



THE UNIVERSITY OF
MELBOURNE

IMMERSE-2 IMpleMenting Effective IPC in ReSidential Aged CarE: Communities of Practice for IPC Leads

Jo Tropea, Noleen Bennett, Robyn Smith, Lyn-li Lim, Sanne Peters, and IMMERSE-2 Investigator Team

NHMRC funded 2024/GNT2032909. The contents are solely the responsibility of the authors and do not reflect the views of the NHMRC.



The IMMERSE-2 project

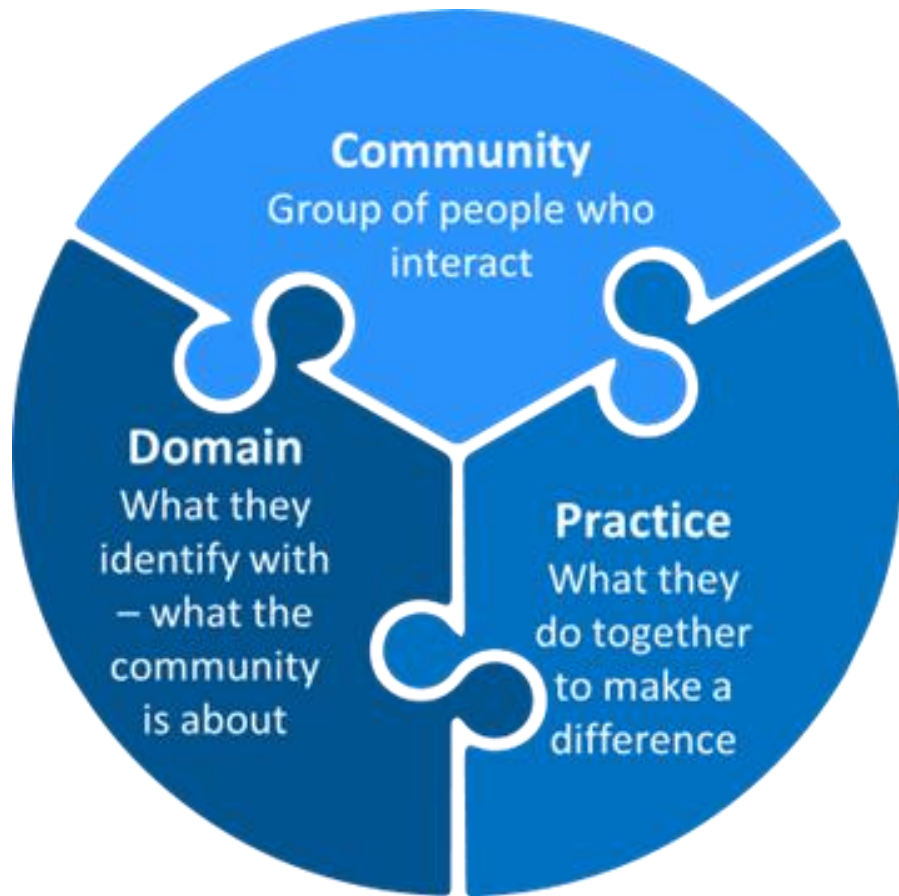
- Builds on our Victorian 6-month pilot.
- Develop and evaluate multiple Communities of Practice (CoPs) for IPC Leads across Australia.
- Co-designed with IPC Leads and other stakeholders.
- The CoPs will provide a platform for IPC Leads to share experiences, discuss challenges, and develop skills together.

*Empower IPC Leads and foster improvements in infection prevention and control in residential aged care
>> improve health and well-being of residents*

What is a Community of Practice (CoP)?



“Communities of Practice are groups of people who share a concern or a passion for something they do and learn how to do it better as they interact regularly.”



Learn together:
with and from one
another

Share ideas and
Problem-solve
together

Take what you
learn back to your
workplace (put
into practice)

(Adapted from Wenger-Trayner et al, 2023, Used with permission)

Pilot Community of Practice for IPC Leads

- 6-month pilot in Victoria as part of IMMERSE-1
- Monthly online sessions, 20 IPC Leads participated

Some of the feedback from members of the CoP

- Provided an opportunity to connect with and debrief with other IPC Leads – was valued
- Reassurance I'm on the right track
- Others have challenges similar to mine/ours

"Great opportunity for IPC Leads to share and learn from other experiences and be updated with current advice"

Pilot Community of Practice for IPC Leads

Some of the feedback from members of the CoP cont.

- Shared/learnt how other IPC leads do their job
- New ideas, resources, links and evidence
- Took what they learnt back to their workplace (practice change)
- Time to attend the CoP sessions – not having dedicated time

"Good for learning from other facilities and how they tackle issues"

"...it's more about, you know, the IPC (Lead) having more time at the organisation to attend those meeting"

IMMERSE-2 Codesign workshops



Codesign workshops

- Held 3 online workshops with IPC Leads and 2 online workshops with other RACH staff (quality staff, managers)
- 28 people participated, from across Australia
- Very positive response – like the idea of sharing information, sharing updates, resources
- Format – 45-60 minutes monthly/6 weeks and held online
- Group size – not too big, <20 "15-30 for more ideas"
- Agenda in advance so you could prepare
- Geography based for WA, mix topic or geography based



IMMERSE-2 Codesign workshops



Codesign workshops

- Topics or skills they'd like to learn or develop

...ways to identify risks, trending, new ways of educating, information sharing techniques that are really eye catching

What homes do about air quality, how they audit, indepth knowledge of different uncommon infections

IPC and dementia, ways to encourage staff to participate in IPC...not just staff, also families

Evaluation



Commence the IMMERSE-2 CoPs in April & May 2026 for 12 months

Before and after study design

The main evaluation aims are to:

1. Assess changes in IPC Leads' self-efficacy and job satisfaction
2. Explore examples of IPC Leads facilitating practice change
3. Assess reach and acceptability, fidelity and adaptability, and costs to deliver the IMMERSE-2 CoPs



Evaluation continued



Audits of practice – observational audits of IPC practice, other audits

Sustainability – barriers and enablers to sustaining the CoPs

Community of Practice Features:

- Member demographics
- Facilitation methods Frequency, duration of sessions
- Goals achieved – individual and group based
- Tools or resources developed

IMMERSE-2 COMMUNITIES OF PRACTICE FOR IPC LEADS

Great opportunity for IPC Leads to share and learn from other experiences and be updated with current advice

FOR MORE INFORMATION



Any questions?

Joanne.Tropea@mh.org.au

