

‘Bare Below the Elbows’ campaign for a private health organisation in Australia

Kerrie Taylor
Infection Prevention Clinical Nurse Consultant

Conflicts

No conflicts of interest to declare

Background

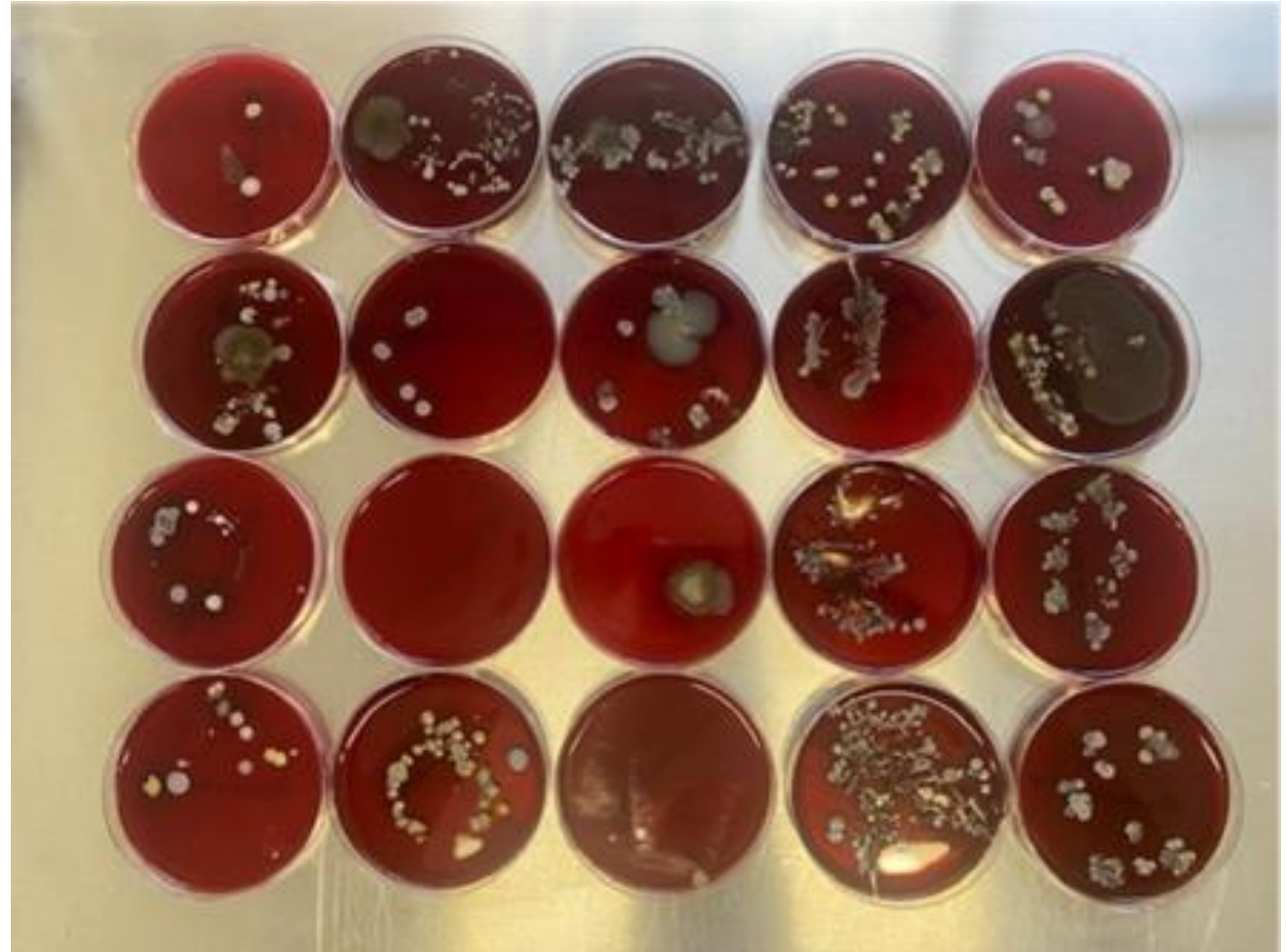
Poor compliance observed during accreditation

Corporate uniform policy reviewed and updated

National bare below the elbows campaign

Method

- ▶ **S.M.A.R.T**
- ▶ Audit tool
- ▶ Factsheet for staff
- ▶ Poster of compliance
- ▶ Fast 5 education



Results



Audit Observations	Dec '23	Mar '24	Jun-Aug '24
Sleeves worn above elbows	94%	93%	96%
Forearms free of jewellery/adornments	48%	59%	71%
Hands free of jewellery/adornments	68%	77%	87%
Nails natural, short and unvarnished	87%	94%	94%
Skin intact or covered appropriately	100%	100%	100%
HCW referred to staff health	N/A	N/A	N/A
Total compliance percentage	80%	85%	90%

Conclusion

Lead by
example

Be present
& available

Educate &
feedback

Transparent
audit results

***Empower
Influencers***

References & Resources

- ▶ Australian Guidelines for the Prevention and Control of Infection in Healthcare, 2019
- ▶ Australian Infection Control Association, 2011
- ▶ Clinical Excellence Commission, Infection Prevention and Control Practice Handbook, Version 3 - January 2020
- ▶ Healthcare Infection Control Management Resources (HICMR)
- ▶ Healthcare Uniform Policy and Procedure – 4.30
- ▶ Hunter New England Health Local Health District
- ▶ International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health, 2023
- ▶ NSW Health Code of Conduct PD 2015_049
- ▶ NSW Health Infection Prevention and Control in Healthcare Settings PD 2023-025