



*** The Christmas Edition ***

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Figure 1: Created with the help of Copilot

Hi everyone.

Well, that is another action-packed year almost over. It has, once again, been a demanding one from the IPC perspective, whether you have been dealing with pertussis, measles, VRE or another organism outbreak, they keep on coming. Thank you all for your hard work and dedication throughout the year.

I hope everyone has enjoyed the *Infection Controlla* editions this year. It has been a challenge to take over as Editor but fun to try my hand at something different. Thank you to everyone who has contributed to all the editions this year, it has made my job much easier.

On a lighter note, if you are looking for gifts for colleagues, you may find something interesting at [Best Infection Control Gifts & Ideas | Zazzle](#). Or if you need a bit of light-hearted reading, you could look at *Avoiding a crisis at Christmas: a systematic review of adverse health effects or 'Chrishaps' caused by traditional hazard sources and COVID-19*, at

<https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC9968586/> which found thirty-six published articles discussing the hazards of Christmas.

Wishing everyone a very Merry Christmas and pappy New Year.

Michelle Taylor - Publications

Your College Committee

NZNO Professional Nurse Adviser: Wendy Blair

Chair: Lisa Gilbert PH: 027 448 8339 chair@ipcnc.co.nz

Secretary: Vacant secretary@ipcnc.co.nz

Treasurer: Sue White sueterry.white@xtra.co.nz

Membership Coordinator: Anne Hutley membership@ipcnc.co.nz

Publications: Michelle Taylor publications@ipcnc.co.nz

Education: Angie Foster educaron@ipcnc.co.nz

Webmaster: Ruth Barratt webaster@ipcnc.co.nz

Chairperson Report

Another year is just about to close and it's a good time to review what has been accomplished and look forward to what is to come.

Highs:

- The committee completed a deep dive into the fundamentals programme and this was discussed at the AGM
- We have promoted research activities,
- We have voiced our concern about the regulatory frameworks impact on nursing
- Provided PDRP examples for Nursing councils updated scope of practice.

Lows:

- Infection services network as a clinical network has now changed into specific workstreams under a strategic committee so the multidisciplinary group no longer has its own entity.
- Toi Ohomai has decided to pause registrations for its post graduate courses in infection prevention and control. This means the only IPC specialty masters programme for NZ is via Griffith university in Australia.

Next year:

- Looking forward to the conference and being together to network with new and old colleagues.

I also want to take the opportunity to thank my committee members (past and present) for their mahi, their time and their support for the college. I also want to acknowledge Wendy Blair our Professional Nurse Advisor who is a font of knowledge and a wonderful listening ear.

It goes without saying that each and everyone of you make the College an inviting space. Thank you for your dedication to the safety and wellness of the patients, whanau, visitors and staff in your facilities.

Lisa Gilbert IPCNC Chair

Secretary Report

It is with mixed emotions that I have resigned as secretary from the IPCNC committee with effect from 5th December (the day of our final Committee meeting for the year). Some of you may be aware that I have accepted an IPC position in Melbourne, Australia from January 2026. Although the move will not be long term and my husband and I plan to come back to New Zealand, I will no longer be able to continue in my committee role. I have thoroughly enjoyed my time as a member of the national committee and wish them and the wider membership, the very best for 2026.

Jane Barnett - Secretary

Membership Report

Hi from the membership coordinator.

I am updating the IPCNC membership data base, if you have moved region or no longer want to be an IPCNC member can you please let me know.

I also work with the IPCNC regional representatives, you may have received an email from them introducing themselves. Don't forget to check out who your regional representative is on the IPCNC website. You will find them under the "about IPCNC tab" then under regions. Here too under the regions tab, if you click on your region, you will find some regional study day for next year have already been planned. Thank you to the regional coordinators.

I would like to wish you all a happy holiday season and a very peaceful New Year.




Figure 2: Created with the help of Co pilot

Anne Hutley - Membership Coordinator



Education Report



IPCNC Education Fund

Funding Awarded- August 2025 Round

The IPCNC is pleased to announce that there were 4 recipients of the August 2025 Education Funding Round.

Congratulations to those awarded funding for IPC related education development. In total, the recipients received \$4,488 in funding to support their ongoing education and professional development in infection prevention and control.


In addition, another applicant received financial support to volunteer with Mercy Ships, where she contributed her IPC expertise and will provide feedback on her experience in a future edition of *The Controlla*.

As a reminder, all recipients are required to submit a brief written report to *The Controlla* within three months of completing their approved study or conference activity.

Next Funding Round – Closing 1st April 2026

Members planning to apply for IPCNC conference funding are strongly encouraged to submit their applications for the 1 April 2026 round, as the August round will be too late to fund conference participation.

If you wish to apply, the application form can be found at infectioncontrol.co.nz



Angie Foster - Education Coordinator

Website Update



Have you visited our own website recently? www.infectioncontrol.co.nz. Lots of work has been going on in the background to make the site more user friendly for our members and others. Many of our resources are now available for anyone accessing the site but the document library and other pages are restricted to members who have logged in.

If you click on the 'Professional Development' tab there is a choice of multiple pages containing information and resources for IPC education and professional development (see screenshot below).



- There is now a News page which will be used for IPCNC notices and other important IPC-related news. The News page is located as a dropdown choice when you click on the 'About Us' tab.
- Events also have a dedicated page and although some events will be displayed on the 'Home' page, there are more events listed in the 'All Events page'.
- We are also working on the Regional Representatives webpages to ensure they are functional and user-friendly.
- The IPCNC Library is a work in progress to try and make finding a document easier for you. A choice for 'Forms' has been added and the categorisation of many documents has been reviewed. You can search for a particular document by category or key word in the fields above the document list after you click on Members Documents or one of the other choices.
- Coming soon! A page for external links to useful resources, guidelines and standards

We want you to find our website useful. Please send any feedback or suggestions to the Website manager webmaster@ipcnc.co.nz. This includes any suggestions for new content, events and of course broken links.

Ruth Barratt – Website Manager

Historic Corner

The Evolution of Specialized Education for infection Prevention and Control Nurses in New Zealand

In the mid-1980s the then NZ Nurses Association (NZNA) encouraged the establishment of special interest groups within its membership of nurses practicing in New Zealand. Specialties such as Perioperative Nurses and Infection (Prevention and) Control Nurses were the first to become acknowledged by the NZNA and were encouraged to form networks that nurtured the exchange of information that would support changes in practice and standards of care. As a result of this, in 1986, the NZNA Infection (Prevention and) Control Nurses Special Interest Section hosted a one-week education workshop at Waiariki Institute of Technology (now Toi Ohomai) School of Health Studies, in Rotorua. Attendees came from throughout New Zealand and the enthusiasm and interest to pursue specialist IPC education was born!

In 1993 it became evident that education workshops did not hold any academic credit. At that time the NZQA under the Ministry of Education had been set up to monitor and standardize curricula and set clear credit allocations to each qualification. It also became evident that there was no formal IPC education with recognised credits being offered through an academic institution in New Zealand. Waiariki contracted recognised IPC experts to write these specialist papers and the first certificate qualifications were rolled out.

Extramural education for IPC was heavily favoured so that participants could enroll from anywhere in the country and pursue completion of papers, and attend 2 day on campus sessions. As the years progressed (through the 2000s) specific post graduate papers bespoke to IPC and with in depth content were developed. These papers were reviewed annually and audited internally and externally by the NZQA. A Post Graduate Certificate and then Post Graduate Diploma and Masters were developed and became part of a Masters In Applied Professional Studies suit offered through Toi Ohomai. The first Masters in IPC graduate in 2017 was from the private surgical sector. Since that time there have been a further 8 graduates with 4 pending to complete their Masters degree by the end of 2026.

Since the mid1990s approximately one thousand students have completed one of the many qualifications in IPC that were offered through ToiOhomai Institute of Technology

Many of these past students have continued in the specialty of infection prevention and control and a good number now hold important positions in both the private and public health sectors. Still others have filled consulting roles for the Ministry of Health and other advisory groups.



Figure 3: Created with the help of Co pilot

Sadly, although the qualification has been offered for 33 years and is the only qualification of its kind in New Zealand, this has had no impact on the decision by ToiOhomai to discontinue the qualifications. It appears that smaller student numbers renders the delivery of the course as not viable in the current brutal economic education cuts.

For the past 33 years the commitment of a select few IPC subject matter experts as qualified educators for post graduate IPC education has enabled validation and credibility of this programme of learning..



Figure 4: Created with the help of Co pilot

On behalf of those colleagues who always stood beside us we are sincerely grateful.

Thank you!

Kia kaha.

Francie Morgan and Elsie Truter
JPCN Senior Lecturers
Toi Ohomai Institute of Technology - Rotorua

Fundamentals of IPC Programme Update

As many of you will know, in October, our lovely Joanne Baigent has stepped out of the role as the Co Ordinator of this programme. Sincere and abundant thanks to Jo for her tireless work and looking after both mentees and mentors! Thank you Jo !! We wish you all the very best in your next chapter!

I am excited to be picking up from where Jo left off. I have had the handover and am now feeling more confident with the tasks ahead.

Historically the Fundamentals programme was a free programme. The programme is now a user pay programme and the fee structure commenced on November 1st. The fees are \$600 for NZNO and College members and \$800 for non NZNO and others.

The programme content is spread amongst 9 modules (11 workbooks) and each applicant is placed into a cohort of 6 and allocated one mentor per cohort. It takes between 4 – 6 months to complete the programme and upon completion the applicant receives a Certificate of Achievement that equates to 60 PD hours.

If you visit our [College website](#) you can find further details or you may like to contact me directly with any queries.

E: ipcnella@outlook.com

Congratulations to Our Fundamentals

Completions for 2025

Jinky Aliling	IPC Link	Brightside Hospital Auckland
Amandeep Kaur	IPC Link	Southern Cross Rotorua Hospital
Shane McRae	IPC RN	Anglesea Hospital Hamilton
Roshika Devkota	IPC Nurse	Wesley Home and Care Auckland
Philippa Wilson	Manager	Ranui Enliven Care Home Alexandra
Tania Roxburgh	IPC RN	Clutha Health First Rural Hospital
Sharon Quayle	IPC Rep	Southern Cross Hospital Christchurch
Stacey Shailer	Theatre Coordinator	Bridgewater Day Surgery Hamilton
Cassandra Naidoo		Aria Gardens Dementia and Rest Home, Albany Auckland
Aaron Piano	IPC Coordinator	Auckland PHO
Roshin Alice Varughese	IPC Link	Middlemore Te Whatu Ora Auckland
Melissa Clulow	RN	Atawhai Assisi Home and Hospital Hamilton
Michaeli Reyes	IPC Nurse	Ara Poutame Aotearoa Waikeria Prison Te Awamutu
Shannon Castell	Anaesthetic Technician	Palmerston North Mid Central Te Whatu Ora
Marco Maglinte	IPC Nurse	Ara Poutame Aotearoa Waikeria Prison Te Awamutu
Loraine Gonzales	IPC Nurse	Puriri Court Life Care Rest Home Whangarei
Abbie Mayoss	IPC RN	Metlife Care Whangarei

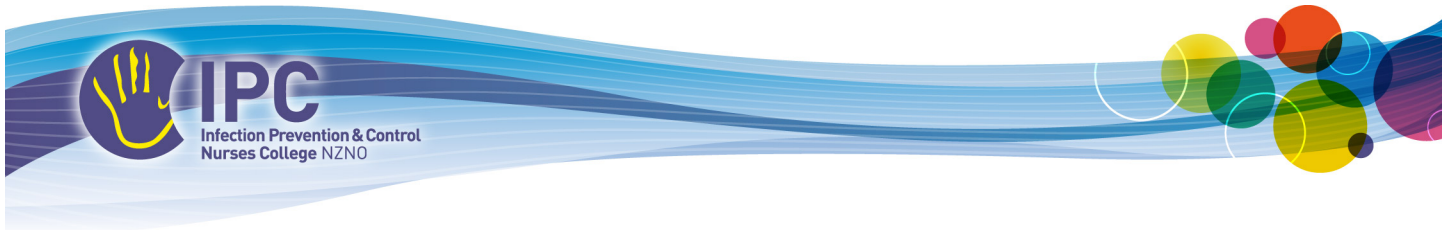
Well done to everyone who completed their Fundamentals of IPC Programme during Feb – Nov 2025!

Sincere thanks to our mentors for guiding these mentees on their learning journey!

Francie Morgan – Fundamentals Co Ordinator



Figure 5: Created with the help of Co pilot



Conference Reports

One year on from IPC conference & six months back from maternity leave!

I was lucky enough to attend the conference on a T&E scholarship during my maternity leave in 2024. Reflecting on my first six months back at work after having my beautiful little boy and with the mention of the 2026 conference reminding me to complete my feedback I thought there was no time like the present!

I really enjoyed the conference as a whole. I acknowledge that showing up with a small baby created a bit of excitement, but everyone was so kind and welcoming. Many talks sparked my interest. I particularly enjoyed the presentation on the rodent infestation at the National Referral Hospital. The team really engaged the audience, and it reminded me that some of the challenges we consider stressful in IPC in New Zealand are nothing in comparison!

ESR's presentation was also very engaging, as it was fascinating to hear how they work and the ins and outs of their organisation. I loved the talks on airborne particles, especially the slides comparing particle sizes to mammals. It was a great visual representation. One point that really stuck with me was how simply opening a window can impact airborne transmission. For many of us working in older hospital buildings, that's a much more achievable solution than retrofitting an air filtration system!

I also really enjoyed the session on cleaning. It's interesting how, as IPC CNSs, we sometimes take for granted what we see as "standard" practices, yet these can make or break hospital processes depending on the education staff receive and their understanding of why and how we clean in specific ways. At our hospital, we constantly face challenges around cleaning requirements especially with older buildings, new and emerging diseases, antimicrobial stewardship, and winter pressures not to mention our new hospital building that is still underway. The concepts from this session have been on my mind a lot this winter, with high patient turnover and the push for patient flow. Simple principles such as increasing cleaning during high turnover, removing clutter, and remembering that "you cannot clean a broken surface" have been really valuable reminders. Being able to refer back to these basics has helped our service push things further across the line and achieve better outcomes overall.

All in all, the conference was a fabulous way to keep my toe in the IPC pool while I was still in my baby bubble, and it definitely renewed my confidence and drive to return to work after maternity leave. Thank you again to the College for providing such generous T&E scholarships to members. I'm already looking forward to attending Wellington in 2026, and I encourage anyone who's on the fence to apply for T&E funding and come along—it's great fun!

Aleisha Taylor – Taranaki

Latest Publications

JOURNAL OF INFECTION PREVENTION VOLUME: 26, NUMBER: 6 (NOVEMBER 2025)

Original Articles

- Can ward rounds be used by infection prevention control teams to deliver education and enhance knowledge to clinical staff - Helen Dunn, Paul Blackburn and Elaine Cloutman-Green
- Reduction of C. difficile-associated disease using a multifaceted approach - Numair Damani, Ruth Montgomery, Stephen Wallace, Angel Boulos, Lynsey Patterson and Nizam Damani
- Improving environmental cleanliness of a paediatric intensive care unit (PICU): Successful co-creation of a targeted, bespoke educational intervention - Suzy Clare Moody

Review

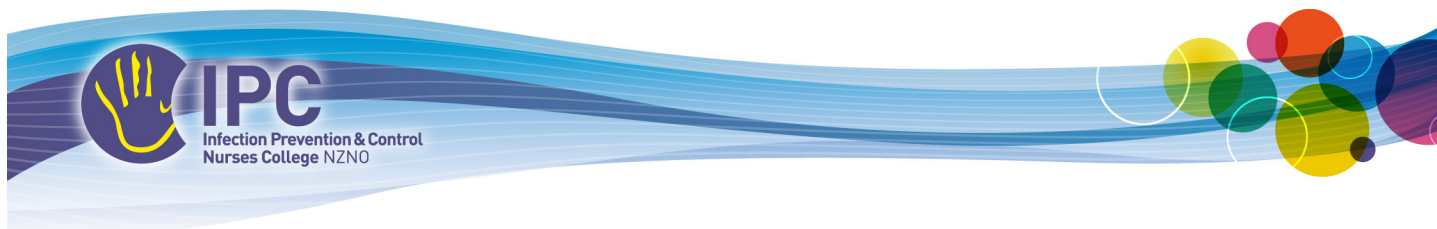
- D-Mannose for prevention of recurrent urinary tract infection in adult women: An updated systematic review and meta-analysis of randomized controlled trials - Mrinal Murali Krishna, Meghna Joseph, Vinicius Pereira, Afshan Nizami, Chidubem Ezenna and Lal Sadasivan Sreemathy

Travel and Education Funding



Figure 6: Created with the help of Co pilot

The next round of Travel and Education Funding applications close on 1 April 2026. The application form is available on the IPCNC website at <https://infectioncontrol.co.nz/home/professional-development/ipcnc-scholarship-and-awards/> Get in early if you want funding for the 2026 IPCNC Conference.



Health New Zealand IPC Team Update

During the year, a national Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) team has been strengthened within Health NZ | Te Whatu Ora. The IPC team sits within the Quality and Patient Safety unit of Health NZ and supports the National IPC and Antimicrobial Stewardship Committee (NIPCAMS). The NIPCAMS committee is made up of a multidisciplinary group of Health NZ staff in both district and national roles. The group meets monthly and provides governance for the IPC programme.

The three IPC surveillance and quality improvement programmes have moved over from HQSC including the Surgical Site Infection Improvement programme (SSIIP), the Healthcare-acquired Staphylococcus aureus programme (HA-SAB) and the Hand Hygiene programme. These programmes were successfully transitioned in July and the latest results are now available internally on the Health NZ Intranet, Te Haerenga. The IPC Team has also developed a workplan for July 2025 - June 2026 and has begun working through the actions and objectives. Improvement of data and surveillance will be core to the teams work over the next few years, as will embedding governance and developing nationally consistent policies and training.

Additionally, the working groups of the Infection Services Network have moved within the remit of the National IPC team and NIPCAMS Committee, as the Infection Services Network has been closed.

The National IPC team consists of:

- Dr Michelle Balm - IPC National Lead Medical
- Carolyn Clissold - IPC National Lead Nursing
- Molly Kallesen - Programme Manager
- Claudia Moroni - Team Administrator
- Sue Atkins - IPC Clinical Principal Advisor, Nursing
- Michelle Taylor - IPC Nurse Specialist

Resources developed by the team are externally available through [Infection prevention and control – Health New Zealand | Te Whatu Ora](#) or by searching for IPC on the HNZ website (www.teawhatauora.govt.nz). Resources include guidance on the hand hygiene and health care acquired infection programmes; as well as information on Avian flu, Covid-19, Acute Respiratory Infection (ARI), *Candida auris*, Mpox, Norovirus, and VRE, as well as standard and transmission-based precautions. We are also involved in the development of Measles and other Public Health infectious organisms' webpages.

There is also an internal website that can be accessed by Health NZ staff. Within Te Haerenga, click on *Business Units* and choose *Clinical Leadership*. *Infection Prevention and Control* is one of the Quick Links halfway down the page. The website is a work in progress, but we welcome any feedback. We can also be reached by emailing IPC@tewhatauora.govt.nz.

The team wishes everyone a relaxed and Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Michelle Taylor – National Infection Prevention and Control Team

New Zealand IPCNC Conference 2026

Lights, Camera, Prevention!



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

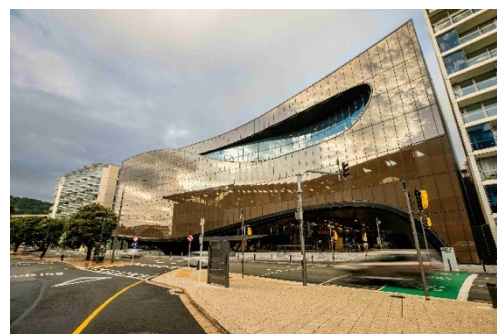
The Infection Prevention Control Nurses College of New Zealand is hosting its biennial conference in Wellington, in August 2026.

<https://www.ipcncconference.nz/>

Abstracts submissions are open until April.

IPCNC warmly invites you to present your IPC innovation, in oral or poster format.

<https://www.ipcncconference.nz/call-for-abstracts.html>



Registration opens in March 2026.

Keynote Speakers

Belinda Henderson has over 25 years' experience as an Infection Control Professional and is a Past President of the Australasian College for Infection Prevention and Control (ACIPC). She is the Chief Nurse for infection prevention and control for the Queensland Department of Health and leads the Queensland infection prevention and control program. Belinda provides clinical expertise on many National and International groups. She is the focal point for the WHO's Global Outbreak Alert and Response Network for Queensland. Her qualifications include a Masters of Advanced Health Practice in Infection Control, she holds Expert level credentialling and is a Fellow of the Australasian College for Infection Prevention and Control.





Jincy Jerry is the Director of Infection Prevention and Control at NHS Ayrshire and Arran, Scotland. She has expertise in clinical disinfection, decontamination, surveillance, outbreak management, and healthcare ventilation. She is known for her leadership in infection control and innovation, including pioneering the use of Robotic Process Automation in healthcare. Her work has earned multiple awards, including the ICPIIC Innovation Academy Awards in 2021 and 2023, Bright Spark award in 2022 and Hospital Manager of the Year Award in 2020. Out of more than 52,000 candidates from around the world, Jincy was chosen as a Top 10 Finalist for the Aster Guardians Global Nursing Award in 2023.

International Educational Opportunities

APIC 2026 – Nashville, 15-17 June 2026,
<https://annual.apic.org/>

22nd World Congress on Infection Prevention and Control - Madrid, Spain, 05-06 October, 2026
<https://infectionprevention.insightconferences.com/>

Infection Prevention and Control 2026 – Birmingham 28-29 April 2026
[Infection Prevention & Control Conference 2026 | National Event for IPC Leaders](#)

44th Annual Meeting of the European Society for Paediatric Infectious Diseases (ESPID 2026), 1-5 June 2026
Bologna & Online
<https://espidmeeting.org/>

Need More IPC Information?

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

And join our Facebook Page -

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

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year