



Australian Infection Control Association

National News

Issue 35

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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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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

Shortly we will be calling on each of you to assist and provide feedback particularly with respect to a review of AICA's organisational structure and proposal for a way forward. One particular area where all members can immediately assist is in submitting articles to the Healthcare Infection journal. In October last year AICA sought Medline indexation however, on this occasion was unsuccessful. One of the key areas highlighted for improvement was the lack of original articles from the membership. This is your journal, its success and limitations are largely dependent on you as members. The journal has grown enormously under Elizabeth Gillespie's efforts and dedication and already the editorial board has moved to act on the recommendations so that we are prepared when the next review occurs. To read more about the Medline indexation review and what it means for the Association please visit the AICA website.

AICA delivers an inaugural infection control course in United Arab Emirates

In January this year on behalf of AICA delivered several education programs to Ministry of Health Infection Control Nurses in Dubai and Ras Al Kaimier. Course content included, epidemiology, cleaning, disinfection and sterilisation, principles of infection control, staff health, quality, outbreak management and how to run infection control programs. While the course was well received and assisted the ICPs in program planning and delivery perhaps one of the most important opportunities for both the nurses of the UAE and AICA was to develop strong professional links with an international body. The ICPs of the UAE are well placed to form their own association which enables local representatives to take issues to the Ministry of Health (MOH) for discussion and further action. As an association they are able to provide a strong unified, representative voice. The issues this group of committed ICPs face are very similar to those experienced by Australian ICPs. Where there is unity in the membership and consistency in practice we have a greater ability to influence change and inform good practice.

In a special session held on professional issues there was lively discussion around the scope of practice for the ICP. In Australia our credentialing process goes some way in addressing standardisation of ICP practice. The process of credentialing in some respects is validating aspects of infection control practice. Increasingly AICA Credentialing is a key selection criteria for appointments to external positions and work that AICA is frequently asked to undertake and is an important part of your professional development.

An update on Credentialling.

In May the Credentialing Committee will hold a face-to-face meeting in Brisbane where the key focus of the agenda will be around the development of Infection Control research and, a review of Infection Control courses currently running in Australia. By the end of the year AICA will be able to provide guidance on AICA endorsed courses which will assist new ICPs in choosing a preferred education provider.

AICAList.

Infexion Connexion is being well utilised by ICPs across the country and has retained some of the international subscribers while attracting new subscribers from across the globe. If you have not subscribed as yet you can join online by following the links on the AICA website. I am often surprised at the breadth of knowledge and expertise we have as a professional group. If you are an experienced ICP why not share your expertise by answering posted questions?

In January this year I moved up to the Torres Strait to take a clinical position as a District CNC – Infection Control. This has been an important and challenging time for me as I revisit the 'basics' of infection control and running an IC program across a diverse and unique setting. More than ever I am reminded of the need for networking and how the broader membership of AICA is a valuable resource for lone ICPs working in geographical isolation. Members of AICA have been working closely with ACSQHC Project Officer, Sue Greig (NSW) to develop an online education tool for new and ICPs working in remote areas where access to good quality education is often limited. I encourage all members to have a look at this valuable tool when it is becomes available in the next few months.

Claire Boardman, AICA President

AICA Newsletter proudly sponsored by



State and Territory News

South Australia

Welcome to all our members for 2010

Membership

ICASA continues to have a strong membership database and the committee is busy investigating ways to attract more members. One strategy which has recently been successful was to offer discounted membership to participants of the recent Flinders University 5day Infection Control course.

ICASA hosted a very successful breakfast to participants – over 70 took the opportunity to enjoy a delicious breakfast prior to the day's program.

Education

The ICASA committee held strategic planning meetings in December and January, working hard to plan an exciting year ahead. A number of seminars and events have been planned for 2010. The planned topics will be sure to provide interest to all members and we look forward to seeing you there.

Scholarships

Scholarships are again available for ICASA members and provide assistance for attendance at conferences or recognised educational programs. As the AICA conference is to be held in Perth later this year this is an excellent chance for support to attend this biannual event.

Web site

A new and exciting web site will be available for ICASA member soon. This will have a member's only section, allowing access to resources and updates. A launch date will be circulated as soon as a date is determined.

Linda Henderson

Committee member & Newsletter Representative – ICASA

New South Wales

Welcome to 2010, though it is well underway by the time you are reading this newsletter. We hope that it is shaping up to be a good one for you.

ICANSW have been busy organizing our education calendar for the year. Naturally, the biggest event on all our calendars will be the National Conference, and many of us are looking forward to a trip to Perth. Four of our members won scholarships to attend this conference from a membership draw at our conference in September 2009.

Lindy Ryan has organized a Professional Day for advanced practitioners to be held on 7th May. We also have plans underway for an education day in June, and workshops to be held in conjunction with our AGM in September. More details will be available closer to the events.

Our website has been revamped and updated, and we are adding a members-only section. We encourage everyone to check out our site and offer any feedback they have.

<http://www.icansw.org.au>

By the time this goes to print, we will have had some of our members travel to Papua New Guinea to provide education to assist staff in setting up their own infection prevention and control programs.

Helen O'Harae

ICA NSW

Tasmania

2010 Membership

Membership of the TICA is due by end of Feb this year. On renewal of your membership you will be provided with the password for the members section to the web site. Membership forms are available on the website. There are considerable benefits to membership and discounts for students. A DVD on aseptic non touch technique has been posted to members - suitable for all settings. It takes around 10 minutes to play and is a great educational tool. Additional copies can be purchased from the TICA for a cost. This is only one of the many benefits available to TICA members this year.

Current TICA Developments

- TICA has a range of new scholarship/awards/support for members. These include:
 - ProMedica TICA Education Scholarship (\$500),
 - Support of \$1000 each for 4 members to attend the AICA conference,
 - TICA "Peer of the Year" award - complimentary membership for a TICA member who has shown outstanding achievement, nominated by a fellow TICA member,
 - TICA President Award - cash prize and TICA membership for anyone working in infection control in Tasmania who has done something innovative or commitment in their own area,
 - Publication Award - \$250 for TICA members who have an article published in 'Healthcare Infection' in the next 12 months, \$50 for a letter to the editor.
 - Conditions apply - all details are posted on the TICA website, www.thetica.net.au
- We welcome the NHMRC Australian Guidelines For The Prevention & Control of Infection in Healthcare and will be providing comments and feedback on the guidelines

TICA will also be providing feedback to the proposed changes for the regulation of disinfectants i.e. TGA/NICNAS proposal

- TICA welcomed a strategy for the prevention of healthcare associated infections released by the Minister for Health in November. Details about the strategy can be seen on the Tasmanian Infection Prevention & Control Unit's website

TICA members completed an online survey outlining their views on particular issues. This will assist the Exec to better represent TICA members when speaking on behalf of the association or responding to media issues.

Position vacant x2

The executive are advertising 2 new positions to TICA. These will assist them in managing their roles and benefit general members.

1. Communication Officer
2. Professional Development Officer

The statement of duties for each role can be located on the website or by contacting TICA executive

Strategic planning

A strategic planning day was held on the 20th November. The day was very well supported by members who were treated to lunch and drink throughout the day. Members developed key strategies to be worked on over the upcoming couple of years

Web site

TICA is continually updating and upgrading our web site to provide current information and education tools for ICPs in the field.

Jenny Stubbings

Newsletter Representative Tasmania

Australian Capital Territory

Education Meetings

Our first breakfast meeting for the year was held on 10th February at The Canberra Hospital.

Wendy Beckingham gave a presentation about her travels to the IFIC conference in Lithuania where she presented a paper. Whilst in the capital Vilnius, Wendy had the opportunity to visit a local hospital where she was given a guided tour by the infection control coordinator. The hospital was spotless and infection control was at a very high standard. Wendy's talk inspired us all to attend more conferences both in Australia and overseas.

Scholarships

Members who would like to attend the ICA conference in Perth in early October are reminded that they may be eligible for a scholarship to assist with costs.

Contact email is philippa.keating@act.gov.au.

Elaine Graham-Robertson Award

The Elaine Graham-Robertson award is designed to recognise and reward excellence in infection control either by research or significant contribution to infection control

practices within either the recipients' hospital or community.

Entrants are required to present a paper at the biannual conference in Perth in October.

Members who are interested in vying for the award can obtain further from philippa.keating@act.gov.au.

ANU first year medical students

A big thank you to the fourteen association members who turned up once again this year to ensure that our fledgling medical students began their careers on the right note and that is - hand hygiene. Our members fitted into their busy schedules an afternoon where we went through very basic infection control scenarios with 100 or more medical students in their first few weeks of training.

Kerry Gill

Newsletter representative

Victoria

VICPA Scholarship 2009/2010

The VICPA Scholarship 2009/2010 was awarded to Jill Wilson from Dandenong Hospital, Southern Health. Jill was the Project Leader for a joint VICNISS Southern Health Colorectal Surgery Project. The project assessed bundle-of-care interventions to reduce surgical site infections. Jill will use the \$2000 scholarship to assist her attendance at the 5th Decennial International Conference on Healthcare-Associated Infections (co-organised by SHEA, CDC, APIC & IDSA) which is being held in Atlanta, USA in March, and the AICA conference in Perth in October.

VICPA Committee Planning Day

The VICPA Committee recently held their annual planning day and a number of initiatives were proposed for providing 'more' for our membership. A survey will be sent to members shortly to determine exactly what our membership would like us to do for them (e.g., more scholarships, a larger research grant). Please take the time to complete the survey. Alternatively, if you have any particular thoughts or ideas you would like to share with the VICPA Committee members please contact Judy Brett judy.brett@mh.org.au or Wendy Bacalja bacaljaw@dhs.vic.gov.au

APSIC 2011

The 5th International Congress of the Asia Pacific Society of Infection Control is being hosted by VICPA and will be held in Melbourne 8 – 11 November 2011. The venue for the conference is the newly opened Melbourne Convention & Exhibition Centre situated on the Yarra River. The scientific programme is progressing and will include several key note speakers from both the international and local infection control communities. For more information on the conference and key dates please visit the website at www.APSIC2011.com.

Bi-monthly VICPA/VICNISS Journal Club

Date and venues for upcoming Journal Clubs are as follows:

23 rd April 2010	Peter MacCallum
14 th July 2010	Venue to be confirmed (to be held prior to VICPA AGM)
September	Royal Melbourne Hospital (date to be confirmed)

We are looking for a venue for the November Journal Club. If you can provide a venue please contact Judy Brett (judy.brett@mh.org.au).

We are also continuing to investigate ways to include the rural membership in our Journal Clubs (e.g. web conferencing). For speakers and articles to be discussed see the VICPA website www.vicpa.org.au closer to the date.

VICPA Newsletter Editor: Donna Cameron

Queensland

The December Education Forum & ICPAQ General Meeting was held on 2nd December at the Prince Charles Hospital, Chermside, Brisbane. The education forum and afternoon tea was kindly sponsored by PALL Corporation.

The main presentation, by Dr Chris Coulter, titled 'Does the Devil wear Prada' was a humorous, but thought provoking discussion, about hand hygiene and how micro-organisms are easily transferred through objects such as lanyards and staff uniforms.

PALL Corporation representative, Yin Lee, delivered a brief presentation on 'Water and its link to Hospital Associated Infections (HAI)'.

The next ICPAQ Education Forum and General meeting will be held after this newsletter deadline, but before print, on the 10th March.

Unfortunately, the first ICPAQ Committee Meeting for 2010 was postponed, so there are no updates as yet to share. It has been rescheduled and any updates or news will be communicated in the next Queensland submission.

Meagan Hunter

ICPAQ Newsletter Representative

Western Australia**ICAWA Membership**

The current membership is 153.

ICAWA Quarterly Education Sessions

In February, a general discussion with ICAWA members on the proposed WA Guidelines for Influenza Like Illness (ILI), was held in-lieu of an education session.

The Education session scheduled for May will provide an overview of the new Clinical and Related Waste Management Policy for implementation across WA.

AICA Conference 2010, Perth WA - "The 2010 Infection Control Odyssey"

The countdown continues with less than 8 months to this exciting event and the program is progressing well. National keynote speakers are confirmed and abstract submissions are now open. Planning for the pre-conference workshops and registrations will open soon.

Link to conference website:

http://www.aicaconference.org.au/default.asp?active_page_id=1

Conference Scholarships

ICAWA plans to offer 6 members a scholarship of \$700 to attend the 2010 State Conference.

Credentialing

There are currently 5 Infection Control Practitioners credentialed in WA.

ICAWA Executive has agreed in principle to the funding of scholarships for credentialing. Details will be discussed at forthcoming meetings.

ICAWA Strategic Plan 2010

Ordinary members were invited to join ICAWA Executive in January to develop the strategic plan for 2010. Key points are:

- use of outlook-meeting organizer to set up reminder/appointment for members to attend meetings and education session
- timely dissemination of infection control information via e-mail by Membership Secretary to continue with positive feedback following trial in 2009
- succession planning for Executive positions; needs assessment and strategies for recruitment.
- establish and offer a scholarship for Post Graduate study in Infection Prevention & Control.

ICAWA Newsletter

The transition from the mail-out of a hard-copy to an electronic newsletter has been successful and the majority of members now receive the Newsletter by E-mail as a pdf attachment. Commencing in March, the Newsletter will be further enhanced by the use of Publisher.

Allison Peterson

Newsletter Representative – ICAWA

COVIDIEN INFECTION CONTROL SCHOLARSHIP 2010

Covidien is once again offering an Infection Control Scholarship, open to healthcare professionals across Australia and New Zealand. A pool of \$40,000 is on offer to increase awareness and support/acknowledge some of the initiatives of our healthcare professionals. Application forms can be accessed via the AICA website: www.aica.org.au