



# Australian Infection Control Association

## National News

### Issue 39

March 2011

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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

The work of the National Consultative Steering Committee is well underway with scheduled consultation times with the membership and key stakeholders occurring throughout April. The routine work of the AICA Executive continues and there is plenty of behind the scenes activities taking place to ensure that whatever the outcome, AICA is well placed to manage transition. I encourage each and every member to take an interest in what is happening in their National Association and, to contribute to the discussion. More on the NCSC is available on p5. of the newsletter.

#### CONSTRUCTION WORKSHOPS

Many of you may have attended one of our AICA Construction and Renovation workshops held around the country in all capital cities. These events have proven to be highly successful with more than 350 participants from varying disciplines listening attentively to our workshop facilitator, Glenys Harrington. AICA plans to undertake further workshops in the latter half of the year following a similar format and mode of delivery. Please visit the AICA website for regular updates.

#### AN UPDATE FROM THE COMMISSION

Many Australian ICPs have benefited from the recent initiatives of the Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Healthcare (ACSQHC) notably the online Infection Control education modules and, the release of the National Infection Control Guidelines. What you may not know is that the AICA membership contributed substantially to the finished products. I thank all of these individuals for their contributions, patience and many hours of work and also would like to thank the Commission for acknowledging the contribution that ICPs make in the healthcare setting and, for providing tools to enhance their skills which will translate to the workplace.

#### VALE – CLINTON DUNKLEY

Recently I was fortunate to spend some time with my dear friend and colleague Clinton Dunkley before he died at home with his family on March 22<sup>nd</sup>. Many in the infection Control community, particularly those in Victoria would have known Clinton who worked as an Infection Control Consultant at St Vincents Hospital Melbourne, at Victorian DHS and, more recently as the Deputy Director of the VICNISS Coordinating Centre. Clinton was also a member of the ACSQHC Implementation Advisory Committee and frequently provided opposing and insightful viewpoints during discussions and debates in our profession. I will miss our conversations; Clinton was far too young to leave this world and he will be a great loss to all who knew him, especially his family which was always the most important aspect of his life. A summary of the comments posted on the AICA list shortly after Clinton's untimely death will be forwarded onto his family. Members who knew Clinton personally may like to make a contribution to the Leukaemia foundation via the website:

<http://www.leukaemia.org.au/web/index.php>

Claire Boardman, AICA President

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## State and Territory News

### South Australia

#### Education

An exciting program has been developed for ICASA members during 2011.

March 31st – TB and management implications for infection control

23rd June – The Environment & Infection Control

27th October – A South Australian update

#### Education Survey

A survey was held late 2010 to establish the best day, time, venue, topics and food for ICASA members. Thank you to all those 59 people that responded.

There was overwhelming support for seminars to be held on Thursday evenings.

#### State Conference

“Driving Infection Control to Infinity and Beyond” - is the theme for this year's conference. Friday 19th August at the Convention Centre, Adelaide is the date to put in your calendar. Keep checking the ICASA new look website for further details. [www.icasa.org.au](http://www.icasa.org.au)

#### AGM

The annual general meeting will be held during the state conference on 19th August. An update will be provided on the restructure of AICA and the future.

Updates on the restructure process and communications can be found on the AICA website: [www.aica.org.au](http://www.aica.org.au)

#### Events

ICASA sponsored a breakfast meeting at the annual Flinders University 5 day Infection Control Course in February. The breakfast was very well attended and provided an ideal opportunity to discuss the 2011 ICASA education program, new website and the AICA restructure.

**Linda Henderson**

**Newsletter Representative**

### New South Wales

Our thoughts and prayers go out to everyone across Australia who is affected by floods, fire and cyclones. With so much devastation in Queensland, ICA NSW has sent a letter of support to ICPAQ and a donation of \$1000 to the Premier's Flood Relief Fund.

We are working hard on the preliminary foundations for the AICA 2012 7th Biennial National Conference to be held in Sydney, October 8th – 10th. There is a lot of work in front of us as yet, and time flies by so very fast...

The Executive are updating our Scholarship program. Details will be published in our State Newsletter and on our website.

Education: We are planning a number of one-day education programs in NSW over the coming year. Due to the workload involved in hosting the 2012 National conference we will not be holding a conference in NSW in 2011. Thoughts, ideas and offers of assistance in regard to the education days will be gratefully accepted.

May 2011 be professionally fulfilling, and we hope that recovery from the natural disasters occurring around us will not be too overwhelming.

**Helen O'Harae**

**Newsletter Representative**

### Tasmania

#### 2011 TICA Conference

The dates are now set for the 29th and 30th Sept. at the Wrest Point Casino in Hobart. The last TICA conference saw over 130 delegates and this year promises to be even bigger. The organising committee met in January and to date the program is very impressive with a number of very prominent speakers confirmed. At the timing of writing (Jan), confirmed speakers include Professor Tom Riley, Dr John Ferguson, Claire Boardman, Professor Nicholas Graves, Professor Chris Baggeley, Phil Russo, Chris Hunt, Dr Maree O'Sullivan, Saffron Brown and Dr Alistair McGregor.

We have also secured an international speaker, Dr Stephanie Dancer, Editor of the Journal of Hospital Infection. Dr Dancer will be presenting a key note address on cleaning and infection control.

The TICA continues to offer affordable conferences, with conference registration starting at just \$175 (for a two day conference, including a cocktail reception).

Interstate delegates are welcomed and are encouraged to review the conference program. The conference program is tailored to ensure intra and interstate travel is supported.

#### TICA AGM

The AGM was held on the 2nd December and created an opportunity for members to nominate for positions on the Executive.

Brett Mitchell; was re-elected as President.

Anne Wells was elected as Vice President

Libby Oakes is now the new TICA secretary

Lucy Hughson will continue as Treasurer

Fiona Wilson is the new Tasmanian HAI Advisory Group representative

TICA members would like to thank all outgoing committee members for their hard work and dedication to their roles and commitment to TICA.

#### Current TICA Developments

As many of you are aware Anne Wells is the Professional development officer and is currently planning several education sessions in conjunction with TIPCU both in the

north and south of the state. The sessions will be planned for 2010 and 2011. Please check TICA website for updated information – [www.thetica.com.au](http://www.thetica.com.au).

### Scholarships

A number of scholarships are available this coming year for members. The scholarships and awards on offer include:

Professional development scholarship - \$1000

Published article in Healthcare Infection - \$200

Accepted poster at the TICA conference 2011- \$100

AICA Credentialing support - \$100

Research grant - \$2500

Full details are posted in the TICA website.

**Jenny Stubbings**

**Newsletter Representative**

## Australian Capital Territory

### Current ACT Developments

I'd just like to open by sending all our fellow members from Queensland, Victoria and northern New South Wales who have been affected by the recent floods and cyclone Yasi, and to our Western Australians colleagues who were affected by the fires our well wishes.

Our current membership stands at 38. New members are always welcome. Membership forms are available from me at [clinicalmanager@surgicentre.com.au](mailto:clinicalmanager@surgicentre.com.au), Wendy at [wendy.beckinham@actgov.au](mailto:wendy.beckinham@actgov.au), or Philippa at [philippa.keating@actgov.au](mailto:philippa.keating@actgov.au).

### News on our members

Philippa Keating and Jan Roberts attended the recent Antimicrobial Resistance Summit in Sydney and found this to be informative and worthwhile.

Our last breakfast education session for 2010 saw Dr Michael Levy talk on the issues of infection control in Correctional centres. One of the issues he discussed was the proposed needle exchange for detainees within the ACT prison system. There is going debate in the press regarding this issue. We will keep you all posted on this.

At the end of December we farewelled Dinah Morrison, who retired from ACT Community Health as the Infection Control Coordinator after 10 years, we wish her all the best for a new phase in her life.. Her position has been taken by Jan Roberts, who was previously at Canberra Hospital.

### Education

Several members of our local Association have volunteered their time again this year to teach year 1 and 2 medical students from the Australian National University Medical School on the importance of hand hygiene and hospital acquired infections. The year 1/2 Clinical skills sessions are held annually at this time; we thank our colleagues for giving up their time to participate.

Our annual education seminar is on again. *An A-Z Practical Approach to Infection Control* will be held on March 25 2011.

The seminar is to be held at the Quality Hotel in Woden and is in conjunction with the Infection Prevention & Control Unit at Canberra Hospital.

In finishing I would like to remind members that scholarships are available to assist in furthering their education. Further information is available from Philippa on [philippa.keating@actgov.au](mailto:philippa.keating@actgov.au).

**Ailsa Stevenson**

**Newsletter Representative**

## Victoria

### VICPA Committee Planning Day

The VICPA Committee held their annual planning day at the Royal Melbourne Hospital on the 4th February 2011. A number of initiatives were discussed including revamping the VICPA website. The current VICPA website was set up several years ago and as such is getting very hard for our secretariat to maintain. New software will enable us to keep the website up to date and more user- friendly.

### VICPA Scholarship 2010/2011

There were three VICPA scholarships awarded in December to the following recipients:

Elizabeth Gillespie (Southern Health) to undertake a research project at Southern Health, reviewing different cleaning techniques using the 3M ATP biotrace system. The research will scientifically review 2 step cleaning versus 1 step cleaning using a combination and stand alone detergent and disinfection products.

Jennifer Bradford (VICNISS) to attend and aim to present at the International Conference on Prevention & Infection Control in Geneva, Switzerland in June 2011.

Sally Havers (Hand Hygiene Australia) to assist covering costs associated with continuing a Masters in Public Health through Monash University.

### Bi-monthly VICPA/VICNISS Journal Club

The first Journal Club for the year was held at Austin Health. Paul Simpson from Hand Hygiene Australia and Carolyn Tullett from Austin Health were the presenters. Attendance was very good and the discussion generated was engaged as usual.

Date and venues for the rest of the year are as follows:

April 2011	Monash Medical Centre
July 2011	AGM (venue to be announced)
September	Peninsula Health
December	VICNISS

For speakers and articles to be discussed see the VICPA website [www.vicpa.org.au](http://www.vicpa.org.au) closer to the date.

**AICA Infection Control during construction, renovation and maintenance workshop**

Austin Health will be hosting the AICA "Infection control during construction, renovation and maintenance workshop" on the 25th March 2011. The workshop is being facilitated by Glenys Harrington. For further details download the flyer from the AICA website <http://www.aica.org.au/default.asp?PageID=121&n=2011+Lecture+Series>

#### **Global Outbreak Alert and Response Network (GOARN)**

Towards the end of last year Wendy Bacalja, the current President of VICPA, and Matt Mason, a recent past VICPA Committee member, represented AICA at a GOARN simulated exercise which was conducted on a small island off Malaysia. Wendy will be writing about her experience in an upcoming AICA journal. We look forward to hearing more about her very interesting experiences there.

#### **APSIC 2011**

**The call for abstracts is now open for APSIC** which is being held in Melbourne 8 – 11 November 2011. **The submission deadline is Friday, 15th July 2011.**

The program is shaping up to be very interesting. There are a number of international invited speakers which include Dr William Jarvis, Dr Robert Weinstein, Professor Andreas Widmer, Professor Anthony McMichael, and Professor Didier Pittet.

**Registration will also be open soon so keep an eye out for early bird registration in the coming weeks.** For more information on the conference and key dates please visit the website at [www.APSIC2011.com](http://www.APSIC2011.com).

**Donna Cameron**  
Newsletter Representative

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## **Queensland**

### **Membership**

ICPAQ would like to welcome new members since the last AICA newsletter:

- Larnie Wright – Caboolture Private Hospital
- Alan Pemberton – Symbio Australia
- Dawn Rodwell – The Prince Charles Hospital
- Cherie Tickner – Sarina Hospital & Primary Health Care Centre
- Francina Ferreira – Greenslopes Private Hospital

### **Scholarships**

Applications were received for both categories of the 2010 Education Scholarships, and while the awarding of the scholarships will have occurred by the time you are reading this edition of the newsletter, the successful applicants are still to be confirmed (as at the 18<sup>th</sup> October).

Unfortunately there were no scholarship applications for the four AICA Credentialing Scholarships this year.

### **Retiring & Current Management Committee**

The current ICPAQ Management Committee would like to sincerely thank the members who have retired from

management positions after the September AGM, for their energy and hard work during their terms: Dr Deborah MacBeth (former Membership Secretary) and Jodie Powel (former Vice President).

The ICPAQ Management Committee for 2010 – 2011 is as follows:

- President – Michael Wishart
- Vice President – Robyn Birch
- Treasurer – Sara Godden
- Assistance Treasurer – Kathy Duggan
- Membership Secretary – Jacinta Faloon
- Conference Convenor – Alex Abandowitz
- Document Review Subcommittee Coordinator – Kathy Taylor
- Secretary – Susie Nielson
- Editor – Meagan Hunter
- Public Relations Officer – Jane Brooks
- Education Officer – vacant

### **Education**

By the time you are reading this, the Centre for Health Related Infection Surveillance and Prevention (CHRISP) will have run a workshop on the 13<sup>th</sup> November, on "Infection Control Implications of Health Care Facility Planning, Building & Refurbishment", at the Royal Brisbane & Women's Hospital Education Centre, Herston. Approximately 60 participants are to attend; including 11 ICP's from the private sector.

**Meagan Hunter**  
Newsletter Representative

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## **Western Australia**

### **ICAWA Membership**

As of 31 December 2010, ICAWA membership consisted of 135 members. It is now time for members to renew their membership and new members are very welcome. The 2011 membership form is available for download via the AICA website.

### **ICAWA Strategic Planning Meeting - 2011**

The annual strategic planning meeting for ICAWA was held in January 2011. Attendance by all members was encouraged. ICAWA has many strategic objectives aimed at assisting members and promoting the profession of infection prevention and control. During 2011, there will be a strong focus on meeting the educational needs of members. Planning is underway for three newsletters and numerous education and networking opportunities.

### **Building and Construction Workshop**

AICA is presenting the "Infection Control During Construction, Renovation & Maintenance" workshop in Perth in March 2011. A registration flier has been circulated among members. An ICAWA general meeting is

planned during the workshop to facilitate ICAWA member attendance.

#### ICAWA Newsletter

Three newsletters are planned for publication in 2011. Again, there have been positive comments received about the 'Member Profile', so this feature will continue in future publications. Members should also note that a \$50 book voucher is now being offered for any member's articles that are published in the newsletter throughout the year. So all ICAWA members are encouraged to share infection control related knowledge and experiences by submitting an article to the ICAWA Newsletter Representative.

**Susan Swaby and Allison Peterson**  
Newsletter Representatives

## Other news

### National Consultative Steering Committee (NCSC)

At the time of writing (late February 2011), the National Consultative Steering Committee had set priorities for action, established timelines and was meeting with State/Territory Association Executives. From the information gathered at these meetings, the Committee will be able to identify any local concerns there may be towards a national entity and develop a draft plan to take back to the Presidents by the end of March, 2011.

This will not end the consultation process, rather this is the beginning. The consultation period will continue until the end of the year with the State/Territory Executive, the membership as a whole, key stakeholders and an Open Community consultation at which time it is anticipated that an Organisational structure, Business Plan and Model will be launched that will strengthen the delivery of services

Finally, it is important for members to have their say. One way members can do this is by clicking on the "Feedback Area" on the [www.icaustralia.com.au](http://www.icaustralia.com.au) website. This feedback process will be available throughout the whole consultation period.

AICA NCSC welcome all comments/questions received via the website, and all members are strongly encouraged to use this facility to let the NCSC know your thoughts!

**Phillip Russo**  
Chairman  
National Consultative Steering Committee

### WHO SAVE LIVES: Clean Your Hands global annual campaign

Every 5 May - WHO, bringing people together to improve and sustain hand hygiene.

*5 May 2011 - Where do YOU stand on hand hygiene?*

Tracking your progress, planning your actions and aiming for hand hygiene sustainability are the goals for SAVE LIVES: Clean Your Hands 5 May 2011.

The WHO Hand Hygiene Self Assessment Framework and other hand hygiene tools help you do this <http://www.who.int/gpsc/5may/tools/en/index.html>  
If you want to support improvement and sustain hand hygiene actions; and help save lives by reducing health care-associated infection while working in your health-care facility, show your commitment by registering with WHO now if you haven't already done so <http://www.who.int/gpsc/5may/register/en/index.html>

Take action now; be part of this exciting global movement; help us reach 15 000 registrations by 5 May 2011

### Reports available - Check the AICA website

Stay informed and keep in touch by remembering Remember to check the AICA website for all the committee reports and current news and events.

Recent reports include:

- Report of the ASID/ASA Antimicrobial Stewardship summit in Sydney
- Reports from the ACSQHC committee representatives
- Reports from our nominated representatives on external Committees such as the review of AS4187
- Reports from HIGSIG working groups

### Save The Date - 7 April 2011 - Antimicrobial Stewardship Forum

The Commission will be hosting a forum on Thursday 7 April 2011 in Sydney to address Antimicrobial Stewardship in Australia. This particular date has been selected as it is World Health Day 2011, which has a very appropriate theme of "Antimicrobial resistance and its global spread". The Commission will use this forum to launch the recently published "Antimicrobial Stewardship in Australian Hospitals", and associated media releases will also be prepared.

Elizabeth Gillespie (HCI Journal Editor) will be representing AICA at this invitation only event.

## SAVE LIVES: Clean Your Hands: WHO's global annual campaign

Where do YOU stand on hand hygiene?



**Tracking your progress, planning your actions and aiming for hand hygiene sustainability** is the focus for **SAVE LIVES: Clean Your Hands** 5 May 2011. Using the WHO Hand Hygiene Self Assessment Framework can help you do this.

Knowing where your health-care facility stands on hand hygiene sustainability is an essential part of a successful programme or campaign.

### Sustaining the effort

Efforts to improve patient safety require on-going dedicated action. **SAVE LIVES: Clean Your Hands**, launched in 2009, aims to galvanise hand hygiene action at the point of patient care.

### Action for 5 May 2011:

Act on WHO **SAVE LIVES: Clean Your Hands** messages; plan your own activities, including undertaking self-assessments; construct ways to highlight and share 5 May activities and actions, e.g. create dedicated web pages; encourage new registrations from those health-care facilities that have not already signed up.

WHO is here to offer supporting tools and messages and to highlight the importance of this global movement.

Australian ICPs - What are you doing on this day to lend support to the cause?