



IPCNC Chair's Report for the 2026 Annual General Meeting (AGM)

This year is an opportunity to look back of the last eight years as a member of the IPCNC national committee with the last four and half years as Chair.

At the risk of sounding cringy and cliché - the world, and IPC, have been experiencing an unprecedented time of change. We have lived through a global pandemic where the system and the individuals within that system were pushed to their limits. IPC was an everyday topic and everyone who had a platform thought they could be an expert.

Within NZ we have had seen fundamental changes to the Ngā Paerewa standards and the NZ public health structure. Then as the government changed the health priorities shifted.

Things the college has supported and advocated for our members including:

- Contributing to the discussion of how a Te Whatu Ora/ Health NZ structure and an IPC clinical network could look like.
- Providing examples to the Nursing Council with how an IPC practitioner could meet the new Pou.
- COVID response and contributing to the clinical guidelines.
- Post COVID, presenting the IPC practitioners experience at the Royal Commission of Inquiry into the COVID-19 pandemic and response (both phases), as well as the public hearing.
- Provided online education sessions for members, including topics such as
 - COVID ventilation update
 - Mercy Ships IPC nursing
 - Construction and renovation and
 - more planned in the future.
- Continued to fund and support conferences for members
- Provided speakers about the NZ IPC experience at Australian College of Infection Prevention and Control (ACIPC) and
- Had members provide input into many working groups and standards.

Within the college we have taken the time to deep dive into some of our processes to make sure they are sustainable and fit for purpose. Including the Fundamentals Programme, membership support through the regional coordinators and our training

and education fund. The member survey which will be discussed later will form the basis of the workplan for the coming year or so.

The next year, 2027 should see the realisation of two pieces of work that the team and I have been working on. One is the development of a MOU with ACIPC and the IPCNC to formalise our relationship and to provide a structure for consultation, sharing of information, research and education.

We are still working on this, but the second is to host a forum for IPC leads across the NZ health care system:

- Public
- Private Surgical
- Audit and Risk Committees
- Primary Care and
- other places where care is provided.

While there have been struggles to gain traction and change outcomes, I have always had the support of my team on the committee. I thank them for their advice, support and enthusiasm. My thanks and gratitude is extended to Wendy, our NZNO Professional Advisor. Her wise council has been appreciated.

I also want to acknowledge each of you, the members, for your feedback and your responsiveness each time the committee had a request of you.

As I end my term, I would encourage any member who is thinking about the next step in their career or who is interested in new experiences to put their hand up to represent the college when the opportunity arises. I can honestly say that IPCNC committee will support your goals for growth within a supportive and collegial environment.

Nga manaakitanga

Lisa Gilbert

Chair

Infection Prevention & Control Nurses College

Tōpūtanga Tapuhi Kaitiaki o Aotearoa: NZNO