



University of the
Sunshine Coast
Australia

Geographical narcissism and infection prevention and control

Dr Matt Mason

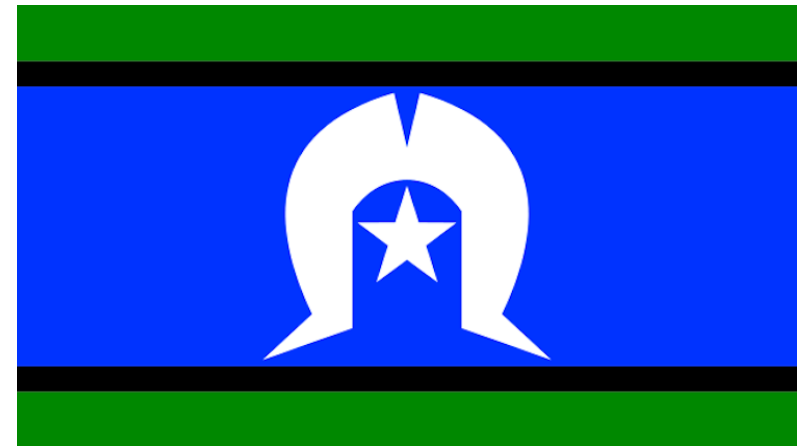
School of Health, Sippy Downs, Queensland, 4556, mmason1@usc.edu.au

Acknowledgement of Country

I acknowledge the traditional custodians of the land on which I live and work, the Gubbi Gubbi/Kabbi Kabbi whose sovereignty was never ceded. I acknowledge their leaders, past, present and future. I acknowledge the sorrow of the Stolen Generations and the continuing pride, strength and resilience of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People's.

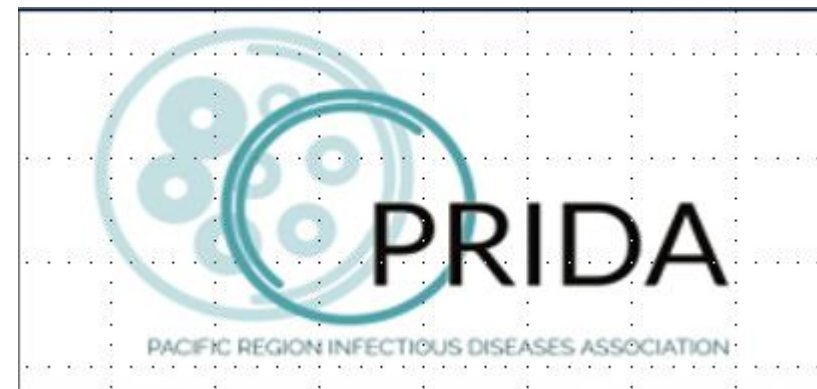
Always Was, Always Will Be

- Adapted from Jason Rostant 2018



Disclosures

- Australasian College for Infection Prevention and Control (ACIPC)
Research, Grants, and Scholarships Committee Member
- Australian Centre for Pacific Islands Research (ACPIR)
Core Researcher
- Pacific Region Infectious Diseases Association (ACIPC)
Executive Member
- Collaborative for the Advancement of Infection Prevention and Control
Co-Director
- Mass Gathering Collaboration
Strategic Advisory Network Member
- Global Outbreak Alert and Response Network (GOARN) World Health Organization (WHO)
Technical Adviser



Geographical Narcissism

- A concept articulated by Associate Professor Malin Fors
- Stems from her work in Psychology
- Malin suggests that geographical prejudices exist along a spectrum: urban to rural to remote
- Clearly this has similarities in rural medicine, philosophy, mental health, and planetary health, and of course IPC

Geographical Narcissism

- How does this present in IPC?
- Where do our guidelines come from?
- Where is our research undertaken?
- Who funds, undertakes, and publishes our research?

The “top 10” scientific articles influencing our IPC practice over the past year

🕒 October 20, 2023 👤 Jon Otter (@jonotter) 📁 Conferences 🔖 amr, COVID-19, CPE, epidemiology, HCAI, MDRO, plasmid, surface contamination, top 10, VRE, water-free care

- All are authored by HCWs/researchers in large metropolitan centres
- There are some authors in 3 papers that could be argued are regional, but in high income countries
- None discuss the possible implications for their results outside of their setting, one acknowledges this as possible limitation

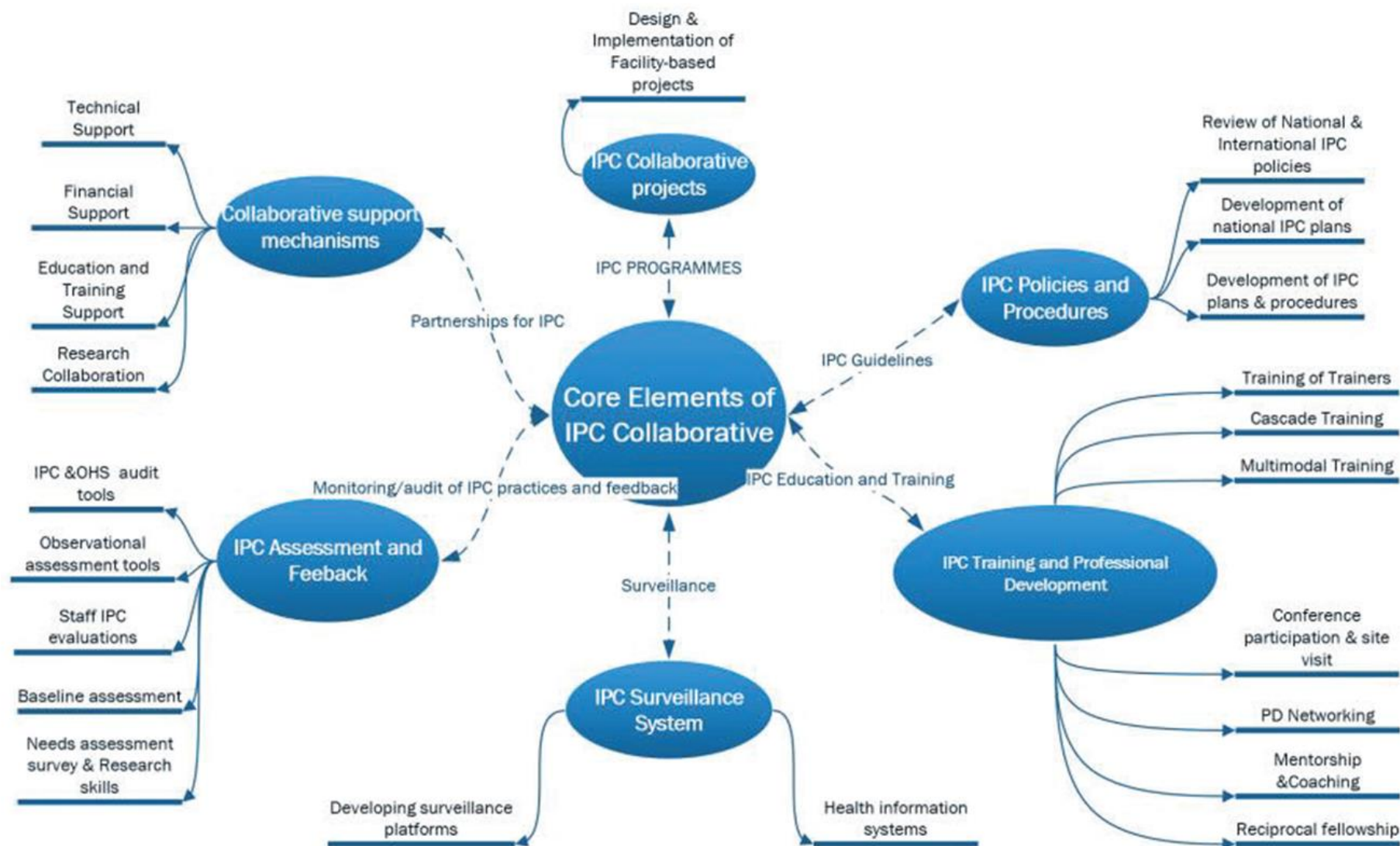
RURAL QUARANTINE NEEDS RURAL LEADERSHIP

- Hard to argue however:
- Many IPC guidelines, P&P, SOPs etc. are set centrally
- Do IPC teams have the remit to modify these?

IPC Saviourship and Geopolitics

- IPC is small world despite the overarching nature of our work
- We all want to help each other and support improvements in our field
- We have to recognise our reasons for working with others and consider are we actually helping....

Collaborative support framework



Where can we improve?

- Using another concept from A/Prof Fors, Potato Ethics
- A Swedish metaphor: *“being a potato” compares human activity to being a humble side dish: general, useful, and versatile—cooperating in the service of whatever is necessary and actively learning whatever is needed to do so.*
- For those of us in urban/high income areas this means we need to be adaptable and useful

Where can we improve?

- For those of us not in the urban/high income areas agitate for change
- For those in the urban/high income areas support the agitation and truly collaborate
- For those producing research to guide IPC practices consider implications outside of your setting

Summary

- Geographic narcissism exists, recognise the impacts of this on your work and you
- True collaboration can work, it can be more difficult but ultimately the outcomes will matter more
- Be a potato (a Swedish one)

References

- Adams, F., Zimmerman, P., Sparke, V., & Mason, M. (2023), Towards a Framework for Collaborative Support Models to Assist Infection Prevention and Control Programmes in Low- and Middle- Income Countries: A scoping review. *International Journal of Infection Control*, 19.
- Fors, M. (2018). Geographical narcissism in psychotherapy: Countermapping urban assumptions about power, space, and time. *Psychoanalytic Psychology*, 35(4), 446.
- Fors, M. (2023). Potato ethics: What rural communities can teach us about healthcare. *Journal of Bioethical Inquiry*, 1-13.
- Fors, M. (2021). Power Issues in Psychotherapy: Reflections on psychoanalytic theory and clinical cases.
- Giuseppin, M. (2021). Rural quarantine needs rural leadership. *TheNSW Doctor*, 13(2), 22-22.
- Otter, J. (2023). The “top 10” scientific articles influencing our IPC practice over the past year. <https://reflectionsipc.com/2023/10/20/the-top-10-scientific-articles-influencing-our-ipc-practice-over-the-past-year/>