAQ Executive for 2009 is as follows:

- A/President Michael Wishart
- Vice President Jodie Powell
- Secretary Robyn Birch
- Membership Secretary Deborough Macbeth
- Treasurer Sara Godden
- Assistant Treasurer Kathy Duggan
- Education Co-ordinator Vanessa Robinson

- A/Editor Meagan Hunter
- A/Public Relations Officer Jane Brooks
- 2009 Conference Convenor Cath Murphy

#### ICPAQ General Meetings & Education Forums

Education forums continue to precede the ICPAQ General Meetings, with video conferencing facilities offered around the State. The education topics planned for the March 4<sup>th</sup> forum include: VRE ('Building consensus on VRE') and Infection Control in large hospital facilities ('The BIG Hospital Picture'). This will be presented jointly by Princess Alexandra Hospital (PAH) Infection Control Practitioners' Belinda Henderson and Catherine Watson, and Michelle Doidge and Mike Terry form Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital (RBWH). The ICPAQ June General Meeting will be hosted by Brisbane South Population Health Unit, Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> June.

#### AICA Credentialling

ICPAQ supports the AICA credentialling process and is pleased to advise that several ICPAQ members have submitted their credentialling packages to AICA and these are currently under review by the Credentialing Committee.

## Infection Control Practitioners Association of Queensland (ICPAQ) 2009 Conference 'Prevention in Paradise'

26-28 August 2009

Gold Coast International, Gold Coast, Australia http://www.icpaq2009.com/

Important Dates

- Abstract Submission closed Friday, 13th March 2009
- Author Notification Friday, 24th April 2009
- Early Bird Registration Deadline Tuesday, 30<sup>th</sup> June 2009
- Accommodation Deadline Tuesday, 30<sup>th</sup> June 2009

Invitation from the Convenor

The Infection Control Practitioners' Association of Queensland (ICPAQ) offers you a warm invitation to join with some of Australia's key visionaries and infection prevention opinion leaders at what promises to be 2009's most stimulating and invigorating infection prevention event, "Prevention in Paradise". Queensland, national and international infection prevention approaches will be showcased at this event with invited speakers and submitted abstracts addressing themes such as Creating Sustainable Specialties, Infection Prevention Governance, New to The Game - Infection Prevention for Novices, Changing Behaviours, Device-related infections, Rapid Testing Technologies and Human Factors: Its Relationship To Infection Prevention. Our scientific committee is designing a program that will have broad appeal to all working in or interested in infection prevention across many different healthcare settings including acute, non-acute, long term care, outpatient and day surgery, rural, regional and remote settings. We are also keen to receive submissions from infection preventionists working outside of Queensland and internationally.

As well as providing state-of-the-art and futuristic information and perspectives our team is working towards delivering outstanding social events designed to facilitate delegates' professional networking and informal exchange of ideas and information. We are also optimistic that our medical industry partners will participate in this event by enjoying extended and direct exposure to delegates which we believe will inform industry's research and development agendas and identify additional strategic and marketing opportunities. See you on the Coast - August 2009.

Associate Professor Cathryn Murphy PhD

Chair - 2009 ICPAQ Conference Organising Subcommittee.

Keynote Speakers

Dr Tobi Karchmer and Ms Kathy Warye;

**Invited Speakers** 

Ms Claire Boardman, Dr Marilyn Cruickshank, Ms Cheryl Herbert, Mr Scott Mayoh, Ms Pauline Ross, Mr Phil Russo, Ms Sharon Salmon, Ms Jenny Stackelroth, and Dr Helen Van Gessel.

Conference information, including Speaker profiles, can be found on the conference website,

http://www.icpaq2009.com/. The ICPAQ AGM for 2009 will also be held during the ICPAQ 'Prevention in Paradise' conference.

ICPAQ 2009 Organising Committee members:

Associate Professor Cathryn Murphy (Convenor), Jane Brooks, Sue Cooke, Belinda Henderson, Sue Resnik, Vanessa Robinson, Jenny Stackelroth, and Aby Foster.

Meagan Hunter

Newsletter Representative - ICPAQ

#### **Western Australia**

#### ICAWA Strategic Planning Meeting

ICAWA Executive met in January to update the strategic plan for 2009/2010. Compliance with Association Rules was discussed. A special invite for General Members to participate in the 2010 planning meeting was considered.

#### ICAWA Quarterly Education Sessions

The following case studies were presented by Infectious Disease Physicians at the February session: Infection following overseas cosmetic surgery; a fatal case of necrotising pneumonia caused by community-associated MRSA (CA-MRSA) in a young healthy male. The follow-

up of virulent strains of CA-MRSA by the Healthcare-associated Infection Unit was also presented.

A survey has been circulated to obtain information on member's educational needs for future sessions.

#### ICAWA Newsletter Survey

68 ICAWA members completed the Newsletter Survey indicating member preference on format, content and distribution of the Newsletter.

#### ICAWA Quarterly Newsletter

As a result of the survey, the ICAWA Executive made the decision to reduce the quarterly Newsletter to 2 pages of local WA news, issues and events. The Newsletter will now be distributed to members by E-mail (pdf) rather than hardcopy via post. It is anticipated that these changes will allow ICAWA to provide more financial assistance to members e.g. for education.

Profiles of IC professionals and ICAWA Executive profiles will also be included in the Newsletter.

#### ICAWA Seminar

ICAWA Executive are currently planning for the Annual Seminar to be held on 19 October 2009. Concurrent workshops are planned.

## Excellence Award for Graduate Certificate in Infection Control donated by ICAWA

The ICAWA President, Danielle Engelbrecht, presented the winner of the Graduate Certificate excellence award (Jennifer Browne) with a \$100 gift voucher and ICAWA membership for 1 year. The course is a collaborative effort between Sir Charles Gardner Hospital Nursing Education and "Hands-On Infection Control".

## 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. The venue has been chosen and key speakers are currently being sought. The conference is planned for  $11^{th}$  –  $13^{th}$  October (inclusive). This 2010 conference will also celebrate AICA's  $25^{th}$  anniversary

**Allison Peterson** 

Newsletter Representative - ICAWA

## **Special Features**

## **Credentialling Committee Update**

There are currently 19 Infection Control Professionals who have been credentialled.

The Credentialling Committee are currently reviewing 32 applications, which were submitted over the Christmas/New Year period. This pleasing influx of applications has been the result of many activities

undertaken by the AICA Executive and the Credentialling Committee over the last 12 months:

- Amnesty in Credentialling fee until the end of January 2009.
- Credentialling workshop undertaken at the AICA 2008 conference recorded 40 registered participants.
- State based workshops that have been undertaken by Credentialling Committee members

The re-credentialling package has been finalised and is in the process of being sent out to all members who are due for re-credentialling.

We are looking forward to receiving many more applications in the coming months and invite you to take up the challenge. There are a number of people who can assist you with the credentialling process and tips, hints and resources on the AICA website.

To get started you can obtain a credentialling package by contacting Lorelei Broadbent, AICA Secretariat at aica@admin.org.au

**Louise Hobbs** 

Chairperson - AICA Credentialling Committee

#### **AICA Position Statements**

#### Rationale for the Development of Position Statements

As lead professional body for Infection Prevention and Control in Australia, AICA is called upon to provide opinion or comment on various matters relating to infection control. In response to this AICA has commenced a project to develop Position Statements for specific issues that are relevant to the practice of infection prevention and control and in which AICA has a public position.

A Position Statement is not a policy, rather it is a statement of belief. This is drawn from review of contemporaneous literature and guidelines, and the considered view of the association.

Position Statements can be used to answer queries from healthcare workers, facility managers, the general public and media. It can also used to advocate the Association's considered view on certain issues.

#### Pet Therapy and Pet Visitors in Healthcare Facilities

Pet Therapy and Pet Visitors in Healthcare Facilities is AICA's first Position Statement to be released. This subject was selected because it is a topic that clarification is often sort.

To view or download a copy go to the AICA website and enter the Publications tab and select Position Statements.

#### **Future Position Statement Topics**

The AICA Executive have established and prioritised a list of topics to be addressed by future Position Statements, these included:

• Influenza Immunisation

- Staff Immunisation
- Hand Hygiene
- Environmental Monitoring
- Antimicrobial Management
- Infection Control Education
- Surveillance

AICA is interested to know your opinion regarding the association's decision to develop Position Statements. We invite you to participate in the on-line survey on the AICA website via our new Poll question.

#### **Beth Bint**

Project Lead - Position Statements, AICA Executive

#### **Healthcare Infection Journal**

#### Access to Journal Online

Healthcare Infection is the official journal of AICA and is available online (all articles are freely accessible to AICA members and subscribers). Copies of articles can be purchased by non members/subscribers via the web link.

To access the journal:

Members can access the journal from the AICA website: www.aica.org.au

- · Click on the members only section
- Enter login and password

[If you do not know your AICA website login and password, contact the AICA Secretariat at admin@aica.org.au]

Access to the official journal of AICA is available from 1995 to the present.

#### Submit Online with OSPREY

Members can submit their articles, letters to the editor or quality improvement reports online using the OSPREY icon. Click on OSPREY and follow the prompts.

The guidelines for authors are available on the open section of the website and in the member's only section. These were updated in December 2008 and include the provision for submitting quality improvement reports. Suggested headings to guide your submission of a quality improvement report are provided. Supporting your work with references is achieved by following the instructions given under the section headed "References".

#### **Progress with MEDLINE Indexation**

We have applied for MEDLINE indexation and, if successful, all journal articles will be included on the database. We expect to hear the outcome of our application sometime during 2009.

Elizabeth Gillespie, Editor-in-Chief Healthcare Infection

## Call for applications - AICA Expert member database

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 participation or document reviews by AICA. The level of participation and content input required can vary to a 1hour document review to a 12 month membership on a government committee.

In order to provide specialist Infection Control knowledge for these reviews AICA is developing an expert database of members who can represent AICA on these external bodies.

An expert member is one that has either qualifications or 5 years of experience within a chosen field within Infection Control. Such fields include (but are not limited to);

- Environmental Health,
- Surveillance,
- · Strategic Planning
- Wound Care,
- Sterilizing,
- Antimicrobial control,
- Education,
- · Aged Care,
- · Policy writing.

AICA is seeking members who wish to be added to the expert database which will be kept by AICA in a confidential manner and only accessed by the AICA Executive when an external agency requests an AICA representative who meets the specific requirements. Members of the expert database would be contacted regarding their availability and their ability to meet the request.

To join the expert database please submit your current CV and area of expertise with supportive evidence to AICA on admin@aica.org.au

For further information regarding the Expert database please contact Sylvia Gandossi (AICA Vice President) at admin@aica.org.au

## Win an early bird Australian 2009 State Infection Control Conference Registration

#### Invitation to Participate in an Infection Control Self Assessment Survey

This survey is for infection control professionals or people who are involved in infection control as part of their job.

Whether you have only had a couple of months experience in the role or have worked in the area for a long time, this survey is designed to capture these varying levels of experience.

## Which Australian State Infection Control Conference would you like to attend?

To be in the draw to win an early bird registration you will need to complete the survey by March 31st, 2009. Don't delay, do it today.

State Association Conference Dates:

NSW. Sydney
Qld, Gold Coast
SA, Adelaide
Tas, Launceston
Vic, Melbourne
Western Australia
3rd-4<sup>th</sup> September 2009
26-28<sup>th</sup> August, 2009
14<sup>th</sup> August, 2009
23-24<sup>th</sup> July 2009
7<sup>th</sup> -9<sup>th</sup> October
19<sup>th</sup> October 2009

The survey will be available from 1st March to 31st March 2009

Click on the link below to begin the survey. www.edmeasurementsurveys.com/Louise/