

INNOVATION COMES OF AGE

THE ROAD TO BESPOKE POST GRADUATE EDUCATION FOR NEW ZEALAND IPC NURSES

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RGON GradCertNeonatN NZCIC MHealthPract – IPC PGDipProfEthics



This presentation has been solely prepared by the author for the IPCN College Conference, Wellington, New Zealand ,August 2026.

Generative AI statement

The author declares that Generative AI was not used in the creation of this work.



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CONFLICT OF INTEREST STATEMENT

I am not an employee of Toi Ohomai Institute. I have not received consulting fees for this original work.

TODAY'S PRESENTATION...

- **Explanation of the undergraduate, graduate and postgraduate terminology**
- **The professional identity paradox and IPC specialist post graduate training provision**
- **Overview of global provision of IPC post graduate training**
- **Milestones of the NZ IPC post graduate education journey**
- **Course papers**
- **Highs and Lows**
- **Special acknowledgements**

THE PASSION!

- **Credibility and confidence amongst peers and colleagues**
- **‘Raising the bar’**



THE 'GRADUATE' CONUNDRUM

UNDERGRADUATE

Studying for a first higher education qualification after completion of college

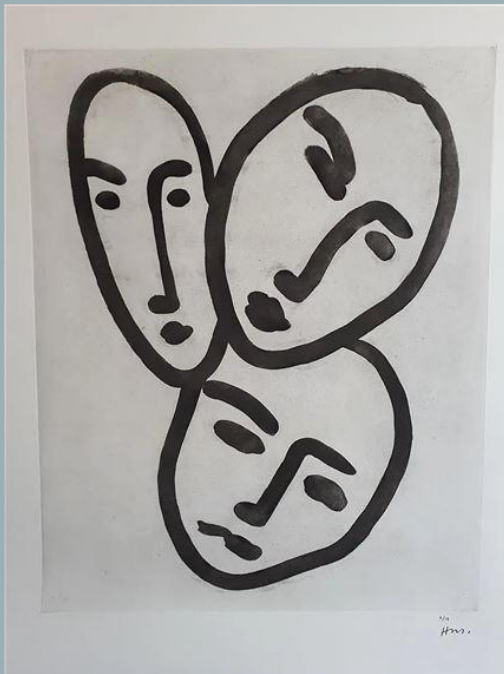
- Bachelor of Arts (BA)
- Bachelor of Science (BSc)
- Bachelor of Nursing (BN BNurs BHSc(Nursing))

POSTGRADUATE

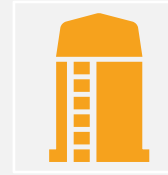
- **Postgraduate diplomas or certificates:** Shorter programs that build specific job skills without requiring a full master's track. [[1](#), [2](#), [3](#)]
- **Master's degrees:** Advanced coursework and research degrees like an MA, MSc, or MBA taking 1 to 2 years.
- **Doctoral degrees (PhDs):** The highest level of academic study focused on original research and a dissertation.

PROFESSIONAL IDENTITY PARADOX

(CAO ET AL 2026)



Matisse 1951



**The problem is
structural.**



**Beyond “certificate”
programmes to
formalizing IP as a
distinct academic
discipline**



**Academic
integration**



**Interdisciplinary
graduate
programmes (Public
Health, Nursing,
Laboratory Science)**

PROFESSIONALISATION OF THE IP ROLE

SCOPE OF TRAINING PROVISION FOR IPC PROFESSIONALS

- Even at the most novice level, the IP must have a rudimentary understanding of microbiology, disease transmission and public health interventions (Popescu, 2019)
- The IP is commonly a RN with specialist training to degree or masters level (Wilson & Loveday 2019)
- The Clinical Nurse Specialist (CNS) role complements other advanced nursing practice roles...CNS drive systemic-level changes, quality improvement, and nursing excellence (Winowiecki & Iseler (2025)
- Educational curricula for training IPC nurse specialists are rare in the world (Gorjian et al 2025)
- High-income countries (USA, UK and Japan) well defined competency frameworks and formal certification mechanisms have been established, underpinned by professional organisations and academic institutions. (Cao et al 2026)
- Middle to low-income countries, IP are often trained through inservice or *ad hoc* programmes typically lacking curricula or formal accreditation frameworks (Cao et al 2026)

IPC EDUCATION IN EUROPE



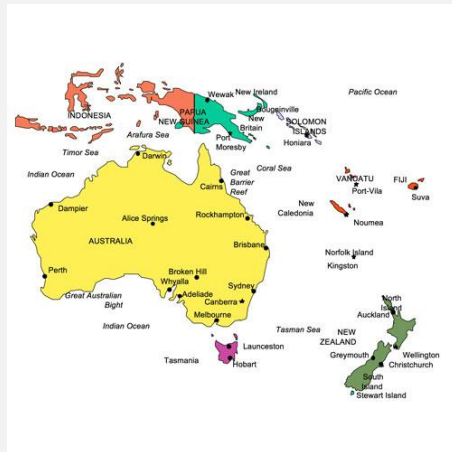
Education and training programmes for infection prevention and control professionals: mapping the current opportunities and local needs in European countries .Tsioutis et al, (2020)

	IPC Nurse profile	Training opportunities
Cyprus	Work experience	Link Nurse 60 hour training programme Masters IPC ✓
France	Advanced nursing practice	38 PG university degrees in IPC of 1-3 years
Germany	Certified nurse specialty 12 months training	40 hr course for link doctor or link nurse
Greece	Nurse degree and 5 years working experience	5 day training by Greek Society for Infection Control
Italy	Masters in IPC ✓	Short courses
Netherlands	RN or lab techs 38 lectures work experience 18 – 24months in an IPC dept. Submission of a thesis	Short courses for link nurses
Poland	RN 2 years work experience followed by 844hrs qualification programme	✓ Masters programme
Romania	Incorporated in to nursing training	CNE courses on IPC topics
Spain	Scores from RN training	Several PG courses in IPC and AMS Masters degree ✓
Switzerland	Certified nursing specialty 2 yr IPC training programme with exam and thesis	6 day training for link nurses

AUSTRALASIA/OCEANIA REGION

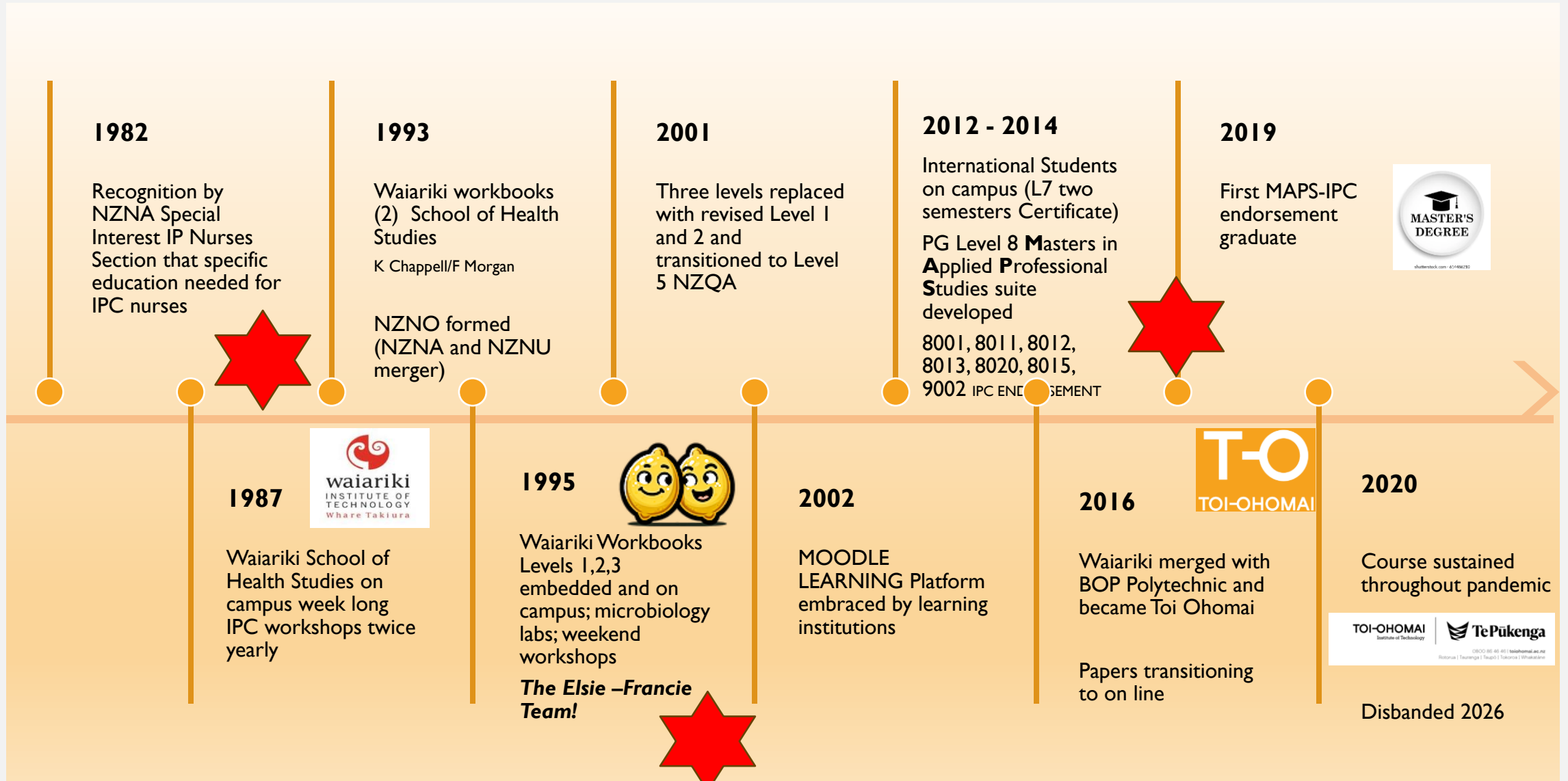
- **Australia**

- ACIPC Several courses and resources, credentialing for members
- Masters in Health Practice -Griffith University



- **New Zealand**

- IPCNC Fundamentals Programme and resources
- IPCNC Knowledge and Skills Framework
- PG Cert, Dip and Masters (MAPS-IPC) Toi Ohomai Institute
- PG DipHealthScience(Nursing) UoOtago





ELSIE TRUTER RN GradDipPeriOp NZDipIPC BA(1) BAHons (2) MA

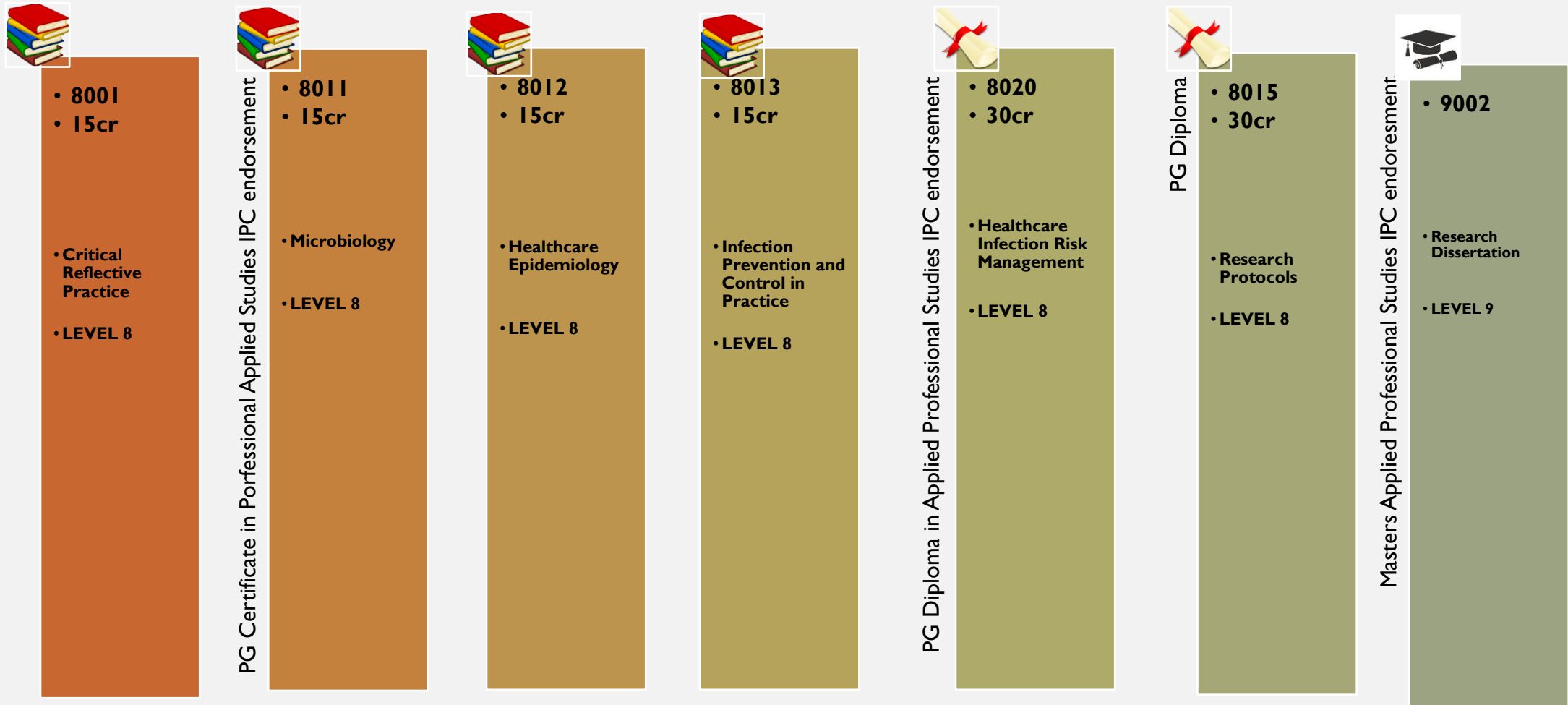


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THE ACADEMIC TEAM

Post Graduate Certificate–Diploma-Masters in Applied Professional Studies-endorsement in Infection Prevention and Control



NZQA ACCREDITED

ACADEMIC RIGOUR

Entry: Student must have been working in the clinical setting for 6 – 12 months minimum

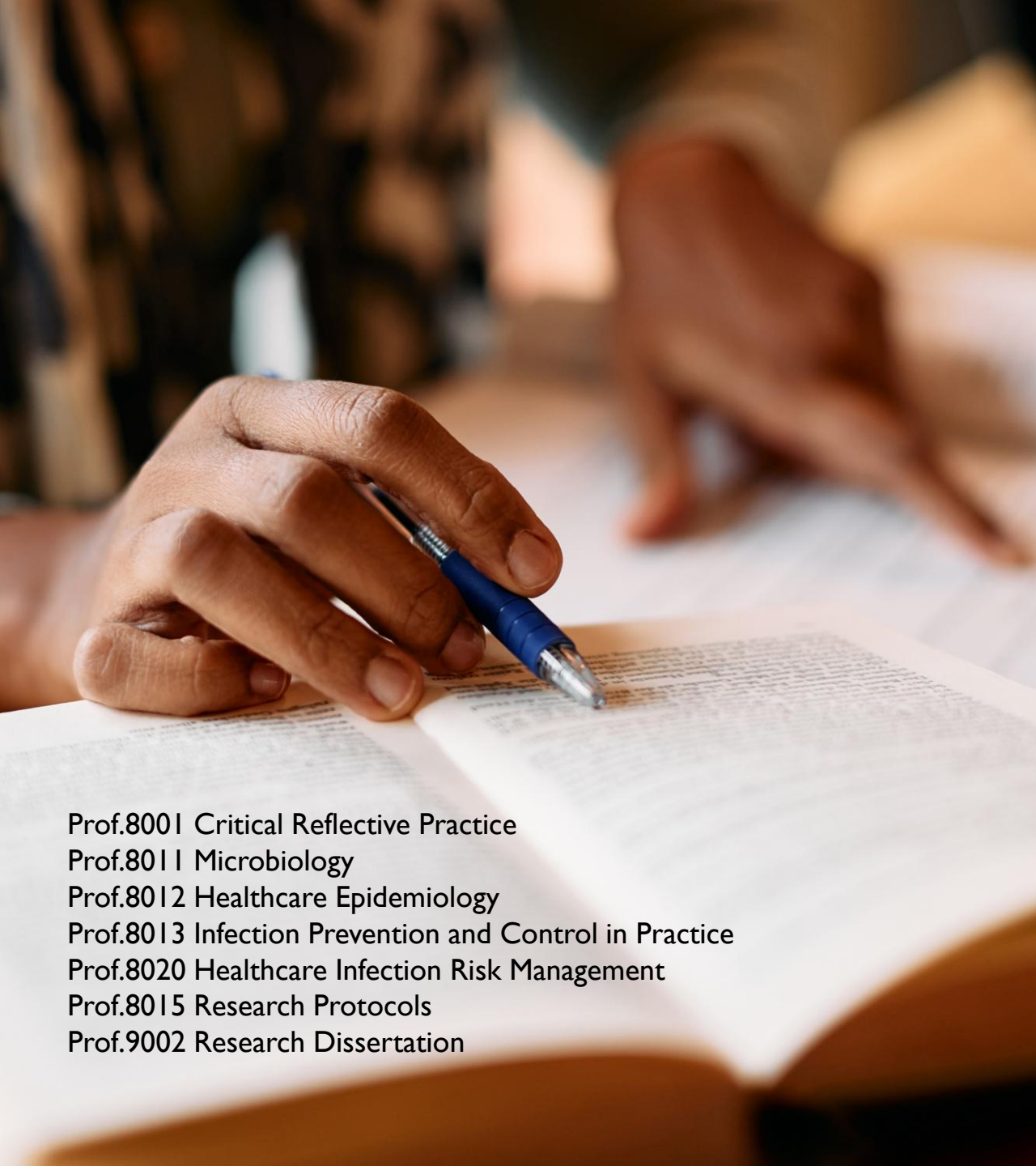
AND

Novice IPC – need to provide evidence of a lead IPC support

ASSESSMENT topics are linked strongly to workplace experiences.

All course content is annually reviewed and annually internally and externally moderated.

Each paper has structured course outcomes that are approved by the Academic Board



Prof.8001 Critical Reflective Practice
Prof.8011 Microbiology
Prof.8012 Healthcare Epidemiology
Prof.8013 Infection Prevention and Control in Practice
Prof.8020 Healthcare Infection Risk Management
Prof.8015 Research Protocols
Prof.9002 Research Dissertation

The background image shows a modern, two-story building with a green facade and large glass windows. The interior lights are on, and the building is reflected in the water in the foreground. The sky is overcast and grey.

POST GRADUATE CERTIFICATE DIPLOMA AND MASTERS IN APPLIED PROFESSIONAL STUDIES – IPC ENDORSEMENT

No other nurse specialty in New Zealand has a post graduate bespoke education pathway with all papers dedicated to ALL aspects of the specialty

The uniqueness of this PG qualification is that it offers the student, through assessments and grading, at NZQA Level 8 (and 9) the opportunity to demonstrate, using academic writing requirements, HOW they can apply their learning into their practice.

DIGITAL EDUCATION

- **‘Teaching Through Your Fingertips’ (Biedermann & Ahern 2023)**
Australian online post graduate educators
- **Pre COVID** increasing online enrollments for **PG Nursing and Midwifery**
- **Offers the solution to resource constraints for both the student and the education provider**
- **Infrastructure to support on line platforms and student interaction is still required with all the NZQA assessment criteria and learning outcomes in place.**
- **Acceptance of digital learning is now the norm**
- **The MAPS-IPC endorsement is fully on line**

highs
&
lows




HIGHS	LOWS
THE STUDENTS >900	ACADEMIC VIABILITY
THE GRADUATES >900 THE MASTERS GRADUATES >13	RESTRUCTURES
NZQA APPROVED	
FULLY OPERATIONAL DURING PANDEMIC	
ON LINE TRANSITION LOYAL SUPPORTERS	

FUTURE

Digital learning will continue to expand with greater capabilities.

Mode of learning will “fit in with my life, earn while I learn” – flexi, part time, even more so.

TEAMS/ZOOM modalities will offer more capability.

As the IP Profession becomes stronger as an interdisciplinary specialty the student pool enrolling in IPC post graduate education will grow.





SUMMARY

Specific training for the IP professional delivered at post graduate level is evident globally. The New Zealand PG Cert –Dip-Masters IPC training programme is the only programme of its kind in New Zealand operating since 2014. It is fully NZQA accredited.

Since 1985 >900 graduates have undertaken this study and since 2019 there are now 13 MAPS-IPC Masters graduates.

The results speak for themselves!



OUR JOURNEY

- Past presenters from on-campus faculties
- Fellow IPC colleagues: Carol Jarvis, Terry Rings, Lynne Walker, Pat Mead, Julian Ketel
- Academic support staff
- Science lab campus technician – Margaret Rook
- Dr MaryLou McLaws Professor of Epidemiology NSW
- Dr Lorraine Wilson Lead author Victorian Cleaning Standards 2011
- Dr Rosemary Richards Dean of School
- Internal and external moderators

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

THANK YOU



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