

# Meeting the educational needs of the novice IPC professional in New Zealand: The 'IPCNC Fundamentals in Infection Prevention and Control programme'

Dr Ruth Barratt, RN, CICP-E; Joanne Baigent, RN

## BACKGROUND

- Infection prevention and control (IPC) is a specialised profession that requires knowledge and skills to implement the necessary evidence-based IPC practices in a health facility<sup>1,2</sup>
- An academic IPC education pathway is not always feasible for novice IPC professionals to acquire IPC competencies when commencing their role
- To meet this need, the New Zealand Infection Prevention and Control Nurses College (IPCNC) developed a short on-line IPC course – delivered free to NZNO IPCNC members since December 2020

## ACTIONS

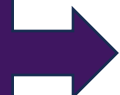
- The Fundamentals of Infection Prevention and Control Programme consists of 10 learning modules (slide 2)
- Students work through the self-directed workbooks over four months to receive their certificate
- Each cohort of six students are supported by an experienced IPC mentor
- Scheduled online meetings enable networking with peers



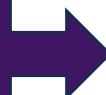
## RESULTS & CONCLUSIONS



8  
mentors



30  
cohorts



~180  
students

- Positive student feedback (slide 3)
- Low course drop-out rate
- Suitable for diverse healthcare settings
- Enables confidence and capability
- Sustainable model for ongoing success

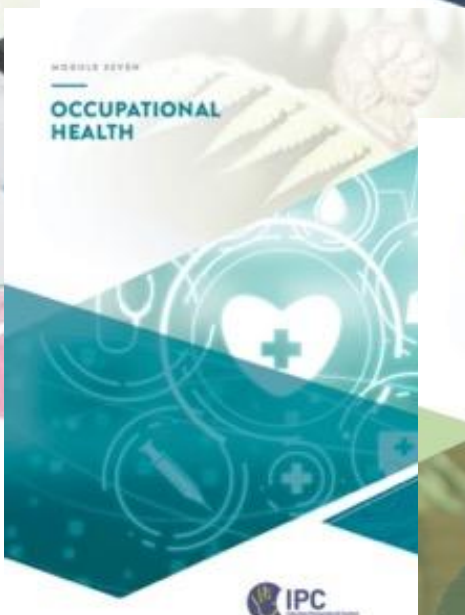
## REFERENCES

1. Minimum requirements for infection prevention and control. Geneva: World Health Organisation; 2019
2. NZS 8134:2021 Nga Paerewa Health and Disability Services Standard



- The authors have no conflicts of interest to disclose.
- Thanks to all the mentors who make this programme possible
- Contact: Ruth Barratt, IPC Consultant, Vector Consulting at [ruth@vectorconsulting.co.nz](mailto:ruth@vectorconsulting.co.nz)

# Course Workbooks



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[www.infectioncontrol.co.nz](http://www.infectioncontrol.co.nz)  
secretary@ipcnc.co.nz

# Student Feedback

"Great course. Very well structured / scaffolded and excellent mentor support. I have certainly learnt the fundamentals of IPC."

## Types of healthcare facilities represented

- GP practice
- Private surgical hospital
- Public hospital
- Private surgical clinic
- Mental health NGO
- Aged residential care
- Hospice
- Assisted living
- Imaging and radiology
- Accident and emergency

"This programme is very helpful for me to understand the IPC concept especially when I just started my IPC role."

"The shared sessions were very useful and created opportunities for learning and networking."

"I would highly recommend this course to anyone starting out in an IPC role."



Programme student from GP practice on a visit to a local hospital CSSD

"The course was very appropriate and relevant to my role."



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