



NZNO IPCNC
April 2025

STAY INFORMED: STAY CONNECTED



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Welcome to the first 2025 Infection Controlla. This is my first publication and I will try to maintain the very interesting and informative circular that Anne-Maree successfully published.

I joined the Infection Prevention and Control Nurses’ College (IPCNC) Committee last year and attended my first meeting in November. Thank you to all the committee members who so warmly welcomed me and have provided valuable assistance and advice. I have taken on the Publications role and will also be involved in maintaining the website.

For those of you that don’t know me. I have been around Infection Prevention and Control for about 15 years, although for the last 10 years I have been

facilitating the Infection Prevention and Control software programme. The system is utilised by Health NZ, Te Whatu Ora districts’ Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) teams for case management and reporting. During this time, I have also been involved with the Te Tāhū Hauora, Health Quality and Safety Commission’s Surgical Site Infection programme. I live in Christchurch with my partner and two teenagers.

I hope you all enjoy my first Controlla attempt. Please get in touch if you have anything IPC related that you would like included in the next edition.

Michelle Taylor
Publications

Your College Committee

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Chair's Report

Welcome back to 2025, and welcome to our new committee members! Michelle Taylor has taken over the role of Publications officer and put together this Controlla publication. Jane Barnett our other new committee member is supporting many different streams of work at the moment.

At the AGM, we farewelled Anne-Maree Wagg from the committee who was a tireless editor of the Controlla and always looking for new ways to capture members' interest. Thank you very much for your work on the committee. Although Anne-Maree has left the committee she remains on the NZNO Membership Committee and is one of the college and section representatives.

Submissions are open for the next round of COVID enquiry, this time the focus is slightly different. NZNO and the college are preparing our submissions, and I encourage any member to provide a submission as well. This is a chance to have our experiences heard.

In our November meeting the committee set up its goals for the year:

- Review and refine the IPCNC travel and education scholarship to provide clarity for members.
- Review the Fundamentals programme to ensure the programme is teaching best practice and how this links into ACIPC credentialing.
- Explore a position statement on FTE requirements for IPC.

Lastly, you may have heard that the Infection Prevention programme under the HQSC is moving in-house to Health NZ. This means their governance structure will move within Health NZ. The IPCNC has had two members on the HQSC Strategic Infection Prevention and Control Advisory Group which has now been disestablished. The college would like to thank Jo Stoddart and Anne Hutley for being our link. Health NZ is developing a new National Infection Prevention and Control Committee and the college have put forward a nomination for this committee.

Lisa Gilbert
JPENC Chair

Membership Report

There continues to be fantastic growth in our membership numbers with 122 new members joining across the country in the past year.

NZNO are in the process of an important upgrade of their membership database. We are hoping that with the new changes it will be quicker and easier to upload new members and there will be better visibility of the different roles that our members have.

Angela Corn
Membership Coordinator

Education Report

Kia ora

This is the activity that has happened in education since the meeting in November 2024.

Education Sessions

There has been engagement on Facebook regarding virtual sessions and conferences coming up.

The 2025 Webber training list of courses has been sent out to members via Facebook.

A member survey asked members what kind of education sessions you would like. These were the top four in order of most popular. The next step is to find people to speak on these topics.

1. Building and construction
2. MDRO
3. Surveillance
4. Transmission Based Precautions

I have also been talking to Blue Mirror who could do some education on their programme which is an interactive software that does PPE or Hand Hygiene Training

	Current membership count
Canterbury	182
Central	68
Greater Auckland	285
Greater Wellington	124
Midlands	174
Southern	110
Associate members	12
Life members	4
Honorary members	4
Total	963

Website

A lot of work has been done to update the website with most up to date info.

Scholarships & Training

Next scholarships closing date is April 30

Meeting with Jane, Alison Stewart and Cassandra Elder regarding discontinuation of the Infection Prevention & Control courses (grad & post-grad) at Toi Ohomai. Lisa is drafting a letter to the Dean of Toi Ohomai regarding the need for the IPC profession for those to continue.

The Sterile services course is also at risk of being discontinued

IPC Professional Framework

The final version of the IPCNC Professional Development Framework is now on the front page of the website available to non-members.

Angie Foster
Education Coordinator



Fundamentals of Infection Prevention and Control

This course introduces new and existing infection prevention and control practitioners to the key concepts of infection prevention and control (IPC) which underpin IPC practice in all healthcare settings.

The practitioner will complete nine learning modules through distance learning, supported by an experienced IPC practitioner and mentor. Learning will be enhanced through regular Zoom meetings with your mentor and other course participants.

This course is suitable for a healthcare worker who has a role or an interest in IPC and can commit to around 60 hours of study over four months. A certificate will be awarded to participants on completion of the course.

Participants can claim up to 60 hours professional development hours.

Modules

1. Hand hygiene
2. Standard and transmission-based precautions
(2 workbooks)
3. Microbiology
4. Surveillance and monitoring of infection
5. Outbreak management
6. Communicable diseases
7. Occupational health
8. Cleaning, disinfection and sterilisation
9. Construction and renovation



Cost

The programme is currently FREE for NZNO IPCNC members. Non-NZNO IPCNC members will be required to pay a levy of \$200.

Contact the Course Co-ordinator – Joanne Baigent glen-iti@xtra.co.nz for an Application Form.

Conference Reports

Summary of Learnings from ACIPC 2024 Conference

Event Dates: November 18-20, 2024

Location: Melbourne, Australia

Overview

The ACIPC 2024 conference assembled leaders and professionals in Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) to share knowledge, advancements, and best practices in the field. The event aimed to foster collaboration and innovation while addressing urgent challenges in the healthcare landscape.

Key Learning Opportunities

Day 1 Highlights

- **Indoor Air Quality:** A fascinating talk illustrating the value of being in the right place at the right time. A Dr who is passionate about smoke free programmes and has become an international influencer in that space has translated her passion into improving indoor air quality, post COVID. She has met WHO representatives, as well as politicians and made it her mission to upskill them in the knowledge around the implications of poor air quality. Her ongoing work is around setting indoor air quality standards and having it passed into law – what a challenge!
- **Data Surveillance in Infection Prevention:** A particular passion of mine – I was excited to listen to this presenter. Using large language models and machine learning an AI model has been developed to predict anti-microbial resistance and sepsis outcomes. They have addressed concerns around data quality and pt privacy as part of this work. They ended with the emphasis that these AI models are only as good as the data provided but the insights provided may significantly enhance Infection Prevention surveillance.

Day 2 Highlights:

- **The Role of Certification in IPC:** I have often thought of attempting to obtain the APIC CIC but have been daunted by both its reputation as a particularly tough exam to pass and the amount of work that would be required to undertake this. The presenter explained the requirements of each of the key certification courses – including the different courses a-APIC (foundational) LTC-CIP (long term care) CIC (original certificate) and Advanced Leadership certification in Infection Prevention. She then discussed their importance in enhancing IPC standards. I am still daunted...but coming around to the idea of giving it a go!

Day 3 Highlights:

- **The CLEEN Study:** An overview of cleaning protocols and their effects on infection rates. I have previously seen a presentation around the CLEEN study and this presentation was very thought provoking. How can I implement a similar programme of improvement in an environment where there is such financial restraint currently? The results speak for themselves - a dramatic reduction in HAI rates following dedicated resource for cleaning shared pt equipment.

Networking and Collaboration

The conference featured structured opportunities for networking, such as casual receptions and lunch sessions, aimed at building professional relationships and collaborations across disciplines, as well as the conference dinner – a chance to let loose and have some fun!

Conclusion

ACIPC 2024 provided a comprehensive platform for discussing the evolution of infection prevention practices, focusing on innovative strategies, collaborative efforts, and global learning. Participants left with actionable insights

to enhance their IPC programs and improve patient outcomes. In addition, what struck me was the commonality of issues for participants' showing although we are separated by oceans our challenges remain the same.

Sandi Gamon - Waitemata

IPCNC Conference Reflection

I was fortunate enough to attend the IPCNC Conference held in Claudelands Events Centre Hamilton, New Zealand from 21 -23 August 2024. Having never attended a conference before, I was unsure exactly what to expect, but can now say it was a wonderful experience. I would recommend it to all IPC staff. At the conference, I was inspired by the talks I listened to, the people I met and my head is now full of new ideas.

Highlights for me on the first day included Antimicrobial Stewardship - The nursing journey and the path forward, History of IPC in NZ, Rodent management in healthcare facilities: Fundamentals for maintaining infection prevention & control, Outbreak Management in ARC (aged-related residential care) facilities, Management of Candida Auris positive cases in ACH. Another highlight was listening to Claire Hewitt on 'clarity and care through the plain language Act'.

On day two, Ann Whitefield focused on advancing patient-care in high consequences infectious diseases, VRE outbreak management session by Dr. Hugh McGann - of course the debate on hand-hygiene was interesting. Session on climate change and the effect to health, sustainability and environmental consideration also were very informative. I also can't forget listening to Prof. Stephanie Dancer who spoke on cleaning and disinfection, viable microbiome of health-care toilets and occupied bed-space. It was also rewarding meeting and talking with a wide range of IPC professionals from all around NZ and hearing that IPC services all over NZ have gone through similar experiences or have similar concerns and issues like our own.

Thank you to the IPCNC for their support. I would highly recommend attending an IPCNC conference to anyone with an interest in IPC or have a passion for IPC within your primary role. Next conference will be held in Wellington in 2026.

Jhancy Tomy-Waitemata

IPCNC Conference 2024

21-22 August 2024

Claudelands, Hamilton.

I was delighted to attend the IPCNC conference at Hamilton in August last year. It was great to be present as an attendee, and not a stressed organising committee member, like for the past two conferences. I would like to congratulate Siew Ling and her team for a wonderful conference pulled together despite challenging circumstances.

A highlight for me was the Keynote speaker Professor Stephanie Dancer. Stephanie is a consummate professional who delivered her three presentations in an engaging and informative manner. Her first presentation about **Covid transmission** reinforced for me that we need to focus on air standards, ventilation, air filtration, UVC lights and importantly the effectiveness of just opening a window for 20 minutes three times each day, if possible. Stephanie's second presentation was the Webber Teleclass; **How to effectively clean the occupied bedspace**. This talk again reminded me that we must get the basics right. Cleaning has never been more important, and we need to focus on what is being cleaned, with which product and how often, and relying on disinfectants is not a good idea because there has been shown to be very little benefit in using disinfectant over detergent. Consider how you monitor cleaning; fluorescent markers are useful. Hospital ventilation contributes greatly to surface contamination. Automated technology does have its drawbacks. There are NO shortcuts to cleaning! Stephanie's final presentation:

What is the viable microbiome of the healthcare toilet? Compare male and female toilets and staff vs patients. She talked about the surface microbiome of bathrooms and outbreaks that have been associated with them. Her study showed that there are significant amounts of gram-negative organisms at high sites in bathrooms resulting from aerosolisation of toilet flushing. Stephanie's vision of the future toilet has opening windows, air ventilation, airtight toilet lids, automated gas release between users.

Dr Hugh McGann's presentation: **VRE Outbreak Te Manawa Taki, New Zealand** was thought provoking with regards to how easy it is to get a runaway MDRO outbreak. Investigation showed that medical warnings/ alerts were often missed by clinical staff and follow up did not occur. Equipment clutter in the wards was excessive and a major decluttering was required. Cleaning schedules were found to be inadequate and were subsequently updated. 10% of VRE contacts ended up being positive for VRE.

Of the remaining presentations there were many standouts for me, and here are a few:

What's the "problem" with cleaning: A review of Ultrasound Probe Cleaning for Vascular Access by Rebecca Oskam – Schmidt. Rebecca completed a survey of ultrasound probe disinfection practices across the HNZ Southern inpatient sites. Very poor practices were identified, most not meeting standards or achieving Spaulding classification. Rebecca deservedly won the Best New Presenter Award for this presentation.

The dilemma of antimicrobial stewardship in hospice care – A call for a collaborative framework by Asma Gul. This was an excellent presentation about antimicrobial use in end-of-life care.

Write NZ: Clarity and care through the Plain Language Act 2023 by Claire Hewitt discussed how to write professional documents/ emails or information in a way that grabs attention to get the required response. *"Be short, be plain, be human"*

Australia Std 5369:2023 reprocessing of reusable medical devices replaces AS/NZS 4187:2014 by Alison Stewart gave a great reminder of the updated standard supporting reprocessing which covers both acute, non-acute and non-healthcare facilities. This now includes a risk-based approach with an appendix which assists with modelling risk assessment.

Meeting infection prevention and control standards for ambulatory surgical facilities and primary care (Virtual) By Dr Ruth Barratt. In this excellent presentation Ruth discussed how to achieve the required Standard 5369 (2021) and laundry, Waste and AMS Standards in these services.

Antimicrobial Stewardship: The nursing journey and the path forward. By Jo McEwen and Brenda Waite. This presentation reinforced for me the importance of engaging nurses in the AMS fight. Many RN's surveyed were unaware of the term 'AMS' and this was not seen as priority. Both the UK and Australian guidelines on AMS cover AMS for nurses.

The conference dinner was again a conference highlight with great delegate participation and a full dance floor in response to the fabulous band.

And finally, it would not be an IPC conference without an entertaining debate. This one discussed if hand hygiene should be pursued. I was relieved when the 'clapometer' determined that we can now move on from this well-worn pursuit. How much time will this free up for us!

Thank you to the IPCNC education fund for sponsoring me to attend this conference.

Jill Gerken - Southern



ACIPC
Australian College
for Infectious Prevention and Control



GlobalMedics
Group

IPC Tour 2025



Thursday 22nd May 2025



08:30am - 3pm



War Memorial Centre
48 Marine Parade, Napier 4110

Keynote Speakers:



Professor
Martin Kiernan



Professor Brett
Mitchell



Ann Whitfield



Dr Sarah Berger



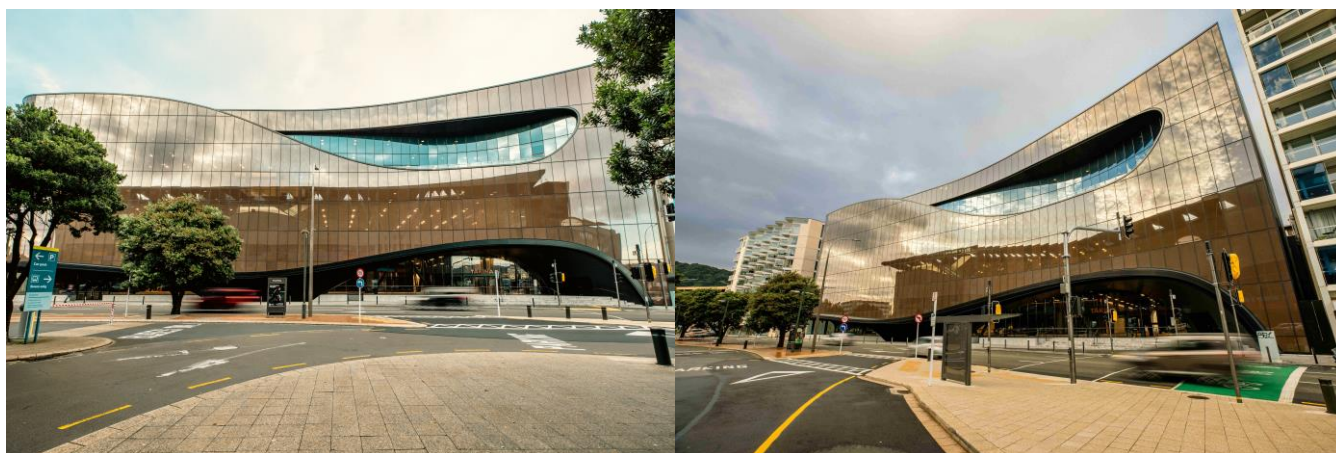
Register now

For more information, please contact:

eventsaustralia@gamahealthcare.com | gamahealthcare.com.au | +61 3 9769 6600

SAVE THE DATE

Conference 2026
26-28th August 2026
Tākina Events Centre
Whanganui a Tara / Wellington



Webber Training – Learning Opportunities for April 2025

As you are all hopefully aware, you can access Webber Training education lectures free of charge, if you are members of the NZNO IPCNC. This access has been provided by Paul Webber and if you are not already a Webber Training member, follow the instructions on how to join up here: [Webber-Training-Teleclass-Access-Instructions.pdf](#)

As these lectures are now web based, you can access the recorded webinar any time to suit you regardless of which hemisphere they are recorded in. This month you can access the following topics:

APRIL

- 3 ... Assessment of Mould Remediation in a Healthcare Setting Following Extensive Flooding
With Manjula Meda, UK
- 10 ... Use of Artificial Intelligence for Healthcare-Associated Infection Surveillance
With Prof. Ruth Carrico, US
- 22 ... Cost Analysis of a Hand Hygiene Improvement Strategy in Long-Term Care Facilities
With Dr. Anja Haenen, Netherlands
- 24 ... What's Lurking in Your Sinks? Past Problems, Present Challenges, and Future Technologies
With Dr. Mark Garvey, UK
- 30 ... The Impact of Sink Removal and Other Water-Free Interventions in Intensive Care Units on Water-Borne Healthcare-Associated Infections
With Jia Ming Low, Singapore

Any questions about Webber Training please don't hesitate to contact Jane Barnett on janeb@schl.co.nz

International Educational Opportunities

APIC 2025 – Phoenix, AZ, 16-17 June, 2025

<https://2025apic.eventscribe.net/>

21st World Congress on Infection Prevention and Control - London, UK, 25-26 August 2025

<https://infectionprevention.insightconferences.com/>

8th International Conference on Prevention & Infection Control – Geneva, Switzerland, 16-19 September 2025

<https://conference.icpic.com/>

6th International Conference on Infection Prevention and Control (CPD Accredited) - Paris, France, 6-7 October 2025

<https://crgconferences.com/infectioncontrol>

2025 ACIPC International Conference – Hobart, 16-19 November 2025

<https://acipconference.com.au/>

Scholarships

The next round of Travel and Education scholarships close on 30 April 2025. The application form is available on the IPCNC website at <https://infectioncontrol.co.nz/home/professional-development/ipcnc-scholarship-and-awards/>

Upcoming Events

International Infection Prevention Week

October 13 - 19, 2025

WHAT DO YOU HAVE PLANNED?

World Hand Hygiene Day – 5 May 2025

**It might be gloves. It's always hand
hygiene**

Resources available at <https://www.who.int/campaigns/world-hand-hygiene-day/2025>

NZNO College and Sections Forum



Figure 1: Paul Goulter

I had the wonderful opportunity of attending the annual NZNO College and Sections Forum this March, in Wellington, and representing our IPC nurses college. It was a great chance to get together with the leads from the other colleges to discuss each other's achievements and goals and network and discuss ideas that will improve the functionality, and access to our members, with the overall goal to encourage engagement and skills and expertise in our areas.

The last year we gave feedback that the forum should be held over two days, and NZNO listened. It was a strongly passionate and emotional two days, with personal stories of hardship shared with the group. New friends were made, and ultimately, we shared some creative and inspiring ways to get the most out of C&S for the members.

The beginning of the Hui showed Paul, Anne & Kerri discussing the three arms of NZNO- professional, industrial, and political and how we aren't marrying them up. There was some discussion of registering and de skilling nurses. Anne did a presentation on workplace violence, and Kerri spoke about politics of Maor Health.

We learned about the IT improvements that are going to be made around the website and Microsoft 365, and the membership platform. We had some information about media and comms training as well.



Figure 2: Mairi Lucas



Figure 3: Paul Flynn & Neville Rodda

There was an amazing presentation on the second day that stuck with me about her implementation of a Māori Health strategy for Emergency Departments, for both the patients and the workforce. We had a creative brainstorming workshop where we wrote down our ideas and suggestions for improving the committees and colleges for our members and they are now in the hands of our capable NZNO advisors to work with.

It was unanimous feedback that this forum was worthwhile, and the group agreed they would like to have a chance to connect with each other more frequently.

Angie Foster



Figure 4: Anne Daniels, Anne-Marie Wagg & me

Having a Study Day

Let us know and we
can advertise it for
you

Need More IPC Information

Infection Services Network

The latest update report is available on the Infection prevention website at [ISNA Update](#).

Keeping Up to date

Why don't you visit our website - <https://infectioncontrol.co.nz/>

And join our Facebook Page -

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/276336942979329>