

ANNUAL REPORT



OUR VISION IS TO REDUCE THE BURDEN OF INFECTION





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About ACIPC

The Australasian College for Infection Prevention and Control is the peak body for infection prevention and control professionals (IPCPs) in the region. Our members are key practitioners and decision makers in the field of infection prevention and control and include nurses, aged care workers, industry professionals, scientists, academics, educators, and policy makers. Our vision is to reduce the burden of infection.

ACIPC seeks to be the voice for infection prevention and control professionals, focused on providing leadership, education, and evidenced-based practice for a healthy community. Whilst the COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted the importance of IPC in health and aged care settings, and the broader community, our members continue to address challenges such as healthcare-associated infections (HAIs) and antimicrobial resistance.

The College supports our members and IPC in the broader community through our activities, including:

- Education for members and non-members
- Advocacy on the importance of IPC to government and the community
- Collaboration with other health associations and international IPC organisations
- Publishing original research in our journal *Infection, Disease and Health*
- Communication to our members and stakeholders, including our newsletter IPC News
- Representation on national and international panels, committees and working groups
- Our credentialling pathway to strengthen the roles of IPCPs

The College commenced in January 2012 bringing together the various State and Territory infection control associations to support and encourage collaboration across Australasia.

The College is a company, limited by guarantee and incorporated under the Corporations Act. We are a registered charity with the Australian Charity and Not-for-Profit Commission (ACNC) and are endorsed as a Deductible Gifts Recipient (DGR).

Overall responsibility for the College is vested in the ACIPC Board of Directors, chaired by the President. An Executive Management Team (EMT) of the President, President-Elect and Past-President, provide day-to-day oversight of the College's operations, which are managed by an executive manager and office staff.

Our head office is at Level 6, 152 Macquarie Street, Hobart, Tasmania.

President's report

Associate Professor Stéphane Bouchoucha

President and Chair of Executive Management Committee



It is my great pleasure to present the ACIPC President's report for 2024. It has been a busy and challenging year for many of our members, with the ongoing increased workload due to the pandemic, high incidence of seasonal diseases, and increased health services demands. Despite these challenges, our members continue to contribute to positive health outcomes for everyone in the community, and this year's conference will see five new awards presented in recognition of IPC excellence in a range of areas.

Achievements

This year, the College updated or released nine position statements and resources, including *Current and continuing impact of COVID-19, Seasonal influenza vaccination, and Mpox,* with some of these statements being featured in the media.

The College offered its three educational offerings and announced a new course, Veterinary Foundations of Infection Prevention and Control. During 2023/24, 1975 students were enrolled in courses, with 45 courses delivered.

We currently have 101 credentialled members across the three levels of Primary, Advanced, and Expert. The College also launched its inaugural mentoring program, with 52 mentors and 63 mentees participating, an encouraging uptake for our first offering.

The Aged Care Community of Practice, part of ACIPC's Aged Care Strategy, was launched to support those working in aged care with resources, education webinars, and its own online forum, Aged Care Connexion. Following feedback from members working in aged care, a series of free recorded presentations was collated under the banner of *Aged Care IPC in Focus*, aiming to support those who have completed courses and wish to refresh and/or continue their learning. The College has not been idle in its advocacy and representation activities, with representatives active across a range of external organisations, committees, and working groups, both local and international.

During the 2023 ACIPC International Conference, immediate Past-President Kristie Popkiss presented the *ACIPC Strategic and Implementation Plan 2023-2028*, outlining our mission and detailing the fundamental steps the College will take to achieve our vision 'To reduce the burden of infection.' It is pleasing to see the work we have already done in bringing some of the action, projects and KPIs to fruition, and of course there is much work to be done in the future.

Our journal, *Infection, Disease and Health* has had another very successful year, with its cite score increasing and its impact factor remaining strong. Congratulations to Professor Brett Mitchell AM and the Editorial Board for their work in producing such a high quality publication, valued by our industry.

The College values the relationship with our key sponsors, and their support is vital the success of our annual conference. Particular thanks go to our Platinum sponsor, GAMA Healthcare, with whom ACIPC partnered in producing several webinars and an IPC Tour this year.

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The College has not been idle in its advocacy and representation activities, with representatives active across a range of external organisations, committees, and working groups, both local and international.

Engagement

Member engagement with the College is growing steadily. Recent interest in ACIPC Committee membership was very encouraging and allows us to continue to engage a diverse and knowledgeable group of experts across our seven committees. Engagement with the ACIPC website has improved across most areas this year, with our analytics showing over 11,000 new visitors, longer engaged sessions, and an increase in engagement rate of 3.2% compared to the previous year.

Analysis of our Google searches and top page visits shows visitors mainly access our site for education purposes, followed by conference information, aged care resources, and a marked interest in our 2024 Hand Hygiene Day page.

Our newsletter, IPC News, continues to enjoy a high rate of views, with over 1,100 more page views than the previous year. The College's social media platforms have enjoyed increases in followers, with LinkedIn up by 49.6%, Facebook up 33%, X/Twitter up 21.9%, and Instagram up 47.6%.

Financial performance

The Board oversees the College's finances and financial strategy, including approving the College's annual budget and reviewing financial statements and reports at our monthly board meetings.

The year from 1 July 2023 to 30 June 2024 was another successful financial year for the College. We recorded an audited surplus of \$681,000 and our equity at 30 June was \$8.78M. The increased equity has allowed the Board to invest in term deposits to generate an ongoing return. The other key investment over the past financial year has been increasing our IPC expertise within the College to support the Board, our committees, and our members.

Looking ahead

I am thankful to the members for voting in support of the new constitution. A new constitution allows us to continue to be sustainable in our vision for ACIPC and ensure that we maintain corporate knowledge yet are able to manage risks.

Representation & advocacy

The College provides a voice for infection prevention and control and contributes to a wider health agenda through representation on a number of external committees and working groups. The process for representation is via formal appointment by the College's Executive Management Team

Aged Care Quality and Safety Commission – IPC Guide for Aged Care Reference Group Carrie Spinks

APSIC CLABSI Guidelines – Review Carrie Spinks, Karen McKenna

APSIC Guidelines for Environmental Hygiene: Surface Cleaning, Air and Water Quality in Hospital – Review Carrie Spinks, Karen McKenna

Association for Professionals in Infection Control and Epidemiology (APIC) – Annual Conference – ACIPC Representative Associate Professor Stéphane Bouchoucha

Australian Commission on Quality and Safety in Health Care (ACQSHC) – IPC Advisory Committee

Associate Professor Stéphane Bouchoucha, Dr Sally Havers

Australian Commission on Quality and Safety in Health Care (ACQSHC) – Consultation for Guidance on the use of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for Healthcare workers in the context of SARs CoV-2

Associate Professor Stéphane Bouchoucha, Dr Sally Havers Australian Commission on Quality and Safety in Health Care (ACQSHC) – Review and recommendation for endorsement of Sepsis Clinical Care Standard ACIPC Practice Guidance Committee

Australian Council on Healthcare Standards (ACHS) Australasian Clinical Indicator Report 25th Edition – Expert Commentator Michelle Kennedy

Australian Dental Association: Consultation on Infection Prevention & Control Guidelines - Reviewed Karen McKenna

Australian Nursing & Midwifery Journal – July Sept issue O Aged Care Community of Practice article Carrie Spinks

Australasian Society for Ultrasound in Medicine (ASUM) and ACIPC Joint Guidelines for Reprocessing Ultrasound Transducers – Representation Marija Juraja, Nicola Isles

Australasian Health Facility Guidance - Part D Infection Prevention & Control Ann Whitfield, Erica Beukers A-PRECISE (Australia-PReventing infECtions In reSidential agEd care) Study (led by Professor Phil Russo and Professor Helen Rawson, Monash University) – Stakeholder Advisory Group Catherine McGovern

Burnett Institute: Clean Indoor Air Events

Representation
 Associate Professor Stéphane Bouchoucha,
 Dr Sally Havers

Confederation of National Nursing and Midwives Organisations (CoNNMO) Council - Representation Dr Sally Havers

Consultation on proposal to revoke Secretary Directions mandating COVID-19 vaccination for healthcare workers Karen McKenna

GAMA Healthcare & ACIPC - Infection Prevention & Control Tour - Speaker Associate Professor Stéphane Bouchoucha

Gastroenterological Society of Australia Infection Control Expert Group Sue Grieg

Global Health Alliance Australia Member

Global Outbreak Alert and Response Network (GOARN) – Representation Dr Peta-Anne Zimmerman

Global Outbreak Alert and Response Network (GOARN) – Regional Partners Meeting, Japan Dr Peta-Anne Zimmerman Infection Prevention and Control Canada – Annual Conference – ACIPC Representative Associate Professor Stéphane Bouchoucha

International Federation of Infection Control (IFIC) – Member

Professor Marilyn Cruickshank

Hospital Acquired Pneumonia PrEveNtion (HAPPEN study) – Partner Advisory Group Update

Associate Professor Stéphane Bouchoucha

Monash Sustainable Development Institute – Transitions to Sustainable Health Systems workshop: Green procurement and material waste

Karen McKenna

National Hand Hygiene Advisory Committee - Representation Jackie Miley

National Safety and Quality Health Service (NSQHS) Standards Guide for Ambulance Health Services – Reviewed Carrie Spinks

National Safety and Quality Medical Imaging Standards – Consultation Carrie Spinks

North Eastern Public Health Unit: Diversity of IPC – Presentation Carrie Spinks

Representation & advocacy

Pacific Infection Control Network (PICNet) Technical Working Group Dr Matt Mason

Pacific Public Health Surveillance Network (PPHSN) – Member

Person Centred Care insights- July-Companion animals in aged care Carrie Spinks

RACGP sixth edition Standards for General Practices - Review Karen McKenna

Resource Access Control Facility: IPC -Representative Carrie Spinks

Standards Australia – Development Committee TX-016 Laundry Practice – Committee Nicola Isles

Standards Australia – Representative Nicola Isles

Standards Australia - HE-011 Sharps and Healthcare-Related Wastes - Committee Michelle Kennedy

Standards Australia – HE-013 Surgical Apparel – Committee Simon Meyer-Henry

Standards Australia - HE-023 - Committee Nicola Isles



Board of directors



Dr Stéphane Bouchoucha CICP-A, FACIPC – President

Dr Stéphane Bouchoucha is an Associate Professor and Associate Head of School (International) in the School of Nursing and Midwifery at Deakin University. He is also a researcher based in Deakin's Institute for Health Transformation and the Centre for Innovation in Infectious Disease and Immunology Research.

With nearly 30 years' experience as a registered nurse and an academic, Stéphane has worked in a variety of clinical (critical care, infection prevention and, leadership and management) and community settings. Stéphane's involvement in infection prevention and control dates from the late 1990s when he was a volunteer with AIDES (the main French NGO dedicated to HIV) before being employed there in the access to care department, advocating for marginalised populations. He subsequently led the French involvement into Eurosuport 1, a Europe-wide study investigating HIV/AIDS patient access to care in European countries.

Stéphane has developed a program of research in infection prevention and control informed by his Master of Science (Public Health) and PhD and supervises Honours, Masters and PhD students' projects in infection prevention and control.



Kristie Popkiss CICP- E – Immediate Past-President

Kristie Popkiss is motivated, passionate, and committed to the field of infection prevention and control because of the significant impact that it has on the lives of patients, visitors, and staff in all health services across Australasia. Whilst the pandemic has given more visibility, transparency, and a higher profile to infection prevention and control, keeping a focus on improving the safety in both the community and healthcare facilities needs to remain a visible priority. Kristie is committed to maintaining and raising the status and importance of infection prevention beyond the pandemic.

Kristie is currently the Past-President of ACIPC and is also the General Manager of Clinical Governance (National) for St John of God Health Care.

Board of directors



Dr Sally Havers CICP-E – President-Elect & Chair

Dr. Sally Havers is an experienced Infection Control Professional working as a Clinical Nurse Consultant and Conjoint Nurse Researcher for Qld Health and UQ School of Nursing, Midwifery and Social Work. Dr Havers has extensive experience and post-graduate qualifications in healthcare management and policy implementation, and an in-depth understanding of the current challenges for clinical practice.

Dr Havers is President-Elect of the Australasian College for Infection Prevention and Control, a credentialled Infection Control Professional (expert level) and a Fellow of the College.

Dr Havers has experience managing both metropolitan and regional large, multisite infection prevention and control services and extensive experience in the development and roll out of a large national infection prevention program. She has coordinated multidisciplinary projects in infection control and infectious diseases research, both nationally and internationally.



Erica Beukers CICP-E – Director & Chair

Erica is a dedicated and dynamic leader with a wealth of expertise in leadership and management, infection prevention and control, staff health, immunisation, and infectious diseases. With extensive clinical experience spanning multiple states in Australia, Erica has honed her skills and developed a distinctive leadership style that integrates evidence-based practices with practical application. Her approach to infection prevention and control underscores her belief that it is a shared responsibility vital to ensuring patient-centred care.

In her current role as a Clinical Nurse Consultant at Royal North Shore Hospital, NSW, Erica brings her extensive knowledge and passion to the forefront of her work. She holds a Master's degree in Infection Prevention and Control and is both an Authorised Nurse Immuniser and a credentialled member of the Australasian College of Infection Prevention. Erica is also advancing her expertise through a postgraduate course in Leadership in Health and Human Services.

Erica is a member of the Professional and Credentialing Standards Committee and chairs the Membership, Communication, and Engagement Committee, where she continues to contribute to the advancement of infection prevention and control practices. Her unique blend of clinical experience, educational background, and leadership roles positions her as a prominent advocate for safe, effective, and patient-centred healthcare.

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Janine Carrucan CICP-E – Director & Chair

Janine Carrucan is Nursing Director, Infection Prevention and Control, Townsville Hospital and Health Service. She manages a team of infection control professionals to deliver the infection prevention and control program at the Townsville University Hospital. This includes seven rural hospitals and two large aged care facilities. In her role as Standard 3 lead, she is accountable for delivery and compliance with this complicated Standard. She is an active ICP contributing to the Queensland Infection Control Network, Hot North ICP group and is course coordinator for Certificate III in Sterilisation which is delivered locally to staff undertaking reprocessing.

Janine is a Fellow and credentialled expert infection control practitioner (CICP-E) with a master's degree infection prevention and control, master's degree in public health and tropical medicine and a range of other IPC qualifications. She is currently on the ACIPC Board and a member of the Professional Standards and Credentialling Committee, and Governance and Risk Committee. Janine is a past member of the ACIPC Education Committee, and Membership Engagement Committee.



Nicola Isles CICP-E – Director

Nicola is a Registered Nurse and a credentialled infection control (IPC) practitioner (expert level) of ACIPC (CICP-E) with a Master's in Infection Prevention and Control, post graduate qualification in intensive care, a Registered Nurse Immuniser and a Hand Hygiene Auditor. Nicola is also an accredited assessor for the NSQHS Standards and a current Board Director of the Australian Vascular Access Society (AVAS). Nicola has over 35 years of experience as a Registered Nurse with a background in intensive and critical care with over 20 years' experience specialising in infection prevention control in both public and private healthcare facilities. She has a keen interest in promoting and ensuring best practice in infection prevention and control and vascular access.

Her current role is Healthscope's National Infection Prevention and Radiation Safety Manger where she provides a strong governance framework and a strategic direction at a national level for all 38 hospitals across all healthcare disciplines and IPC professionals. She has a keen interest in quality, governance and patient safety, with a strong focus on consumer engagement, improving patient experience and outcomes and is passionate about implementing research and evidence-based best practice to implement effective change infection prevention and control.

Board of directors



Margaret Leong Director

Margaret Leong is the Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) Advisor for the Pacific Community (SPC) and is based in Suva, Fiji. She has extensive experience at the Pacific Regional level and understands the regional IPC challenges and is works with IPC focal points to strengthen IPC capacity in the Pacific Island Countries and Territories.

Margaret has 30 years of experience working in the public sector both as a nurse clinician and in senior nursing leadership roles in Fiji. Her previous senior positions with the Fiji Ministry of Health and Medical services includes Chief Nursing and Midwifery officer (Fiji) and Director of Nursing role at the Colonial War Memorial hospital.

Margaret is the pioneer for IPC in Fiji and spent many years working as an IPC officer and was also instrumental in establishing the Fiji Clinical Risk Management program.

Margaret is a member of the Membership, Communication and Engagement Committee.



Dr Matthew Mason CICP-E – Director & Chair

Dr Matthew Mason is a lecturer in Nursing, the Academic Lead for Work Integrated Learning in the University of the Sunshine Coast's School of Health, and a researcher with the Australian Centre for Pacific Islands Research. Matt has extensive experience including 20 years working in IPC, with clinical nursing experience including trauma intensive care, emergency, and remote area nursing. He has a teaching and research agenda across infection prevention and control in resource-challenged areas grounded in the provision of accessible and safe services for communities and the health staff that serve them.

Matt has a professional network across the Western Pacific Region and works collaboratively to improve health care outcomes through sustained mentorship and support. Matt is a Technical Adviser to the WHO Global Outbreak Alert and Response Network, an Executive Member (IPC lead) of the Pacific Region Infectious Disease Association, and is Co-Director of the Collaborative for the Advancement of Infection Prevention and Control that supports IPC activities across the Western Pacific.

Matt is chair of the Education and Professional Development Committee and a past member of the Research, Grants and Scholarships Committee.

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Catherine McGovern

CICP-P - Director & Aged Care Representative

Catherine is the Manager of Governance Strategy and Clinical Development at Bene Aged Care. Currently her role encompasses the implementation of evidence based, best practice delivery of care and clinical service across the Aged Care Services portfolio. From infection prevention control (IPC) policy development, providing IPC expertise, advice and education, Catherine delivers ongoing support and mentorship to the organisation's IPC lead nurses.

As a registered nurse for more than 30 years, Catherine has extensive experience working in both the acute and aged care sectors and is dedicated to improving client safety and health outcomes through rigorous infection prevention and control practices.

She was recognised in the South Australian State Parliament by the Minister of Health for her work as the Infection Control Outbreak Coordinator which contained the COVID-19 Outbreak at Brompton Aged Care in November 2020. The successful management of the COVID-19 outbreak was derived from the experiences gained from holding senior leadership roles allowing for prospective implementation of clinical governance, risk management and IPC. She also contributed to the In-depth Interviews with System Leaders and Experts with adjunct Professor Alan Lilly for the Independent Review of COVID-19 Outbreaks in Australian Residential Aged Care Facilities. Catherine is an active contributing member of the SA Health Network of Infection Control Teams (SANIT) & incorporating Non-acute Infection Control Special Interest Group (NICSIG) and co-authors a quarterly Aged Care Community of Practice IPC report.

She has a Graduate Certificate in Nursing Science (Infection Control Nursing) and is a credentialed member of the Australasian College of Infection Prevention and Control. Catherine also holds a position on the Scientific Conference Committee and the Education and Professional Development Committee and is the ACIPC representative on the A-PRECISE Australia Preventing Infections in Residential Aged Care Stakeholder Advisory Group.

Board of directors



Dianne Smith Director & Consumer Representative

Dianne Smith is a business manager with 20 years' experience in the disability sector, marketing, and business management. Dianne has extensive experience in leadership roles, managing not-for-profit organisations and community advocacy.

Having had cancer twice in the last 5 years, Dianne is passionate about healthcare and consumer issues and is committed to contributing to better health outcomes for all consumers. Dianne supports and believes in patient centred care and empowering patients to become active participants in their own health care. Dianne has been appointed to ACIPC as director and consumer representative.



Ann Whitfield CICP-E – Director & Chair

Ann Whitfield holds two positions the Clinical **Principal Advisor Infection Prevention &** Control (IPC) Health New Zealand and the Associate Nurse Director for Infection Prevention & Control (IP&C) at Auckland Hospital). Ann is a credentialled expert with the Australasian College for Infection Prevention and Control (ACIPC). Ann has been a registered nurse for 28 years and has a diverse background in nursing including a Nursing Officer (Cruise ships) and Senior Nursing Roles Acute Settings for medical/ surgical directorates. She has also held nursing roles within Aged Care for the Commonwealth and in the Communicable Disease Control Directorate, as well as specialising in IPC for the last 19 years.

Ann has humanitarian experience, developing and implementing IPC courses in Tanzania and in West Timor. She has also been deployed with the World Health Organisation in West Africa as part of the Ebola response team. Ann was a lead coordinator for COVID response where she specialised in advising and assisting aged care sites, smaller hospitals, and remote settings alongside her tertiary sites.

Ann loves traveling and believes in nurses sharing knowledge and best practice, not only in healthcare but the community as well, and is an IPC Mentor for IPC Foundations Courses.



Dr Peta-Anne Zimmerman

CICP-E – Director

Dr Peta-Anne Zimmerman is an internationally respected clinician, educator, and researcher in infection prevention and control (IPC). Dr Zimmerman's experience in IPC spans nearly 25 years and her domestic clinical experience, research, and expertise has led her to work extensively in China, South East Asia and the South Pacific, on outbreak response, the development of comprehensive infection prevention and control programmes, and on the integration of public health and acute care response in infectious disease emergencies, in low and middle income country settings.

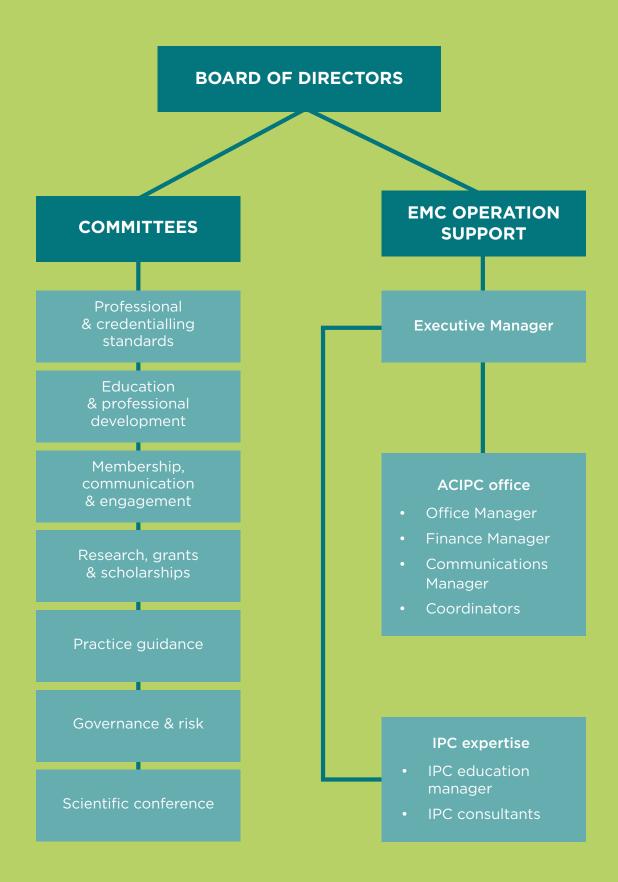
Peta-Anne is the program adviser for the Graduate Infection Prevention and Control Programs at Griffith University, which includes the only named Master of Infection Prevention and Control in the region, and she is proud to be the Visiting Research Fellow with the Infection Control Department of Gold Coast Health.

Peta-Anne received the Claire Boardman Medal for Leadership in IPC in 2020, is a Fellow of ACIPC and holds the award of Credentialled Infection Control Professional – Expert. She is the Chair of the ACIPC Research, Grants, and Scholarship Committee, member of the Professional and Credentialling Standards (PACS) Committee, and ACIPC representative and senior teaching faculty for the World Health Organization (WHO) Global Outbreak Alert and Response Network (GOARN).

Attendance at meetings

ACIPC Board of Directors	Number of board meetings eligible to attend	Board meetings attended
Associate Professor Stéphane Bouchoucha	9	9
Kristie Popkiss	9	9
Dr Sally Havers	5	4
Erica Beukers	9	8
Janine Carrucan	9	9
Kathy Dempsey	4	4
Nicola Isles	9	7
Margaret Leong	5	4
Dr Matthew Mason	5	4
Catherine McGovern	5	4
Kylie Robb	4	4
Dianne Smith	9	8
Ann Whitfield	9	8
Dr Peta-Anne Zimmerman	9	8

Organisational structure



ACIPC office



Ben Thiessen Executive Manager



Trish Yeomans Finance Manager



Caroline Woolley Office Manager



Jackie Miley Education Manager



Selina Spowart Communications Manager



Tracy Noble Coordinator



Carrie Spinks IPC Consultant



Sarah Phasey Coordinator



Karen McKenna IPC Consultant



Sasha Misrachi Coordinator

ACIPC

Executive manager report

Ben Thiessen Executive Manager



The 2023/24 year has been a time of change and growth for the College. The College had another excellent financial year returning a surplus of \$681,000. We continue to see strong support for the Foundations of IPC course, particularly from aged care providers. We are also continuing to develop other opportunities to diversify our income in preparation for the years ahead, including new courses, increasing our membership benefits, and developing resources for the aged care sector.

Our strong performance over the past years has allowed us to build a cash reserve, which is currently invested in term deposits and generating an ongoing benefit for the College. This financial success has allowed us to strengthen our capacity, particularly our IPC expertise. I expect to see this investment develop further benefits for members and increase the visibility of the College over the coming year.

The achievements this year have been the result of the hard work of many. The ACIPC team has been both focused on delivering our ongoing operations, as well as developing the capacity of ACIPC as an organisation, particularly across our IPC expertise and our communications. Our capacity in these areas allows increased support for committees, more opportunities for representation, and increased and more timely communication. Jackie Miley, our Education Manager, has overseen the delivery of 45 courses with 1975 students, supported by 14 facilitators, a great achievement. Our new Veterinary Foundations of Infection Prevention and Control Course has commenced, with students enrolled from seven different countries around the world.

This year saw the launch of our Aged Care Community of Practice, led by ACIPC IPC Consultant Carrie Spinks. This was set up to enhance the knowledge and implementation of IPC across the sector by supporting IPC Leads after they have completed FIPC. It has been pleasing to see our members and stakeholders in aged care participating in the webinars, online forum, and accessing the resources available on the College's website. We anticipate the community will continue to expand to meet the needs of those working in the sector.

Karen McKenna, ACIPC IPC Consultant, has been working with our Practice Guidance Committee on a range of policies, position statements, and representations with state and national stakeholders. Our webinars continue to be extremely popular, with a diverse range of topics aiming to appeal to members in all areas of IPC.

Our office team has supported all aspects of the College's operations including supporting the Board and our hardworking committees, increasing our communications with members and stakeholders, ensuring our education courses are running smoothly and efficiently, managing our finances, and supporting our members.

I would like to thank the ACIPC team for their dedication and diligence. Thank you to Caroline, Jackie, Trish, Carrie, Karen, Selina, Tracey, Sarah and Sasha for your efforts. I am pleased to report that the College is in a robust financial position, positioning ACIPC for continued growth and success in the coming years. I look forward to collaborating with the Board, Committees, and members to advance the essential work of the College.

Scholarships & awards

Our vision is to empower our members to be leaders in infection prevention and control. Key to achieving our vision is to promote education and evidence-based practice outcomes across the IPC profession through the provision of a range of annual and biennial scholarships and awards.



Dr Joan Faoagali Award

The Dr Joan Faoagali Award recognises the significant and valuable contribution Joan made to infection prevention and control professionals and especially to members of ACIPC. The Dr Joan Faoagali Award allows an infection prevention and control practitioner to engage in ongoing learning through participation in the Foundations of Infection Prevention and Control course. One scholarship is awarded to a member of the College each year.

Winner – Jessie Haeusler

Claire Boardman CICP Medal for leadership in infection prevention and control

The Claire Boardman Medal for Leadership in Infection Prevention and Control is the highest honour of the Australasian College for Infection Prevention and Control (ACIPC). The medal is awarded in recognition of the College's Inaugural President, Ms. Claire Boardman, and her leadership in establishing the College. The Claire Boardman Medal for Leadership in Infection Prevention and Control is bestowed upon a member of the College who demonstrates outstanding commitment and leadership to the College and the profession and practice of infection prevention and control.

Winner - to be awarded at the 2024 ACIPC International Conference.



The Elaine Graham Robertson Award

The Elaine Graham Robertson Award is presented at the annual conference – having commenced in the ACT Branch of AICA. The award is the result of a gift from Elaine Graham Robertson, a pioneer infection control professional in the ACT.

Winner - Dr Yobelli Jiminez

Scholarships & awards

ACIPC International Conference Scholarship - Pacific Region

ACIPC recognises that colleagues from countries and territories throughout Australasia are sometimes unable to attend scientific conferences due to funding restrictions. The ACIPC International Conference Scholarship – Pacific Region provides financial support for two infection prevention and control (IPC) professionals working in a low-middle income country or territory throughout the Australasian region to travel to attend the annual ACIPC International Conference. Attending the annual ACIPC Conference will allow the winners to acquire, develop and maintain knowledge and skills in infection prevention and control. Attending the conference also provides an opportunity for networking with colleagues working in IPC.

Evelini Vatikani and Tonga Sharmain Mageo

ACIPC International Conference Scholarship – Australia and New Zealand

ACIPC awards scholarships each year to financial members to reduce the out-ofpocket expenses associated with attending the ACIPC International Conference. The ACIPC International Conference Scholarship – Australia and New Zealand provides a registration for a number of ACIPC members to attend the conference. Attendance at the conference will enable members with infection prevention and control responsibilities to acquire, develop and maintain knowledge and skills. It also provides the opportunity for members to network with colleagues working in infection prevention and control.

Committees



ACIPC Committees are integral to the operation of the **College. Chaired by** a board director, each member is a volunteer who brings their IPC knowledge and experience to their committee. **Meeting between** four and nine times a year, the committees work with the office and report to the board of directors.

ACIPC

Governance & risk

Chair

Dr Sally Havers (ACIPC President-Elect)

Members

A/Prof Stéphane Bouchoucha Janine Caruccan Dianne Smith Claire Boardman Number of meetings held 5

Achievements

The Governance and Risk Committee provides a mechanism for the review of the College's governance and financial processes. The committee provides an independent review of the College's annual budget, the risk register, the contract register, and risks associated with major projects.

The focus of work for the Governance and Risk committee this year has been the updating of the ACIPC Constitution. This update was made in response to advice received by the ACIPC Board from our appointed governance and legal advisors. The changes made to the constitution ensure ACIPC can continue to meet our obligations under the Australian Securities & Investment Commission (ASIC) and the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission (ACNC), and also align with contemporary legal and governance standards, particularly when electing and nominating directors. The updates to the ACIPC Constitution were passed by the members at an Extraordinary General meeting held on the 19th of August 2024.

Opportunities

There are always opportunities to strengthen our governance. With the update of the constitution now complete, the Governance and Risk Committee will be focusing on reviewing and updating Committee Terms of Reference (ToRs) and continuing to provide advice to the board on governance processes and identifying and managing risks.

Scientific conference committee

Chair

Marija Juraja

Members

Dr Emily Larsen (Co-chair) A/Prof Holly Seale Prof Ana Hutchinson A/Prof Noleen Bennett Joshua Philp Roel Castillo Fiona De Sousa Carol O'Sullivan Donna Cameron Carrie Spinks -ACIPC Education Consultant Catherine McGovern

Number of meetings held

Achievements

The 2024 ACIPC Conference is scheduled to be held from the 17-20 November at the Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre and online. The theme for the conference is 'Succession, sustainability, and the advancement of infection prevention and control.'

At this year's conference we have an opportunity to promote the One Health approach with a diversity of speakers including veterinary care/animal health. We are also proud to be collaborating with the Australasian Society of Infectious Diseases' Healthcare Infection Control Special Interest Group (HICSIG) in two shared plenary sessions and a plenary session by the National Health, Sustainability and Climate Unit on national health and climate strategy.

We also have a diverse group of international speakers presenting in person that includes Dr Bronwyn King, AO, Professor Lisa Hall, Professor Glenn Browning, Clinical Assistant Professor Heather Gilmartin, Associate Professor Francette Geraghty-Dusan and Professor Michael Borg.

We will be holding the first leadership, management and mentoring workshop to support new and emerging ICPs, as well as the Aged Care Workshop which will also run alongside Monday and Tuesday's speaker programs. On Wednesday there will be an opportunity to attend a Masterclass on Mentoring or a High Consequences Infectious Diseases Donning and Doffing practical workshop. Avatar are also providing a very diverse workshop on strategies in reducing bloodstream infections. IPAC National Summit continues Monday, and we have an International Summit planned for the closing session on Wednesday to be represented by the varied international infection control associations.

We had 150 abstracts submitted for oral presentations and posters. The breakdown of presentations or posters accepted for the conference includes 33 Case Study/Quality Improvement/Scientific Oral Presentations; 16 Lightning Talks; 1 Pop Up Stage/Poster and 84 Posters.

Scientific conference committee

The conference scholarships are managed by the college and this year we have also added additional awards.

The conference has achieved its sponsorship requirement with platinum, gold, and silver sponsorships and other exhibitor booths on track. This year we will again be opening the hall up to external attendees with Exhibition Visitor passes that are available to individuals likely to benefit from access to the trade exhibition, where they can explore and procure IPC-related products and services without attending the scientific program. This also provides more value to the exhibitors and promotes ACIPC.

Opportunities

There are opportunities with current research still in progress across Australia and internationally, to add to next year's conference plenary speakers as well as further sessions on veterinary/one health.



Professional & credentialling standards committee

Chair

Janine Carrucan (Director)

Members

Nicole Tolhurst (Co-chair) Dr Deborough Macbeth Professor Ramon Shaban Sandra Roodt Dr Peta-Anne Zimmerman Erica Beukers Belinda Henderson

Number of meetings held

The Professional and Credentialling Standards (PaCS) Committee has held monthly meetings and welcomed four new Associate Committee Members. These new members are paired with existing Committee members to review credentialling applications as they are assigned.

The response to the call for Associate Members was very positive, and for those who were not selected, support is being provided to help them start their credentialling journey. Additionally, five more individuals are receiving assistance after reaching out through the Art of Mentoring program to begin their credentialling process.

There are currently 101 credentialled ACIPC members which is slightly more than last year to date.

- 38 expert
- 24 advanced
- 39 primary

The committee has continued to work through credentialling applications as they arise and have assisted 10 members to either renew or establish credentialling status to date. The committee continues to review and update the process.

Opportunities

- Incorporation of credentialling into Foundations of Infection Prevention and Control course (FIPC): develop a new video to highlight credentialling and professional development within the FIPC course.
- Publication of credentialling history: the history of credentialling, authored by two committee members, has been published and will be accessible on the website.
- Advancement of professional practice standards: PaCS is actively progressing toward its strategic goals, including the creation of professional practice standards.
- Review of ACIPC credentialling: an external review of the ACIPC credentialling process is scheduled to take place.

ACIPC

Education & professional development committee

Chair

Dr Matthew Mason (Director)

Members

Dr Vanessa Sparke (Co-chair) Jackie Miley (Education Manager) Perri Waddell Belinda Andrews Belinda Henderson Dr Cristina Sotomayor-Castillo Jessie Haeusler Kim Comensoli Yana Albrey Catherine McGovern

Number of meetings held 10

Achievements

The ACIPC education program continues to deliver several courses with a continuing strong number of participants across an expanding suite of courses.

38 Foundations of Infection Prevention and Control courses have been delivered with over 1680 participants supported by 14 facilitators.

The Veterinary Foundations of Infection Prevention and Control course commences in August 2024 with 21 students currently enrolled. Several Blood Borne Virus Courses and Short Courses for Aged Care were also delivered during the year.

The Lunch and Learn Webinars have been provided monthly through 2024 with a wide variety of topics covered. Members are reminded that recordings of these are available on the ACIPC website for those unable to join live or who want to revisit the topics.

Opportunities

A short course in Office-Based Practice Infection Prevention and Control is under development. This proposed course aims to provide participants with an understanding of governance and activities required to support IPC in this setting.

Also under development is a program for upskilling Aged Care IPC Leads. This offering will guide participants to develop the practical skills required to implement protocols and processes for IPC underpinned by a risk management framework to support improved IPC in the residential aged care setting.

The committee is facilitating an external review of the College's education and professional development program to ensure that it is meeting the needs of stakeholders, and providing value to ACIPC members, with a view to identifying opportunities to strengthen offerings and provide improved value for members.

Education Manager Summary of 2024

Jackie Miley Education Manager



ACIPC continues to deliver a suite of Foundations of IPC courses, with our Australian Foundations of IPC course, an International, and a Veterinary Foundations of IPC courses currently running. We are delighted to have participants and lecturers from all over the world in the International and Veterinary IPC courses.

Our shorter courses continue to attract participants and evaluate very well. All courses are regularly reviewed and updated, as evidence and implementation strategies develop. Content is reviewed and developed by IPC experts.

Our Moodle platform was updated in 2024, and students are enjoying the modern appearance and functionality. Filmed 'scenarios' are now used within the courses to demonstrate best practice and highlight some of the challenges we all face. A linked discussion forum encourages debate and sharing of insights. Our team of highly skilled and experienced facilitators continue to support our students, encouraging them to use the course and the College to develop a broad range of IPC knowledge and skills.

Students report that participating in ACIPC courses provide opportunities to build support networks for their ongoing clinical practice. All courses are positively evaluated by students. ACIPC

Membership, communication & engagement committee

Chair

Erica Beukers (Director)

Members

Kristie Popkiss Margaret Leong Darren Martin Dianne Smith Sarah Thomas Dr Angela WillemsenDr Gemma Saravanos Judith PenmanPriscilla Singh Nicola Herbert (Co-Chair)

Number of meetings held 10

Achievements

This year the College has welcomed 152 new members. We have a total of 15,414 members across non-voting, voting and non-member positions. The Membership, Communication & Engagement Committee (MCEC) has farewelled three members and welcomed three new members.

Mentoring

The MCEC has supported the inaugural mentoring program through the Art of Mentoring which commenced in February 2024. There are currently 52 mentors and 63 mentees for this offering, with plans well underway for the 2025 program. Mentoring masterclasses have also been introduced at the 2024 conference.

Special Interest Groups

Throughout 2024 the reimplementation of Special Interest Groups (SIGs) has occurred. To date we have seen the creation of three SIGs including:

- Victorian Special Interest Group
- Western Australia Special Interest Group
- Paediatric Special Interest Group NEW
- Sustainability SIG NEW

These SIGs are open to all members who have an interest in the topic or location of the event. For further information on their activities please refer to pages 42-45

Member awards

In 2024, we have introduced several memberfocused awards to recognise the hard work of our membership. These are open to all financial members. Awards introduced include:

- ACIPC Mentor of the Year
- ACIPC Facilitator of the Year
- ACIPC Novice Infection Control Practitioner (ICP) of the Year
- ACIPC Lifetime Achievement Award (re-introduced)
- ACIPC Impact Award

Development of resources

The MCEC has worked on the development of resources to support the membership with World Health Days including:

- World Hand Hygiene Day 5th of May
- World Hepatitis Day 28th of July
- International Infection Prevention and Control Week – 13th to the 18th of October

Newsletter

The committee has continued to work on identifying and supporting the collection of relevant content for the ACIPC newsletter, ensuring content is relevant, current and applicable to our membership.

Opportunities

Social media

engagement

Twitter impressions increased by **424%**

Linkedin impressions

increased by 111%

Facebook reach

increased by 125%

Year on year comparison:

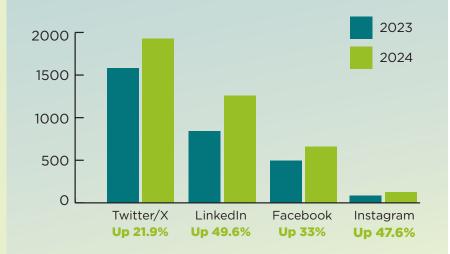
The MCEC continues to support and advocate for the membership. In 2025 we aim to:

• Support the Mentoring Program with the assistance of the Art of Mentoring for the second offering of the mentoring program.

- Support the current SIGs and encourage the development of any future proposed SIGs.
- Continue to identify and support member opportunities.
- Develop resources to support special interest days for infection prevention and control.
- Listen to the membership and support the ongoing development of membership engagement and communication opportunities specific for our community.

Social media followers 2023/24

We maintain a strong presence on various social media platforms including:



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ACIPC

Practice guidance committee

Chair

Ann Whitfield (Director)

Members

Nicola Isles (Co-chair) Wendy Peecock Rita Roy Maureen Canning Gillian Ray-Barruel Simon Meyer Henry Dr Charlene Dixon Michelle Kennedy

Number of meetings held 5

Achievements

Position statements/resources - new and updated - published

- Current and continuing impact of COVID-19
- Seasonal influenza vaccination
- Mandatory hand hygiene training (endorsed by the Australasian Society for Infectious Diseases)
- Animals in healthcare settings
- Single use items
- Position Statement policy
- Measles
- Mpox
- Aseptic technique practice guidelines

Position statements/resources - in progress

- Reusable medical devices including ultrasound transducers
- Construction and renovation
- Air sampling

Aged care supportive resources and position statements

- Aged Care Strategy
- Aged Care IPC Community of Practice
- ACIPC and Australian Companion Animals collaborations policy and guidelines for the management of individual companion animals living in aged care
- COVID-19 vaccine and reporting requirements in aged care

Opportunities

The Practice Guidance Committee has had a very successful year listening to members' needs and what is occurring internationally/ nationally with situations/diseases of infection prevention and control concern. Having the new ACIPC IPC Consultants Karen McKenna and Carrie Spinks has ensured developing of position statements and resources has been responsive to our members' needs and supports the committee members to offer timely advice.

Our work plan focused on advice for renovations and construction with links to national and international guidelines and research which has developed into a resource kit. The other two areas of focus are guidance on reprocessing reusable medical equipment, noting the new AS5369 reprocessing Medical Devices (RMDs) Standard and Cleaning products; and determining risk categories, frequency, and quality assurance for environmental cleaning programs, which is being developed now.

In 2024 we had some committee members stepping down, and there are new members commencing, offering new skill and knowledge for future position statements.

• MRO in aged care

Research, grants & scholarships committee

Chair

Dr Sally Havers (ACIPC President-Elect)

Members

Dr Amanda Corley (Co-chair) Nicola Isles Brett Mitchell Susan Jain Ivy Gabatan Winni Wong Karen McKenna Sophy Butcher Monina Hernandez Nahid Choudhury

Number of meetings held 9

Achievements

The Research, Grants and Scholarships Committee has been focused on three key areas of work this year. These are:

- Increasing research capacity particularly in LMI, Indigenous Health and Aged Care
- Increasing the research capability of Infection Control Professionals
- Improving the responsiveness and accessibility of IPC research across Australasia.

Some of our key achievements in these areas have included the development of a targeted call for research process and policy to ensure an open and transparent process for targeted research determined to be of significance to members. Another piece of work of importance to the committee was the development of weighted grant and scholarship review processes to encourage and support access to these opportunities for ICPs in LMI, Indigenous Health and Aged Care. This work has been in addition to ongoing oversight of the Research Access Scheme and ACIPC Research Web Page.

Opportunities

The committee will continue to progress in these focus areas, including the development of a clinical researcher resource page and further development of research support and facilitation through scholarships and research-focused webinars.

Infection, Disease & Health editorial board

Professor Brett Mitchell AM CIPC-E, FACIPC. FACN. Editor-in-Chief *Infection, Disease and Health*



Professor Brett Mitchell is Editor-in-Chief of *Infection, Disease & Health*. He is a Professor of Nursing at Avondale University and works at the Central Coast Local Health District. Brett has over 150 peer reviewed publications and conference presentations. Professor Mitchell is a Fellow of ACIPC and the Australian College of Nursing. Brett has worked in the area of infection control for many years, including leading infection control programs in hospitals and at a state level. His research interests in the area of infection control include environmental cleaning, pneumonia, surveillance, and urinary tract infections.

Chair

Professor Brett Mitchell

Members

Brett Mitchell, Editor in Chief, Avondale University, Australia.

Senior and Section Editors

Stephanie Dancer, Edinburgh Napier University, Consultant Microbiologist and Professor of Microbiology, School of Nursing, United Kingdom

Ramon Z. Shaban, The University of Sydney, Australia Allen Cheng, Monash University, Australia

Gwendolyn Gilbert, The University of Sydney, Australia

Associate Editors

Oyebola Fasugba, Australian Catholic University, Canberra, Australia.

Jason Kwong, Austin Health, Melbourne, Australia

Gillian Ray-Barruel, Griffith University, Brisbane, Australia

Senior Statistical Advisor

Nicole White, Queensland University of Technology, Australia.

Board members

Kirsty Buising, The Royal Melbourne Hospital, Parkville, Australia

Noleen Bennett, The Peter Doherty Institute for Infection and Immunity, Australia

Michael Borg, Mater Dei Hospital, Malta

Ann Bull, The Peter Doherty Institute for Infection and Immunity, Australia

Emma Burnett, University of Dundee School of Nursing and Midwifery, United Kingdom Peter Collignon, Canberra Hospital, Australia

Marilyn Cruickshank, Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Healthcare, Australia

Evonne Curran, Glasgow Caledonian University, Infection Control Consultant, School of Nursing, United Kingdom

John Ferguson, John Hunter Hospital, Australia

Jenny Firman, Commonwealth Treasury, Australia

Dale Fisher, National University Hospital, Singapore

Joshua Freeman, Auckland City Hospital, New Zealand

Nicholas Graves, Queensland University of Technology, Australia Sally Havers, Toowoomba Health Service, Toowoomba, Australia

Bill Jarvis, Jason and Jarvis Associates, Pediatric Infectious Diseases Physician, Investigation and Prevention Branch, United States

Moi Lin Ling, Singapore General Hospital, Singapore

Deborough MacBeth, Queensland Health, Australia

Kalisvar Marimuthu, Tan Tock Seng Hospital, Singapore

David Paterson, Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital, Australia

Thomas Riley, University of Western Australia, Professor of Microbiology, Australian Centre for Pathology & Medical Research, Australia

Philip Russo, Monash University, Nursing and Midwifery, Australia

Rhonda Stuart, Monash Health, Australia

Paul Turner, University of Oxford, United Kingdom

David Weber, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, United States

Trent Yarwood, Cairns Hospital, Australia

Number of meetings held

One Editorial Board Meeting

Infection, Disease & Health editorial board

Achievements

- The journal's impact factor remains strong. Impact factors for almost all infection control journals dropped in the latest reporting period. One potential reason relates to COVID-19 and the high number of citations during previous years. The percentage reduction in our impact factor was lower than that of other infection control journals.
- Our cite score increased from 5.2 to 5.7 in 2023. We are third (of 45) in the nursing category and 151 in the Public Health, Environmental and Occupational Health (77th percentile). On the former, this would that make us a Q1 in this category (cite score).
- The introduction of a senior statistical advisor has worked well during the last 12 months.
- The article processing charge for authors who wish to publish their paper gold open access is set to increase until 2026, to bring it in line with other infection control journals. Until now, our charge has been almost half that of other journals. This does not mean that authors have to pay, authors can still choose the subscription model, where there is no fee. If authors wish to publish gold open access, ACIPC members will continue to receive a discount on the charge. There are also many other arrangements where the charge may be waived.
- Fast time from submission to publication, compared to other journals.

Opportunities

- Peer review: members can get involved in peer-reviewing articles. This is a great opportunity to hear about emerging research first, as well as develop skills.
- For members: there are discounts available when purchasing Elsevier products. This discount forms part of the contract between ACIPC and Elsevier.

I would like to thank ACIPC members, the IDH Editorial Board and Senior and Associate Editors at the journal and those who have supported the journal as authors and peer reviewers.

Global outbreak alert & response network (GOARN) report

Representative / Focal Point Dr Peta-Anne Zimmerman

In 2024, the Australasian College for Infection Prevention and Control (ACIPC) continued its partnership with the Global Outbreak Alert and Response Network (GOARN), a World Health Organization (WHO) network comprising over 300 technical institutions and networks. GOARN responds to acute public health events by deploying staff and resources to affected countries.

ACIPC members typically serve as Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) experts, but roles can also include specialists in epidemiology, immunisation, microbiology, laboratory work, public health, clinical care, and social mobilisation. These comprehensive teams aim to mitigate the impact of international health emergencies.

Requests for assistance

From September 7, 2023, to August 19, 2024, ACIPC responded to 16 requests for assistance from the GOARN Operational Support Team (OST):

- Measles Mongolia
- Mpox Democratic Republic of Congo
- Yellow Fever South Sudan
- Cholera Zambia, Zimbabwe, Sudan, Yemen, Comoros (2 requests)
- Diphtheria Guinea, Nigeria (2 requests)
- Gaza Support Jordan and surrounding countries
- UNICEF Support Zimbabwe
- Protracted Emergency Myanmar
- Multiple Outbreak Support Sudan and surrounding countries

ACIPC considered these requests and submitted three applications, but no deployments occurred, primarily because most requests were for epidemiologists, a specialty not heavily represented in the College membership. As of August 19, 2024, there are seven ongoing operations:

- Myanmar Protracted emergency
- Mongolia Measles
- Sudan Ongoing emergency
- Democratic Republic of Congo Mpox
- Yemen Cholera
- Israel and Occupied Palestinian Territory Escalation of violence
- Greater Horn of Africa Drought and food insecurity

Training

In 2023, ACIPC members had opportunities to participate in GOARN training, including the 'Orientation to International Outbreak Response with GOARN and WHO Tier 1.5 Training Workshop' held at the ACIPC International Conference in Adelaide on November 12, 2023. This workshop was cofacilitated by ACIPC members Dr. Peta-Anne Zimmerman, Ms. Belinda Henderson, Ms. Margaret Leong, and Ms. Louise De Koster.

The first 'Virtual Orientation to International Outbreak Response with GOARN and WHO Tier 1.5 Training Workshop' was held over two days (July 9-10, 2024), co-hosted with the Queensland Infection Prevention and Control Unit (QIPCU). This workshop was also cofacilitated by the same ACIPC members and featured Dr. Sharon Salmon, GOARN partner coordinator for the Western Pacific Region of WHO (WPRO), as a guest speaker.



ACIPC

Global outbreak alert & response network (GOARN) report

Both training sessions were highly evaluated by participants, as illustrated by the following quotes:

"Excellent workshop with dedicated and enthusiastic presenters who have enormous experience and are inspirational. Thank you!"

"I will apply the concepts during on-the-job trainings, routine analysis, and field investigations."

ACIPC representation

- Virtual Global GOARN Partner Meeting (October 2023)
- Virtual Australian GOARN Partner Meeting (November 2023)
- Hosted the Virtual Australian GOARN Partner Meeting (June 2024)
- Part of the GOARN Research Working
 Group
- Partner Engagement Webinar (July 2024)
- WHO Joint External Evaluation Roster for GOARN Partner Information Session (August 2024)
- GOARN Weekly Operations meetings
- WPRO GOARN Partner Meeting, Japan (November 2024)

Publications

- Cassandra Dearing, Kieh Christopherson, Peta-Anne Zimmerman, Sharon Salmon, "Inaugural Meeting of Global Outbreak Alert and Response Network Partners from Australia," Western Pacific Surveillance and Response: Vol. 15 No. 5 (2024): Special Edition: Global Outbreak Alert and Response Network (GOARN) https://doi.org/10.5365/ wpsar.2024.15.5.1137
- Louise Laurie, Margaret Leong, Toata Titaake Kaufusi, Helen Murdoch, Wendy Snowdon, Sharon Salmon, Peta-Anne Zimmerman, "One Response: Global Outbreak Alert and Response Network Supporting the COVID-19 Response, Kiribati," Western Pacific Surveillance and Response: Vol. 15 No. 5 (2024): Special Edition: Global Outbreak Alert and Response Network (GOARN) https://doi.org/10.5365/ wpsar.2024.15.5.1120
- World Health Organization. (2024). National outbreak response handbook by the Global Outbreak Alert and Response Network. World Health Organization. https://iris.who.int/handle/10665/377617. License: CC BY-NC-SA 3.0 IGO

Other member opportunities

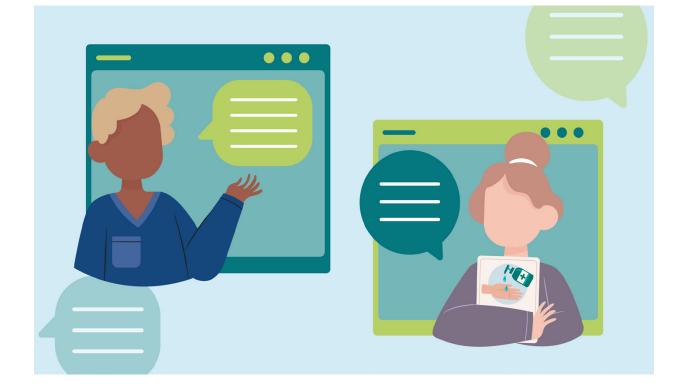
- Lunch and Learn Webinar (October 4, 2023) co-facilitated by Dr. Peta-Anne Zimmerman and Ms. Belinda Henderson (QIPCU)
- WHO Joint External Evaluation Roster for GOARN Partner Information Session (August 2024)
- GOARN Berlin Fellowship Program

Infexion Connexion

Infexion Connexion is a member-based discussion forum enabling the IPC sector to seek peer advice, share information and experiences, discuss new processes, guidelines and standards, and promote job opportunities.

The forum is an email-based platform which is moderated and requires registration. Registered members can submit email posts and replies, as well as receive email notification of any new posts and replies from other members.

Infexion Connexion has been successfully running for a number of years and member growth has been consistent over this time. All health care sectors are invited to channel into this forum to reap the benefits of IPC collaboration. To date there is a diverse range of specialties utilising the forum, for example: paramedicine, dental, veterinary, hospital and rehabilitation, pharmacy, allied health, sterilisation services, mental health, and general practice. We would like to thank members for sharing their valued insights and posting topics for interesting discussion. We would also like to thank Michael Wishart for his voluntary ongoing dedication to moderation and the continued momentum of the forum.



ACIPC Aged Care

ACIPC recognised the need for aged care IPC support, employing an aged care IPC consultant and developing an aged care IPC strategy. This consisted of a series of initiatives which interact with each other to form a non-traditional 'Community of Practice' (CoP).

The CoP is delivered online at a large scale, aimed at reaching aged care IPC professionals across Australasia. The CoP aims to enhance IPC knowledge, provide industry-specific resources, and create a platform for collaboration and networking.

ACIPC open access and membership

Easy access to supports is essential to achieving the CoP goal:

- All ACIPC aged care web-based resources are free to access.
- Participation in the Aged Care Connexion is open and moderated.
- IPC leads receive free College educational membership through their FIPC course.
- Free attendance at the ACIPC Conference online Aged Care Workshop.

ACIPC website - aged care space

A specific aged care section has been created on the ACIPC website to provide timely support via a single and trusted access point. The space includes:

- Access to Aged Care Connexion
- Library of aged care and associated IPC resources
- Governance tools/templates
- CoP interactive webinar sessions information and registration
- Access to Aged Care in Focus

Aged Care Connexion

Following in the footsteps of the Infexion Connexion, Aged Care Connexion opens a communication channel solely for aged care IPC. The forum is a web-based platform with open access on the ACIPC website, requiring compliance with moderation and user guidelines. The forum targets IPC leads, IPC consultants, aged care leaders, Public Health Units (PHU) and anyone involved in aged care IPC.

Aged care IPC templates

A series of templates from recognised providers have been shared to guide IPC leads in new concepts, based on CoP webinar themes. These templates can be adapted to fit different environments.

Examples include:

- Aged Care IPC Governance IPC Program, IPC Annual Plan, IPC Action Plan
- IPC Leads Task/role Descriptions, Establishing an IPC lead, Orientation for IPC lead
- Surveillance tools and schedules care, cleaning, laundry, waste

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IPC Aged Care interactive webinars

The interactive webinars, hosted bi-monthly by ACIPC's aged care IPC consultant and a guest speaker, attract 200-250 attendees. Themes are based on industry feedback, and sessions offer live polls, chat functions, and interactive feedback. Recordings and presentations are available online. These sessions provide evidence-based education and foster broader discussions through the Aged Care Connexion platform, addressing key topics and areas for industry change.

Aged Care in Focus

Aged Care in Focus is a recorded webinar series on aged care IPC topics, accessible 24/7 via the ACIPC website. Topics are based on industry feedback and include waste management, antimicrobial stewardship, surveillance, outbreak management, and IPC governance, with content added regularly.

Aged Care IPC education/training pathway

ACIPC offers an aged care IPC training pathway for IPC leads, aged care leaders, clinical managers, RN/EN, care staff, cleaners, catering, laundry, maintenance, reception, allied health, recreation, and procurement. Courses are regularly updated to reflect guideline and standard changes.

The College offers:

- Aged Care Infection Prevention and Control Short Course
- Foundations of Infection Prevention and Control Course
- Credit for tertiary IPC courses



VIC SIG

Following a long hiatus due to COVID-19, the Victorian Infection Control Special Interest Group (VICSIG) was relaunched in May this year. ACIPC members Donna Cameron, Deborah Rhodes, Liz Orr, Leanne Houston and Richard Bartolo have collaborated to relaunch VICSIG. The aim of VICSIG is to provide an ongoing forum for Victorian Infection Control Professionals (ICPs) to meet and discuss infection prevention and control (IPC) related topics.

The objectives of VICSIG are to provide:

- opportunities for professional development, particularly for less experienced ICPs, such as presenting a journal article review or a local IPC initiative or incident
- a forum where state-based IPC issues can be discussed
- opportunities to network, share ideas and develop collaborative initiatives.

To date we have held two very successful meetings. The first was hosted by The Royal Women's Hospital, where Deb Rhodes reviewed a journal article. The second was hosted by St John of God's Berwick Hospital with Priscilla Singh and Leanne Houston providing a report from the Asia Pacific Society of Infection Control (APSIC) Congress they had recently attended. Both meetings were well attended in-person (at least 10-12 per meeting) and online (up to 20 per meeting), with much discussion generated during both sessions. A third meeting is planned for October 2024, to be hosted by Western Health. While the meetings have been held as breakfast meetings to date, the group is amenable to other activities, such as organising a larger forum to discuss a particular local issue, should there be interest by Victorian ICPs.



SIG Special Interest Group

Victoria



WA SIG

During 2024 a core group of infection prevention and control professionals came together to commence planning our first WA SIG which had not occurred since before COVID-19. Our leadership group consists of Danielle Engelbrecht, Sharon Kenny, Nicola Herbert, Natasha Nunes, Lisa Nicolaou and Kristie Popkiss.

Key to forming the WA SIG was our motivation to have face-to-face events to support networking and having informal education opportunities. We realised that our junior ICPs haven't had an opportunity to connect in the way we had when we first started in the field and found invaluable.

Our first event was a networking breakfast and included presentations from:

- Dr Rebecca Hogan Ralstonia pickettii outbreak related to contaminated normal saline products
- Dr David Foley The return of another respiratory pathogen: M. pneumoniae
- Dr Chris Blyth WA Nirsevimab program

As a result of our event survey, we will be hosting more WA SIG events next year and will aim to meet the needs of our members here on the West Coast. Great feedback has been received from the breakfast and we will be putting together a fulsome program for 2025 and intend to support those in rural and remote areas.





ACIPC

Paediatric SIG

The ACIPC Paediatric Special Interest Group (SIG) is a recently established group with the purpose of bringing together ACIPC members who are involved in, or have interest in, paediatric-related IPC in any setting.

The broad objectives of the SIG are to:

- 1. Enable a platform for learning and knowledge exchange
- 2. Develop and deliver paediatric-focused IPC education for practitioners
- 3. Drive research and innovation in paediatric IPC
- 4. Advocate for paediatric patients and their families
- 5. Collaborate with other paediatric-focused groups

A core group has commenced meeting to develop a draft Terms of Reference and a program for 2025. We will be promoting the Paediatric SIG at the ACIPC Conference in Melbourne and calling for interested ACIPC members to participate. Paediatric View of the second second

Sustainability SIG

The ACIPC Sustainability Special Interest Group (SIG) is a newly established platform designed to integrate sustainability with infection prevention and control (IPC) practices. This group was created to address the increasing need for sustainable approaches within IPC while ensuring the highest standards of patient care.

The SIG aims to bring together ACIPC members to explore and implement sustainable strategies. Its core objectives include developing guidelines, resources, and tools for reducing waste, promoting reuse, and encouraging the adoption of sustainable materials and practices within IPC. By doing so, the group seeks to identify opportunities to enhance environmental responsibility without compromising infection control standards. A key function of the SIG is to provide a collaborative space for sharing best practices, success stories, and innovations. This involves evaluating the environmental impact of current IPC products and procedures and seeking alternatives that balance environmental benefits with patient safety. The formation of this SIG underscores the growing awareness of the link between IPC, health, and environmental stewardship, reflecting ACIPC's commitment to advancing practices that safeguard health and the environment.



AUDITED FINANCIAL REPORTS

For the year ended 30 June 2024

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Directors' report



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307C of the Corporations

AUSTRALASIAN COLLEGE FOR INFECTION PREVENTION AND CONTROL LTD				
ABN 61 154 341 036				
DIRECTORS' REPORT				
Act 2001 is attached to this financial report.	ation as required under Section 307C of the Corporations			
Signed in accordance with a resolution of the	e board of directors:			
Director	Stephane Bouchoucha			
Signature				
Director	Kristie Popkiss			
Signature	#Hopkigs			
Dated:				

ACIPC

Auditor's independence declaration

Under section 307c of the corporations act 2001

AUSTRALASIAN COLLEGE FOR INFECTION PREVENTION AND CONTROL LTD ABN 61 154 341 036 AUDITOR'S INDEPENDENCE DECLARATION UNDER SECTION 307C OF THE CORPORATIONS ACT 2001 TO THE DIRECTORS OF AUSTRALASIAN COLLEGE FOR INFECTION PREVENTION AND CONTROL LTD

(ii) No contraventions of any applicable code of professional conduct in relation to the audit.

M MCrystal

Partner: Melissa McCrystal Accru Rawsons Chartered Accountant Level 2 160 Wharf Street Brisbane QLD 4001

Date: 28 August 2024

Statement of profit or loss

AUSTRALASIAN COLLEGE FOR INFECTION PREVENTION AND CONTROL LTD ABN 61 154 341 036

STATEMENT OF PROFIT OR LOSS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2024

	Note	2024 \$	2023 \$
Revenue from ordinary activites	2	3,513,766	4,091,803
Depreciation & amortisation		(3,331)	-
Expenses from ordinary activities		(2,828,839)	(2,460,796)
Profit (loss) for the year		681,596	1,631,007
<u>Add</u> Funds transferred from state based infection control associations		-	-
INCREASE (DECREASE) IN COMPANY FUNDS FOR THE YEAR		681,596	1,631,007

ACIPC

Statement of financial position

AUSTRALASIAN COLLEGE FOR INF	ECTION PREVEN	TION AND COM	ITROL LTD	
ABN 61 154 341 036				
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION				
AS AT :	30 JUNE 2024			
	Note	2024 \$	2023 \$	
ASSETS				
CURRENT ASSETS				
Cash and cash equivalents Trade and other receivables Deposit paid	3 4	9,430,869 136,210 -	9,667,332 162,208 -	
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS	-	9,567,079	9,829,540	
NON-CURRENT ASSETS				
Banner and Display	5	-	_	
Office Equipment	5	4,285	-	
TOTAL NON-CURRENT ASSETS	-	4,285	-	
TOTAL ASSETS	-	9,571,364	9,829,540	
LIABILITIES				
CURRENT LIABILITIES Trade and other payables	6	790,122	1,729,894	
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES	0_	790,122	1,729,894	
TOTAL LIABILITIES	-	790,122	1,729,894	
NET ASSETS	=	8,781,242	8,099,646	
	=		0,000,040	
EQUITY				
Retained Earnings	-	8,781,242	8,099,646	
TOTAL EQUITY	_	8,781,242	8,099,646	

Statement in changes of equity

AUSTRALASIAN COLLEGE FOR INFECTION PREVENTION AND CONTROL LTD ABN 61 154 341 036

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY

AS AT 30 JUNE 2024

	Retained Earnings
	\$
Balance at 1 July 2011 Australian Infection Control Association (AICA)	NIL
equity transferred at restructure	340,066
Increase in company funds for the 11/12 year Balance at 30 June 2012	<u>833,745</u> 1,173,811
	1,170,011
Increase in company funds for the 12/13 year	130,085
Balance at 30 June 2013	1,303,896
Decrease in company funds for the 13/14 year	(176,369)
Balance at 30 June 2014	1,127,527
Decrease in company funds for the 14/15 year	(187,921)
Balance at 30 June 2015	939,606
Decrease in company funds for the 15/16 year	(88,423)
Balance at 30 June 2016	851,183
Decrease in company funds for the 16/17 year	(154,623)
Balance at 30 June 2017	696,560
Decrease in company funds for the 17/18 year	(56,191)
Balance at 30 June 2018	640,368
Increase in company funds for the 18/19 year	49,748
Balance at 30 June 2019	690,116

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

Statement in changes of equity

AUSTRALASIAN COLLEGE FOR INFECTION PREVENTION AND CONTROL LTD ABN 61 154 341 036

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY

AS AT 30 JUNE 2024

	Retained Earnings \$
Increase in company funds for the 19/20 year	67,802
Balance at 30 June 2020	757,918
Increase in company funds for the 20/21 year	4,260,061
Balance at 30 June 2021	5,017,979
Increase in company funds for the 21/22 year	1,450,659
Balance at 30 June 2022	6,468,638
Increase in company funds for the 22/23 year	1,631,007
Balance at 30 June 2023	8,099,645
Increase in company funds for the 23/24 year	681,596
Balance at 30 June 2024	8,781,241

ANNUAL REPORT 2023-2024

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

Statement of cash flows

AUSTRALASIAN COLLEGE FOR INFECTION PREVENTION AND CONTROL LTD

ABN 61 154 341 036

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2024

	Note	2024 \$	2023 \$
Cash flows from operating activities			
Receipts from Operations Interest Received Payments to Suppliers		3,267,756 272,008 (3,768,611)	3,922,988 100,668 (1,424,890)
Net cash provided by operating activities	8(b)	(228,847)	2,598,766
Cash flows from investing activities			
Payment for Property, Plant & Equipment Proceeds from Property, Plant & Equipment		(7,616) -	-
Net cash provided by (used in) investing activities		(7,616)	-
Cash flows from financing activities			
Transfer of funds from AICA at restructure		-	-
Net cash provided by (used in) financing activities			-
Net increase (decrease) in cash held Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of financial year		(236,463) 9,667,332	2,598,766 7,068,566
Cash and cash equivalents at end of financial year	8(a)	9,430,869	9,667,332

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 30 June 2024

AUSTRALASIAN COLLEGE FOR INFECTION PREVENTION AND CONTROL LTD ABN 61 154 341 036 NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2024 This financial report covers Australasian College for Infection Prevention and Control Ltd as an individual entity. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES 1. **Basis of Preparation** The financial report is a general purpose financial report that has been prepared in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards (including Australian Accounting Interpretations) of the Australian Accounting Standards Board and the Corporations Act 2001. Australian Accounting Standards set out accounting policies that the AASB has concluded would result in a financial report containing relevant and reliable information about transactions, events and conditions. Compliance with Australian Accounting Standards ensures that the financial statements and notes also comply with International Financial Reporting Standards. Material accounting policies adopted in the preparation of this financial report are presented below and have been consistently applied unless otherwise stated. The financial report has been prepared on an accruals basis and is based on historical costs, modified, where applicable, by the measurement at fair value of selected non-current assets, financial assets and financial liabilities. (a) Income Tax The entity is exempt from income tax under Section 50 of Income Tax Assessment Act 1997. Accordingly no income tax is provided for in the acounts. (b) Goods and Services Tax (GST) Revenues, expenses and assets are recognised net of the amount of GST, except where the amount of GST incurred is not recoverable from the Tax Office. In these circumstances the GST is recognised as part of the cost of acquisition of the asset or as part of an item of the expense. Receivables and payables in the balance sheet are shown inclusive of GST. Cash flows are presented in the cash flow statement on a gross basis, except for the GST component of investing and financing activities, which are disclosed as operating cash flows. At each reporting date, the company assesses whether there is objective evidence that a financial instrument has been impaired. In the case of available-for-sale financial instruments, a prolonged decline in the value of the instrument is considered to determine whether an impairment has arisen. Impairment losses are recognised in the income statement.

	AUSTRALASIAN COLLEGE FOR INFECTION PRE ABN 61 154 341 036			OL LTD
	NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL S FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30			
		Note	2024 \$	2023 \$
2.	REVENUE AND OTHER INCOME			
	Interest received Other Income	-	272,008 3,241,758	100,668 3,991,135
	Total Revenue	-	3,513,766	4,091,803
3.	CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS			
	Cash at bank Term Deposit		2,430,869 7,000,000	4,667,332 5,000,000
	· - · · ·	-	9,430,869	9,667,332
4.	TRADE AND OTHER RECEIVABLES			
	Trade Debtors		1,805	162,208
	Accrued Interest Goods and Services Tax		134,405	-
		-	136,210	162,208
5.	Plant & Equipment			
	Banner and Display Less: Accumulated Depreciation		-	-
	Office Equipment Less: Accumulated Depreciation	-	7,616 (3,331)	-
		_	4,285	
		-		

Notes to the financial statements

For the year ended 30 June 2024

	NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL S		EN I S	
	FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 J	UNE 20)23	
		Note	2024 \$	2023 \$
6.	TRADE AND OTHER PAYABLES			
	CURRENT			
	Trade Creditors		235,701	408,624
	Membership Fees in Advance		78,819	104,49
	Course Fees Paid in Advance		360,750	1,094,420
	GST		32,249	122,08
	PAYG Withholding Payable		10,712	
	Westpac Credit Card		-	27
	Westpac Credit Card		381	
	Westpac Credit Card		1,831	
	Westpac Credit Card		(321)	
	Scholarships & Grants		70,000	
			790,122	1,729,89
7.	COMPANY DETAILS			
••	The registered office of the company is:			
	Level 6, 152 Macquarie Street			
	Hobart TAS 7000			
	The principal place of business is:			
	Level 6, 152 Macquarie Street			
	Hobart TAS 7000			
8.	CASH FLOW INFORMATION			
	(a) Reconciliation of Cash			
	Cash at the end of financial year as shown in the			
	Statement of Cash Flows is reconciled to the related items in the statement of financial position as follows:			
	Cash at Bank		9,430,869	9,667,33
			9,430,869	9,667,33
		Note	2024	2023
			\$	\$
	(b) Reconciliation of cash flow from operations with			
	profit		691 606	1 621 00
	Increase (Decrease) in company funds for the year		681,596	1,631,00
	Non-cash flows in profit: Depreciation		2 224	
	Changes in Assets & Liabilities:		3,331	
	Decrease (Increase) in Current Receivables		25,998	(68,14
	Increase (Decrease) in Current Liabilities		(939,772)	1,035,90

AUSTRALASIAN COLLEGE FOR INFECTION PREVENTION AND CONTROL LTD ABN 61 154 341 036

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2024

9. DIRECTORS REMUNERATION

The following directors received meeting attendance fees and other council professional fees during the year as disclosed:

	\$
K Popkiss	12,000
S Havers	2,000
M Mason	2,000
D Smith	4,000
K Dempsey	2,000
S Bouchoucha	12,000
K Robb	2,000
P Russo	2,000
P Zimmerman	4,000
A Whitfield	4,000
M Leong	2,000
J Carrucan	4,000
N Isles	4,000
E Beukers	4,000
C McGovern	2,000
	62,000

10. CONTINGENT ASSETS & LIABILITES

The directors are not aware of any contingent assets or contingent liabilities of the company.

11. EVENTS AFTER THE BALANCE SHEET DATE

There have been no material events occurring after balance date that would affect the financial postion and performance of the company

Directors' declaration

AUSTRALASIAN COLLEGE FOR INFECTION PREVENTION AND CONTROL LTD ABN 61 154 341 036

DIRECTORS' DECLARATION

The directors of the company declare that:

- 1. The financial statements and notes are in accordance with the Corporations Act 2001; and:
 - (a) comply with Australian Accounting Standards; and
 - (b) give a true and fair view of the financial positions as at 30 June 2024 and of the performance, as represented by the results of its operations for the year ended on that date; and
- 2 In the directors' opinion there are reasonable grounds to believe that the entity will be able to pay its debts as and when they become due and payable.

This declaration is made in accordance with a resolution of the Board of Directors.

 Director
 Stephane Bouchoucha

 Signature
 Image: Constraint of the second seco

AUSTRALASIAN COLLEGE FOR INFECTION PREVENTION AND CONTROL LTD ABN 61 154 341 036

INDEPENDENT AUDIT REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF AUSTRALASIAN COLLEGE FOR INFECTION PREVENTION AND CONTROL LTD

We have audited the accompanying financial report of Australasian College for Infection Prevention an Control Ltd which comprises the statement of financial position as at 30 June 2024 and the statement of profit or loss, statement of changes in equity and cash flow statement for the year ended on that date, a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory notes and the director's declaration.

Directors' Responsibility for the Financial Report

The directors of the company are responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards (including the Australian Accounting Interpretations) and the Corporations Act 2001. This responsibility includes designing, implementing and maintaining internal controls relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error; selecting and applying appropriate accounting policies; and making accounting estimates that are reasonable in the circumstances. In Note 1, the directors also state, in accordance with Accounting Standard AASB 101: 'Presentation of Financial Statements', that compliance with the Australian equivalents to International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) ensures that the financial report, comprising the financial statements and notes, complies with IFRS.

Auditor's Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the financial report based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. These Auditing Standards require that we comply with relevant ethical requirements relating to audit engagements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance whether the financial report is free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial report. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the financial report in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by the directors, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial report.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

Independence

In conducting our audit, we complied with the independence requirements of the Corporations Act 2001.

Independent audit report

AUSTRALASIAN COLLEGE FOR INFECTION PREVENTION AND CONTROL LTD

ABN 61 154 341 036

INDEPENDENT AUDIT REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF AUSTRALASIAN COLLEGE FOR INFECTION PREVENTION AND CONTROL LTD

Auditor's Opinion

In our opinion:

The financial report presents fairly, in all material aspects, the financial position of Australasian College for Infection Prevention and Control Ltd as of 30 June 2024, and of its financial performance and its cash flows for the year ended in accordance with the Corporations Act 2001 and the Australian Accounting Standards (including Australian Accounting Interpretations).

M MCrystal

Partner: Melissa McCrystal Accru Rawsons Chartered Accountant 160 Wharf Street Brisbane, QLD, 4001

Dated: 10 August 2024





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ABN 61 154 341 036