

Keeping Australia's aged care population safe from potentially deadly infections and learning lessons for future pandemics are among the featured topics at the forthcoming annual conference of the Australasian College for Infection Prevention Control (ACIPC), the region's peak body for infection prevention and control professionals.

Top global and national experts in the field of infection prevention and control are appearing at the annual international conference, which gets underway this Sunday (November 12) at Adelaide's Convention Centre and online.

Among the presenters is keynote speaker Dr **Buffy Lloyd-Krejci**, one of the world's foremost authorities on infection prevention and control in nursing homes and long-term care facilities, who will outline how best to implement practices to reduce life-threatening infections.

"The COVID-19 pandemic caught everyone by surprise and especially impacted our vulnerable aged population," Dr Lloyd-Krejci said. "We weren't prepared and the consequences were tragic.

"We must learn where we go from here, how we take the lessons learned and move into a future where infection prevention is a priority along with proper resources and education."

The four-day conference, which runs until Wednesday, November 15, has the theme 'Driving Forward: Embracing fundamentals and Charting a Path for the Future'.

Among the comprehensive program are presentations covering vital topics including minimising the threat of dangerous infections and reducing the carbon footprint of infection services.

More than 650 delegates have registered to attend the conference, including about 140 virtual participants. Online registration is still available via the conference website (https://acipcconference.com.au/).

This is the annual conference hosted by ACIPC, whose members are key practitioners and decision makers in the field of infection prevention and control. Members include nurses, aged care workers, industry professionals, scientists, academics, educators and policy makers.

"As the peak body for infection prevention and control professionals in the region, ACIPC has a highly important role to play in shaping the future of infection prevention and control," ACIPC President Kristie Popkiss said. "This event will provide some critical insights into achieving best practice infection prevention control standards and how to keep Australian patients safe in healthcare and aged care settings.

"The conference is also a great opportunity to network with likeminded professionals and meet with Australasia's largest collection of IPC industry suppliers."

For more information on the conference, including the program, speakers and how to register either inperson or online, visit here.

For more details on ACIPC, click here.

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