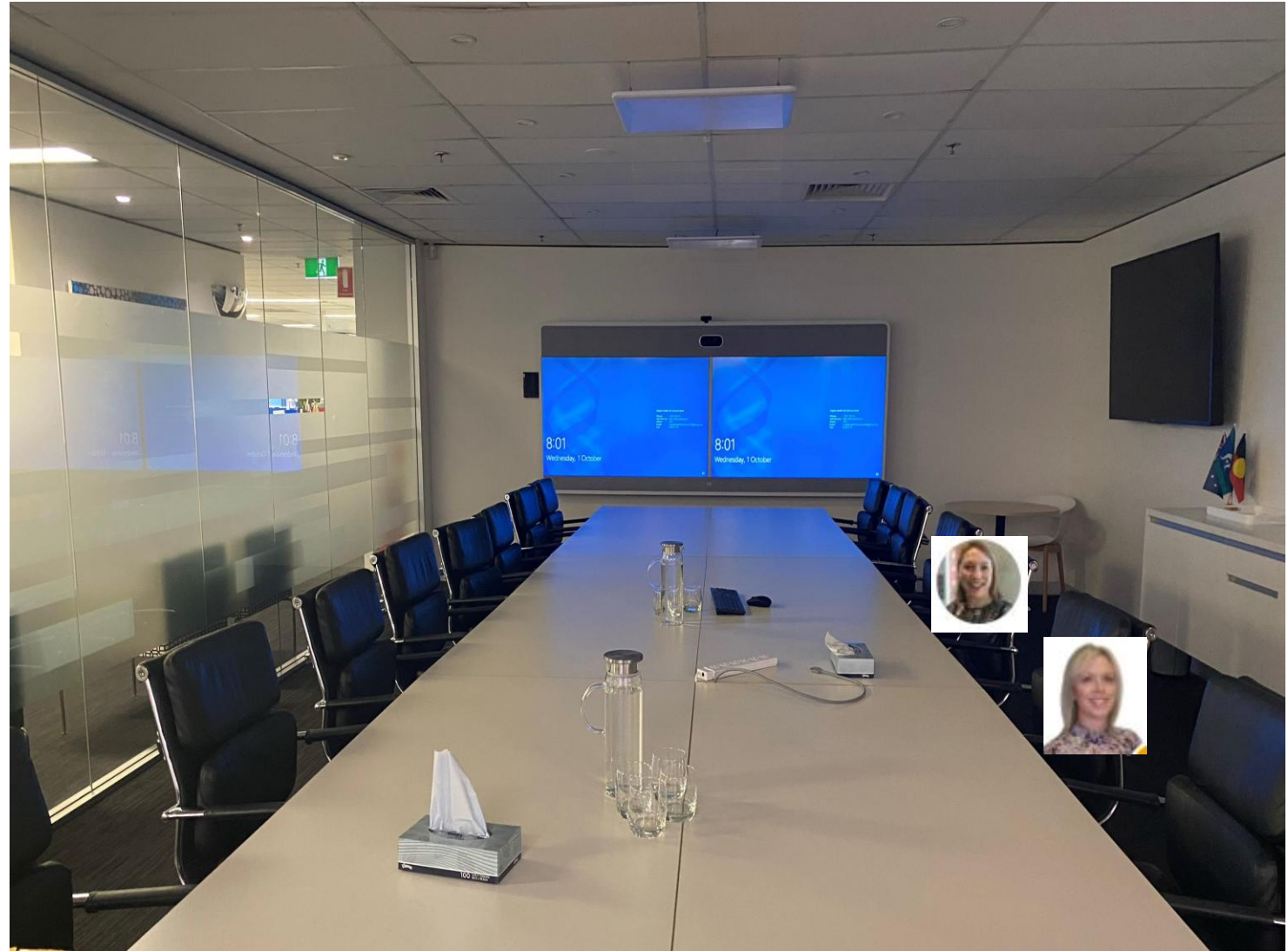


Safety and
Quality

Securing a Seat at the Table!

No disclosures or
conflicts to declare.





We would like to acknowledge this land that we meet on today is the traditional lands of the Kaurna people and that we respect their spiritual relationship with their country.

We also acknowledge the Kaurna people as the custodians of the greater Adelaide region and that their cultural and heritage beliefs are still as important to the living Kaurna people today.

Safety and
Quality

SA Health



Department for Health and Wellbeing (DHW)



Local Health Networks (LHNs)-10



SA Ambulance Service (SAAS)



Attached Offices-2

Safety and
Quality

Roles - DHW

Providing strategic direction for the provision of public health services across South Australia, including the development of system-wide policies and directives to guide the system.

Monitoring the safety, quality and performance of the health system and supporting improvements.

Delivering statewide public health services and emergency management coordination.

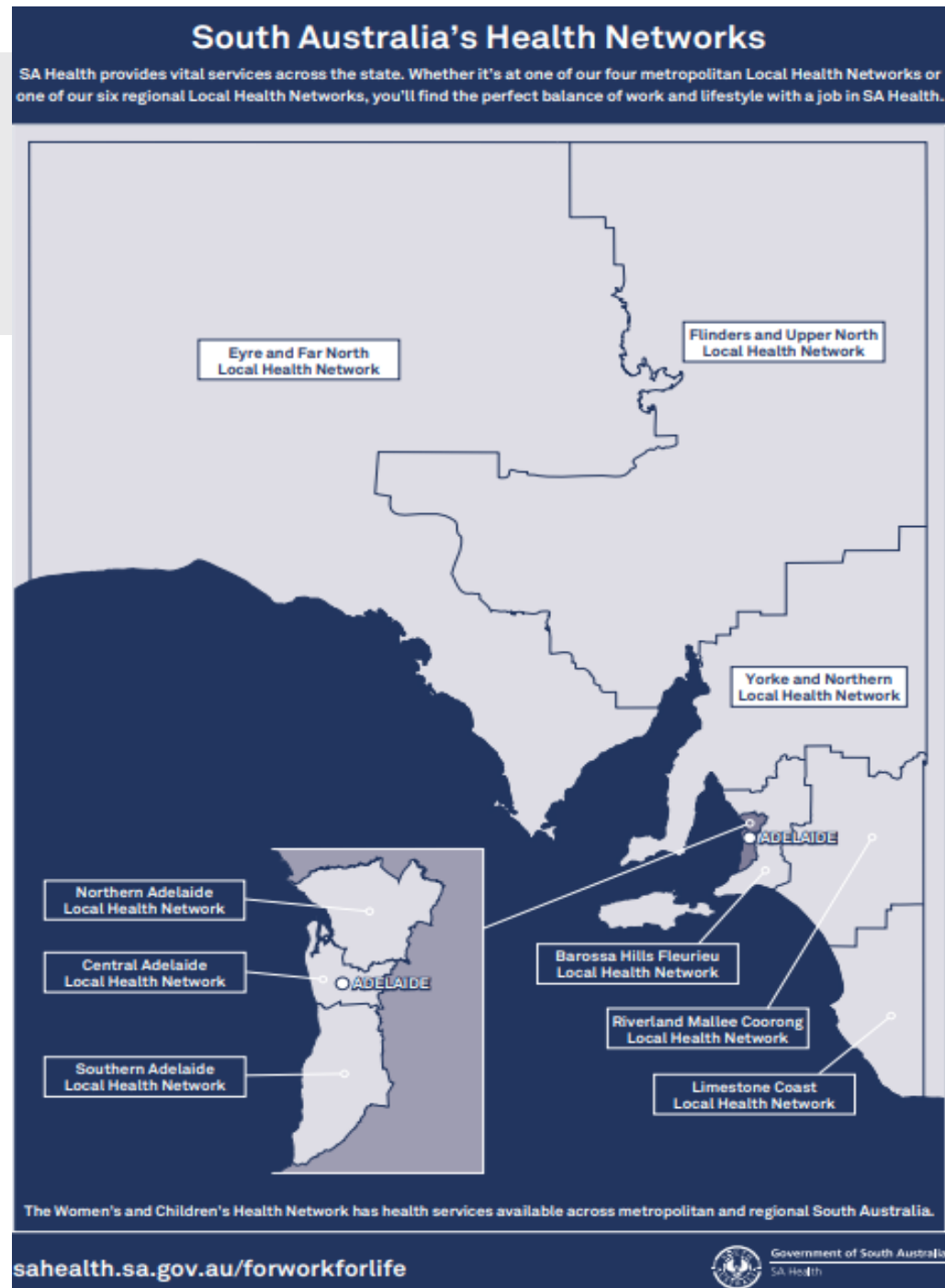
Leading SA Health's work with other government departments and the Commonwealth on national initiatives.

Assisting the Minister for Health and Wellbeing and the South Australian government in the development and implementation of planning for the health system statewide.

Safety and Quality

Local Health Networks (LHNs)

- | | | |
|------------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Barossa Hills Fleurieu LHN | Central Adelaide LHN | Eyre and Far North LHN |
| Flinders and Upper North LHN | Limestone Coast LHN | Northern Adelaide LHN |
| Riverland Mallee Coorong LHN | Southern Adelaide LHN | Women's and Children Health Network |
| | Yorke and Northern LHN | |



Safety and
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SA Ambulance Service (SAAS)

- Triple zero (000) call receipt and triage
- Pre-hospital emergency and urgent care, treatment and/or transport
- Non-emergency patient care and transport
- Emergency and major event management
- Rescue and emergency medical retrieval services



Government
of South Australia

SA Health



SA
Ambulance
Service

Safety and
Quality

Attached Offices

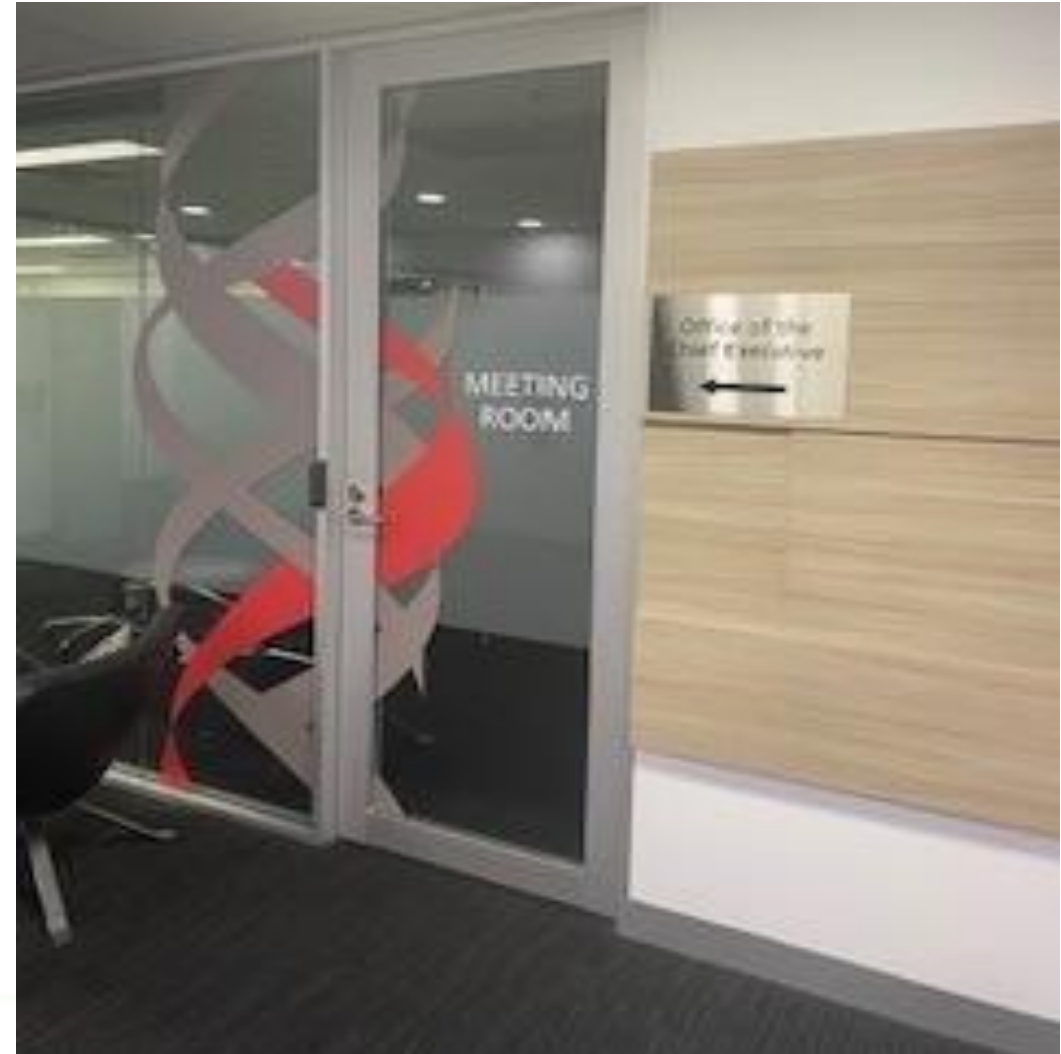
- Preventative Health SA
- Commission on Excellence and Innovation in Health (CEIH)

The Health Chief Executives' Council

- Strategic
- Ramping & Access to Care
- Digital Health
- **Safety & Quality**
- Performance

Safety and Quality

Your partner in quality health care. Vause, N 2025 ACIPC Conference 18/11/2025



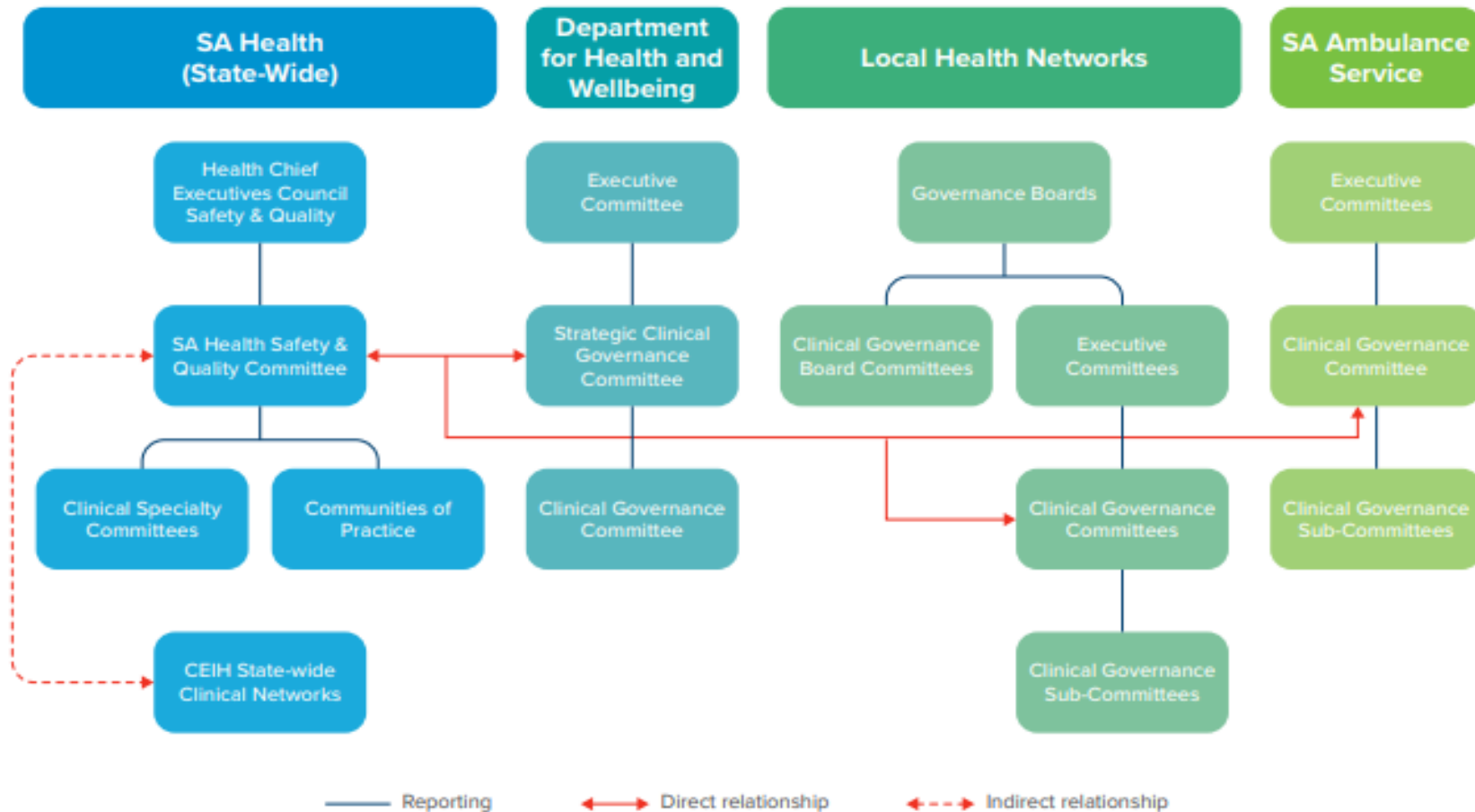
Safety and
Quality

Who is at the table?



How do you get to the table?

Figure 6: SA Health Clinical Governance Committee Structure



Safety and Quality



SA Health Safety & Quality Committee

IPC Priority Topic

- Environmental Scan
- Clinical Care Standards
- Patient Safety Report-IPC
- HAI data (2021-2024)
- Recommendations





HCEC Safety & Quality Meeting

Recommendation 1:
Local Health Networks confirm they have effective governance and local processes for Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) program and continue to strengthen them.

OFFICIAL: Sensitive

Government of South Australia
SA Health

Health Chief Executives' Council
Safety & Quality
BRIEFING NOTE

AGENDA ITEM NO: 3.3

SUBJECT:
HCEC S&Q Priority Topic: Infection Prevention and Control Discussion

Responsible Health Chief Executives' Council Member:
Samantha Farrugia, Director Safety & Quality, DHW

RECOMMENDATIONS:
It is recommended that the Health Chief Executives' Council:

1. Note the Infection Prevention and Control priorities identified by the SA Health Safety and Quality Committee at the 6 August 2024 meeting.
2. Approve the recommendations to strengthen IPC programs, review the HAI surveillance program and determine a statewide approach to reduce invasive device related bloodstream infections with the SA Infection Reference Group.

DISCUSSION:
The importance of preventing and controlling infection is reflected in the international and national frameworks and strategies, highlighting the requirement for strong governance and effective Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) programs.

All Local Health Networks (LHNs) have established IPC programs in place, it's vital that these are maintained to a high level as a marker of quality in health care delivery. The WHO Global strategy on infection prevention and control defines the core components of an effective IPC program.

Fig. 1. Core components for effective IPC programmes at the national and facility level (6)

IPC: Infection prevention and control.
Global strategy on infection prevention and control. Geneva: World Health Organization; 2023. Licence: CC BY-NC-SA 3.0 IGO

OFFICIAL: Sensitive

Briefing to HCEC S&Q outlining importance of:

- Data for improvement
- IPC Programs
- Quality Improvement initiatives

3 recommendations made and accepted by HCEC members

Safety and
Quality

Call to ACTION!

Letter sent to all LHN, SAAS Chief Executive Officers from Director Safety & Quality, DHW

Dear Executives,

At the 20 August 2024 Health Chief Executives Council (HCEC) Safety and Quality meeting, the priority topic discussed was Infection Prevention and Control (IPC). HCEC S&Q endorsed three recommendations to further improve infection prevention and control services across SA Health.

The briefing paper (Attachment 1) outlines the importance of preventing and controlling infection, highlighting the requirement for strong governance and effective IPC programs. Maintaining IPC programs to a high level with regular assessment is essential for continuous quality improvement.

IPC Programs should align to the [Australian Guidelines for the Prevention and Control of Infection in Healthcare](#) section 4, which includes the core components of an IPC Program recommended by the World Health Organisation.

Two of the endorsed recommendations were directed to the DHW Infection Control Service, who will provide regular progress updates at the HCEC Safety & Quality meetings, and one recommendation was directed to Local Health Networks for action:

Recommendation 1: Local Health Networks (LHNs) confirm they have effective governance and local processes for Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) programs and continue to strengthen them.

Action: LHNs to provide details of the governance, assessment, and ongoing improvement of their established IPC Programs to DHW Safety & Quality Unit.

ACTION: LHNs to provide details of the governance, assessment, and ongoing improvement of their established IPC Programs to DHW Safety & Quality Unit

Safety and
Quality

Letters of Response



Months	Number of responses received
18 November 2024- due date	3
End of November 2024	4
December 2024	4
August 2025	1

What did we receive back?



Governance structures of IPC



Assessment processes



Ongoing improvement strategies



Identified IPC risks

Summary Response Report

Safety and Quality

**Health Chief Executive Council
Safety & Quality Priority Topic:
Infection Prevention & Control**

Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) programs are an essential component of providing safe and high-quality healthcare services.

IPC Programs should align to the Australian Guidelines for the Prevention and Control of Infection in Healthcare section 4, which includes the core components of an IPC Program recommended by the World Health Organisation.

HCEC S&Q Recommendation to LHNs and SAAS:

Recommendation: Local Health Networks (LHNs)/SA Ambulance Service (SAAS) confirm they have effective governance and local processes for Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) programs and continue to strengthen them.

Action: LHNs/SAAS requested to provide details of the governance, assessment, and ongoing improvement of their established IPC Programs to DHW Safety & Quality Unit.

Summary of Responses:

The responses received demonstrated that Local Health Networks (LHNs) and SAAS have effective governance and processes for Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) programs and are actively working to strengthen them.

This confirmed that LHNs and SAAS IPC program align with the Australian Guidelines for the Prevention and Control of Infection in Healthcare, Section 4. This emphasises the importance of infection prevention and control (IPC) programs integrated with clinical governance frameworks, risk management systems, staff education, and infection surveillance. A summary of responses has been prepared aligned with key components of the guidelines:

Governance

- Each LHN and SAAS has a structured governance framework supporting IPC programs, with committees and reporting lines integrated into broader clinical governance systems.
- Dedicated IPC committees oversee and report on IPC activities, with representation from various clinical services, management, and some include consumers.
- Compliance with the Australian Guidelines for IPC and National Safety and Quality Health Service (NSQHS) Standards is emphasised.
- There are mechanisms for cross-reporting IPC activities to ensure alignment across governance structures.

OFFICIAL

Agenda

Assessment and Reporting

- Regular audits, surveillance, and quality improvement initiatives are embedded in the IPC programs.
- Key performance metrics, such as healthcare-associated infections (HAIs) and hand hygiene compliance, are monitored and reported to ensure standards are met or exceeded.

Improvement and Innovations

- Quality improvement initiatives are well-documented, with numerous projects aimed at enhancing IPC practices (e.g. surgical site infection surveillance, antimicrobial stewardship programs, and training initiatives).
- Continuous education and training for staff ensure updated practices and compliance.
- Innovations include the implementation of new systems and tools, such as real-time auditing processes, electronic medical records, and new products.

Compliance and Achievements

- Accreditation results show no significant gaps in compliance with infection prevention standards, highlighting the effectiveness of existing IPC programs.
- Some LHNs/SAAS have specific measures addressing occupational safety, such as vaccination programs, PPE training, and workplace condition assessments.

Conclusion

In summary, the LHNs/SAAS provided comprehensive details on the governance, assessment, and improvement of their IPC programs, aligning with both the Australian Guidelines and World Health Organisation recommendations.

While IPC programs demonstrate varying levels of maturity across the LHNs/SAAS, their successful implementation and annual evaluation of IPC programs remain critical to preventing healthcare-associated infections. These programs are essential for strong health systems in ensuring the highest quality of care for patients.

To ensure LHNs and SAAS sustain effective IPC programs, they should continue to strengthen capacity with support of IPC clinicians and undertaking annual evaluation to monitor ongoing improvement.

Report prepared by:

Nicole Vause, Nursing Clinical Practice Director IPC, Safety and Quality Unit,
Clinical System Support & Improvement, Department for Health and Wellbeing

February 2025

Safety & Quality Unit
Clinical System Support & Improvement Division | Department for Health and Wellbeing
Page 2 of 3

ACTION: To ensure LHNs and SAAS sustain effective IPC programs, they should continue to strengthen capacity with support of IPC clinicians and undertaking annual evaluation to monitor ongoing improvement.

Safety and Quality

Keeping the seat warm!

2025

- SA Health S&Q

18 Feb

- HCEC S&Q

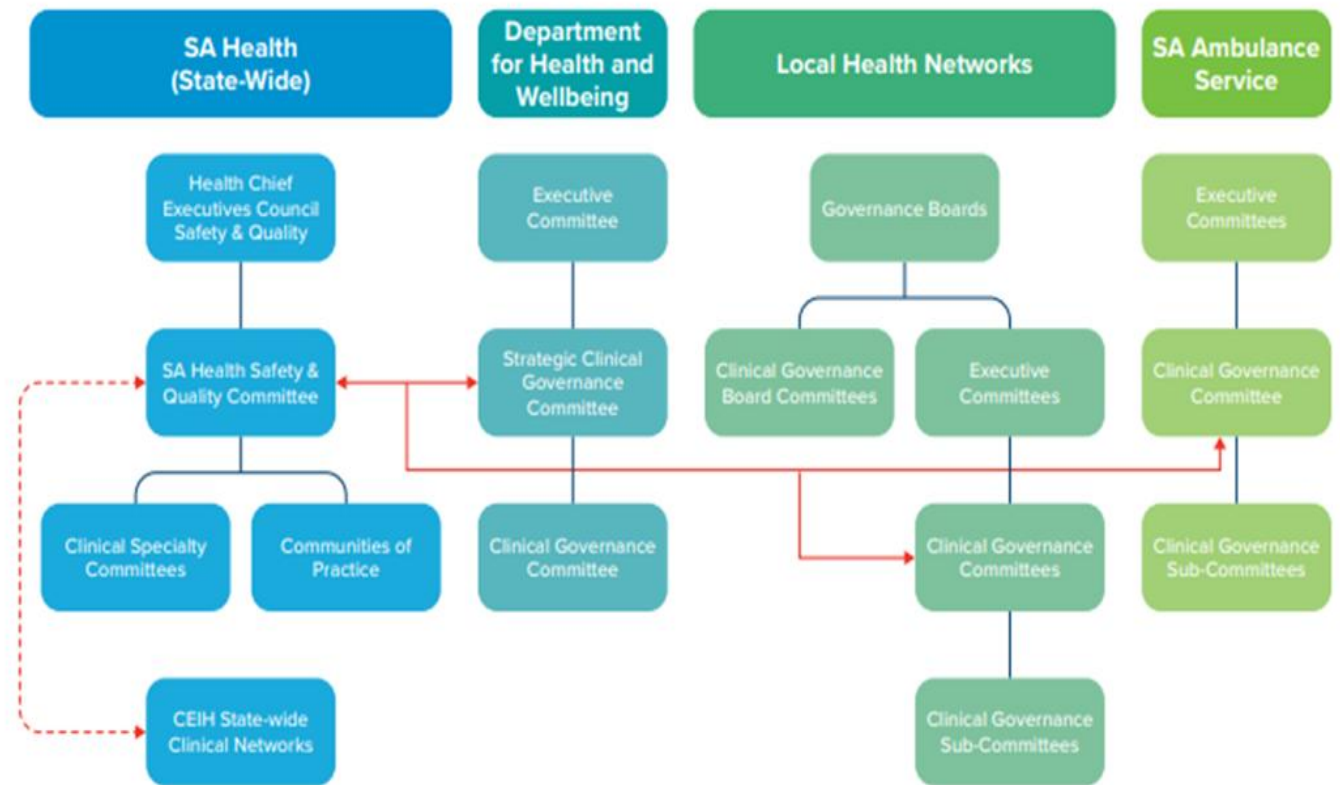
11 March



6 May

28 August

Figure 6: SA Health Clinical Governance Committee Structure



— Reporting ↔ Direct relationship - - - Indirect relationship

Safety and
Quality

One Seat at the Table =



Generated
Stronger
Governance



Strengthened IPC
Professionals/Teams



Shared Innovation



Data Informed
Quality Improvements

Safety and
Quality



Thank you!