

PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY QUESTION ON NOTICE

Department of Health

Senate Select Committee on COVID-19

Australian Government's response to the COVID-19 pandemic

Written question received 10 July 2020

PDR Number: IQ20-000398

Question subject: Infection Control Expert Group membership and experience

Question Type: Written

Senator: Jacqui Lambie

Question:

Can the Minister confirm that the Infection Control Expert Group (ICEG) has members that have specific experience or training in pandemic / epidemic infections as opposed to hospital infection only?

a. If so, which members have this experience or training?

Answer:

The Infection Control Expert Group (ICEG) provides expert advice to the Australian Health Protection Principal Committee (AHPPC) to support best practice related to infection prevention and control in the community, hospitals and other health care settings. The membership of ICEG consists of expert infection prevention and control practitioners, specialist microbiologists, and infectious diseases physicians. The membership also includes the current president of the faculty of occupational and environmental medicine in the Royal Australasia College of Physicians.

The collective membership of ICEG reflects health care practitioners with extensive experience in hospital practice, public health response to communicable diseases, health emergency management, biological safety and containment, and workplace health and safety. The membership of ICEG is drawn from across the states and territories to establish a national body of expertise.

Specialist microbiologists and infectious diseases physicians practice is not confined to hospital populations but also to community health care. Specialist microbiologists and infectious diseases physicians regularly work in the interface with public health authorities on communicable diseases.

The membership of the ICEG:

Professor (Practice) Alison McMillan – Co-Chair	RN, Critical Care Nursing Cert, BEd, MBA Chief Nursing and Midwifery Officer, Department of Health
Co-Chair	TBC
Professor Lyn Gilbert AO	MBBS, FRACP, FRCPA, MD, M. Bioethics, FASM Honorary Professor, University of Sydney; Westmead Clinical School; Marie Bashir Institute for Infectious Diseases & Biosecurity & Sydney Health Ethics; Consultant Emeritus, Infectious Diseases & Clinical Microbiology WSLHD. Past President - ASID ¹
Dr Gary Lum AM	BMedSc MBBS FRCPA FACTM FASM Principal Medical Advisor, Chief Medical Officer Group Specialist Microbiologist.
Professor Peter Collignon AM	MB,BS, BSc (Med), PhD, FRACP, FRCPA, FASM Chair, HAI Advisory Committee, ACSQHC; Infectious Diseases Physician & Microbiologist, ACT Pathology, Canberra Hospital; Professor, ANU Medical School
Kathy Dempsey	RN, DippApSc, BSc (Nursing), MNsc (Infection Control & Hospital Epidemiology); SHEA/CDC Cert Infection Control, Cert Med Micro, DipLdrshp&Mgt. CICIP-E. Senior Manager, HAI, Clinical Excellence Commission (NSW); Board Director ACIPC ²
Belinda C Henderson	RN, BN, IPN, MAdvanced Prac (Infection control), CICIP-E, FACIPC. Past President, ACIPC; Clinical Nurse Consultant; Infection Management Services - Infection Control Princess Alexandra Hospital, Brisbane
Dr Andrew Stewardson	MBBS MS(Epi) PhD FRACP Chair, Healthcare Infection Control Special Interest Group, ASID Infectious Diseases Physician, Department of Infectious Diseases, The Alfred Hospital and Monash University
A/Prof John Ferguson	FRACP, FRCPA, DTM&H (Liverpool) Director, Infection Prevention Service, Hunter New England Health Infectious Disease Physician and Microbiologist, John Hunter Hospital, Newcastle, NSW; Conjoint Associate Professor, University of Newcastle
Irene Wilkinson	BSc (Hons) MPH IPC consultant, Infection Control Service; Communicable Disease Control Branch; Department for Health and Wellbeing, Govt. of SA
Samantha Butenko	Nursing Director, Infection Control Service; Communicable Disease Control Branch; Department for Health and Wellbeing, Govt. of SA
Associate Professor Chris Blyth	MB BS, FRACP, FRCPA, PhD Paediatric Infectious Diseases Physician, Perth Children’s Hospital Clinical Microbiologist, PathWest Laboratory Medicine Associate Professor of Paediatrics, School of Medicine, University of Western Australia Co-director, Wesfarmers Centre of Vaccines and Infectious Diseases, Telethon Kids Institute
Rebecca McCann	RN BSc, Cert IP&C, Cert IV Training and Education Manager, Healthcare Associated Infection Unit, Communicable Disease Control Directorate, Public and Aboriginal Health Division, Department of Health Western Australia
Associate Professor Noleen Bennett	PhD, MPH, RN. Project Coordinator, Aged Care National Antimicrobial Prescribing Survey, National Centre for Antimicrobial Stewardship IPC consultant, Victorian Healthcare Associated Infection Surveillance System Coordinating Centre

¹ Australasian Society for Infectious Diseases

² Australasian College of Infection Prevention and Control

Professor Malcolm Sim AM

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Director, Centre for Occupational and Environmental Health, School of Public Health and Preventive Medicine, Monash University.
President, Australasian Faculty of Occupational and Environmental Medicine, Royal Australasian College of Physicians