

# Pacific Infection Prevention and Control Network Meeting

SPC/Health/PICNet1 (2023)

Information Paper N°4  
ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

2023 PACIFIC INFECTION PREVENTION AND CONTROL NETWORK MEETING  
24 – 26 May 2023, Nadi, Fiji

## Agenda Item N°2.2

### **FOUNDATIONS OF INFECTION PREVENTION AND CONTROL – INTERNATIONAL**

(Paper presented by Ms Jackie Miley, Australian College of Infection Prevention and Control (ACIPC))

1. The Australasian College of Infection Prevention and Control are delighted to launch a Foundations of Infection Prevention and Control Course – International. The course prepares healthcare professionals for advanced level practice in infection prevention and control, and is a key component in achieving the ACIPC Primary credential (CICP-P). The course provides students with an understanding of the role of the infection prevention and control practitioner, the application of audit, clinical governance and performance indicators in the workplace, as well as infection control frameworks and management plans. It enables students to gain knowledge and skills in the management and coordination of infection control programs, through advanced IPC knowledge, critical thinking, effective communication, teamwork, and stakeholder engagement.

#### **1. BACKGROUND**

2. ACIPC (The College) has been running this course since 2015, and experienced a large uptick in enrolments following the challenges in the Aged Care Setting in Australia. The College currently delivers about 20 Foundations of IPC courses at any one time. An experienced team of facilitators guide students through the self-paced fully online course. ACIPC has been running this course since 2015.

## **2. PROGRESS AND ACHIEVEMENTS**

3. The Foundations of Infection Prevention and Control - International Course includes 11 modules of learning, with recorded lectures, guided readings, and video resources for each module. There are recorded healthcare 'scenes' which highlight common poor IPC practice during care delivery. Further scenes demonstrate best practice, point by point. Students have the opportunity to comment in a moderated forum, and share insights and concerns. Linking theory to practice is considered an important course component. Course assessments test the student's knowledge and skill in this respect.

4. The principles of IPC are strongly linked to local, national and regional IPC Guidelines and literature. Students are expected to link their learning to their own setting, assessing IPC practice, and seeking best practice, evidence-based strategies for practice improvement. A course textbook will be provided.

5. A workbook will also be provided containing lecture slides, printed resources, and a course outline with deadline dates and reminders. This will enhance the online course but it not intended as a replacement. Quizzes, and discussion forums allow students to test their knowledge. The course is assessed by quiz, participation in discussions on key topics, and a written assignment.

## **3. CHALLENGES**

6. Teaching and learning in the course are approached from the perspective of adult learning, an active process that draws on a collaborative relationship between the Course Facilitator and the student. Students of this program, as adult learners, are recognized to bring a range of knowledge and skills to the learning environment.

7. The Course facilitator will contact students by email, and via announcements on the Course Announcements forum. The Course facilitator will also be available to answer students' individual questions via a Question and Answer forum, the 'message' feature within the course, and via email. Phone contact by arrangement.

8. Each module will require students to engage in active learning behaviours including literature search, review, critical analysis and investigation of clinical practice issues, and collaborative problem solving via the discussion forum and quizzes. Although each module is a discrete entity, the modules are interrelated and build upon each other. The course and teaching and learning approaches are designed to develop life-long learning strategies for critical thinking and the application of infection prevention and control theory and science to practice.

#### **4. FUTURE DIRECTIONS**

- Support IPC education for Pacific IPC focal points and other Healthcare workers
  - ACIPC's suite of courses include a Blood Borne Virus Testing Course, and a Short Course in IPC for Aged Care Settings.
  - A Veterinary FIPC Course is currently under construction – focusing on IPC in veterinary settings focussing on One Health concepts.
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