

Tribute to Mary Mott 1929 - 2006



In July 2006, the Management Committee was informed of the passing of Mary Mott after a short illness. Mary was one of the founding members of ICPAQ and represented the State Association on the Australian Infection Control Association (AICA) Executive Committee on several occasions. On behalf of ICPAQ, I would like to take this opportunity to formally recognise Mary's contribution to Infection Control within Queensland.

Mary began her nursing career at St Martin's Hospital, Brisbane, before travelling to England where she studied Infectious Diseases at the Central Middlesex Hospital. Her clinical experience ranged over a period of years and in 1978, Mary was appointed the Infection Control Practitioner at the Repatriation Hospital at Greenslopes, where she established her reputation as a leader in Infection Control. Her initial training for this job was undertaken at Flinders Medical Centre in Adelaide and the Concord Repatriation Hospital in Sydney.

Mary became the founding President of ICPAQ in 1980. In subsequent years, AICA was formed, of which Mary became Vice President, served a second term as President of the Queensland Association, and became a lecturer in Infection Control at the Queensland University of Technology (QUT). She organised State and National Conferences, served on the Queensland Health Infection Control Expert Working Group, and was made a life member of both National and State Associations.

In 1983, Mary moved to the Holy Spirit Hospital as the Infection Control Coordinator where she was employed for the next ten years. In 1993 she established a private Infection Control consultancy specialising in aged care and coordinating lecture tours and workshops throughout the State. Mary also had a strong association with the Scouting and Guiding movements, she was a devout Anglican and immersed herself in Christian life.

At the 2006 ICPAQ Annual General Meeting it was unanimously agreed that an annual conference scholarship be named in Mary's honour as recognition of her valuable contribution to Infection Control. The inaugural Mary Mott Conference Scholarship will be offered in 2007.

(My sincere thanks to Elaine Graham Robertson for her significant contribution to this article)

Jenny Stackelroth
ICPAQ President