

Infection prevention and control in ambulance services.

New service, new challenges.

Nil disclosures or conflicts of interest



Acknowledgement of country

An overview

- My background
- A brief history
- IPC priorities in ambulance
- Pandemic challenges and growth
- A new service



My background



Career:

2023 - IPC CNC (AT)

2020 - 2023 IPC CNC (QAS)

2008 - 2020 Paramedic (QAS)

2013 - 2019 Nurse (casual)

2002 - 2008 Veterinary nurse

Qualifications:

Master of Infection Prevention and Control (GU)

Graduate Diploma of Health (USQ)

Bachelor of Nursing (QUT)

Bachelor of Health Science (Paramedicine) (QUT)

Diploma of Paramedicine (QAS)

A brief history of IPC in Australia



IPC positions	Profession	Qualifications
11	1 x Paramedic/Nurse 2 x Paramedic 8 x Nurse	2 x Master of IPC 4 x FIPC* 2 x Other Master qualifications

*Enrolled or completed Foundations of IPC course

Public health emergencies



Image by QAS media

Environmental emergencies

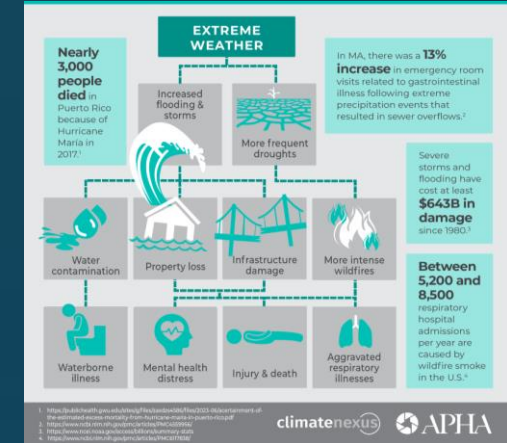


Image from APHA (2024)

IPC priorities in ambulance

Conflict



Image from Loffe et al. (2022)

Climate change

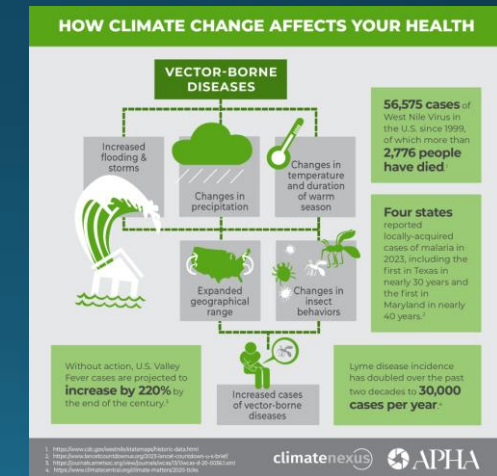


Image from APHA (2024)

The pandemic



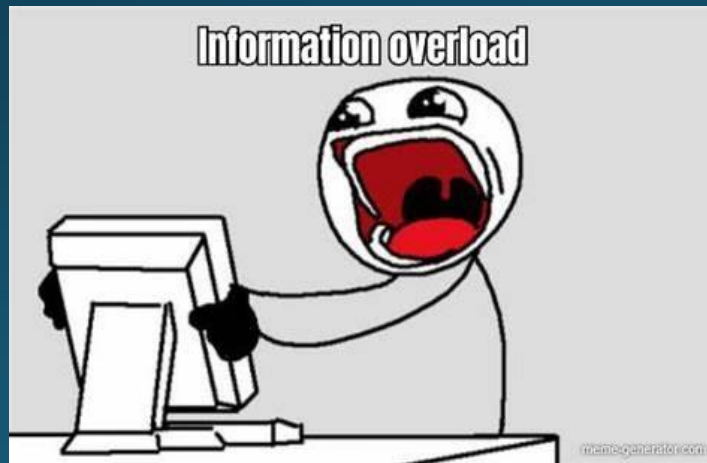
*"...working in an environment where I'm lifting and carrying and rushing around in full PPE...it's really hard work...what we needed was breaks after PPE jobs where we could sit down and drink water."**

Challenges and growth

- PPE
- Education
- Communication
- Mobility



*"... doctors [General Practitioners] were able to choose [if] they don't want to see that type of patient... it felt like we were the expendable ones..." (P9)**



*"...being one of four paramedics on scene... we had four different oxygenation strategies." ***

Looking forward

"Never let a good crisis go to waste. And what I mean by that: it's an opportunity to do things you think you could not do before." Rahm Emanuel, 2008.

New service, new challenges



New service, new challenges



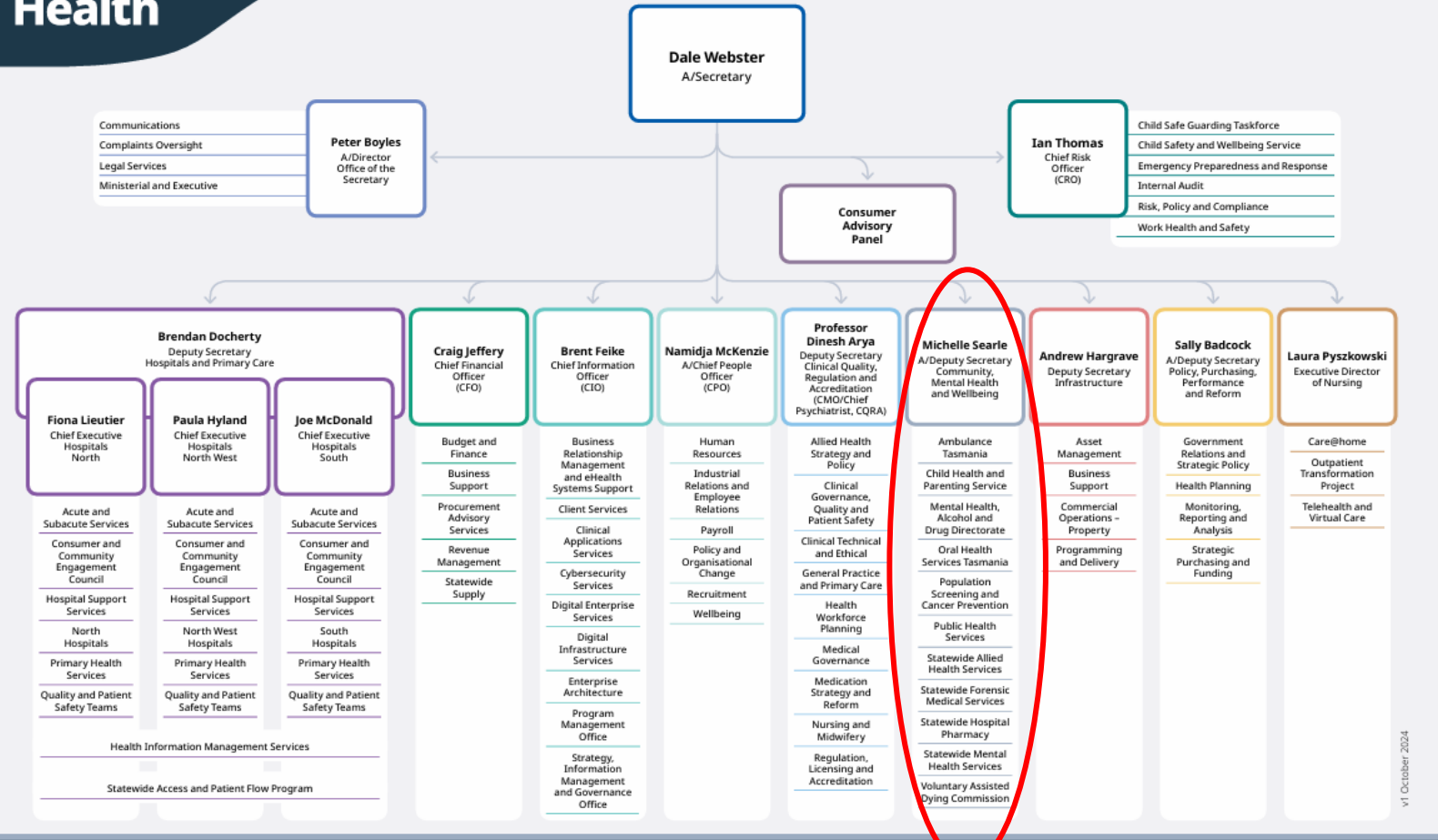
- Structure
- Change
- Culture
- Resources
- Expectation
- Reality

New service, new challenges



Authorised by the Director-General, Queensland Health
21.90.24

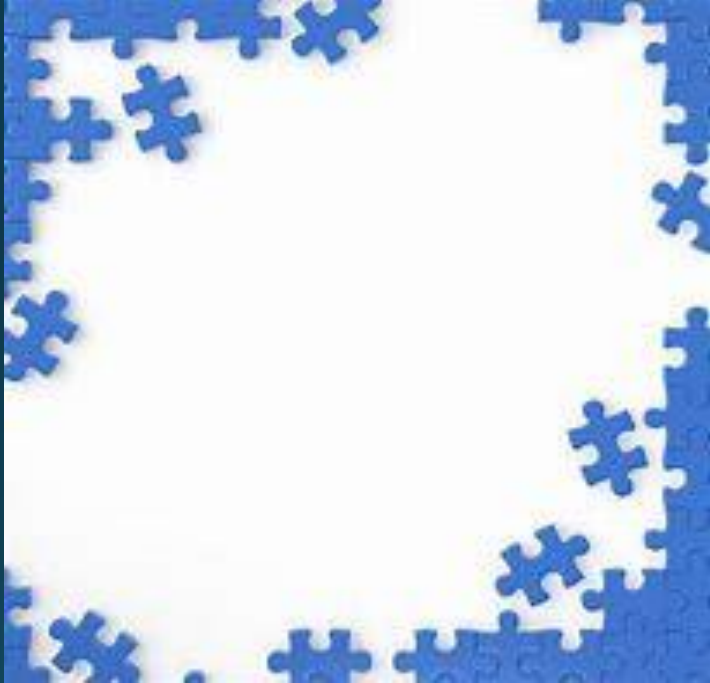
Department of Health



V1 October 2024



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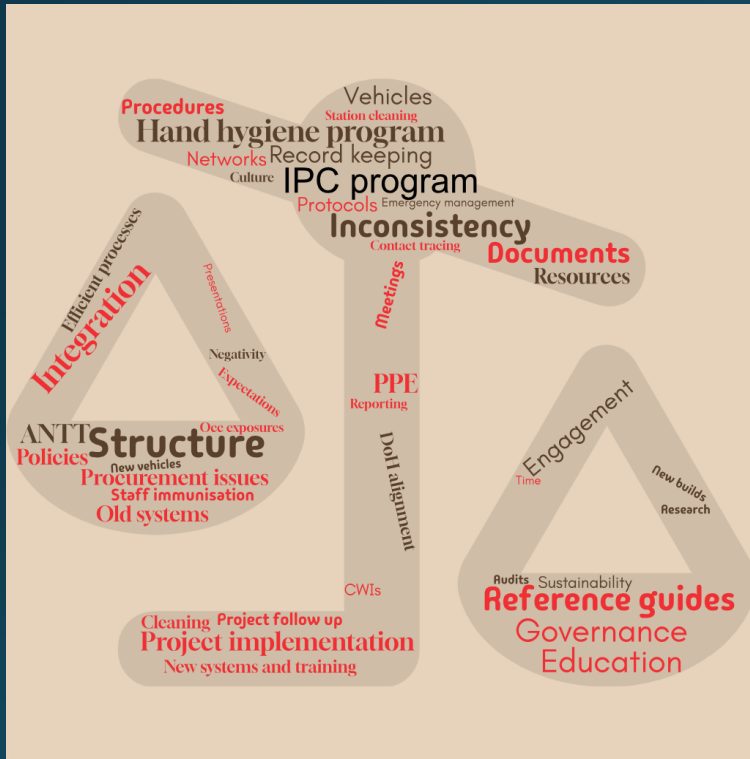
- Guiding documents
- Clinical guidance
- Networks

New service, new challenges



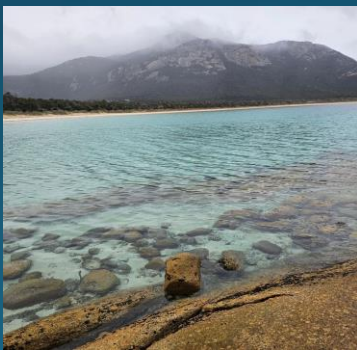
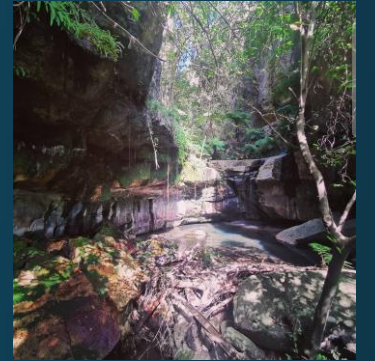
- Education
- Communication
- Integration
- Consistency

The vision



"Strong, effective infection prevention and control programmes have the ability to influence the quality of care, improve patient safety and protect all those providing care in the health system."
(WHO 2024).

Thank you



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