

00171 The Australian National Hand Hygiene Initiative after 8 years - a successful potential blueprint for sustained national action

M. Lindsay Grayson*¹, Andrew J. Stewardson¹, Phil Russo², Kate E. Ryan², Karen L. Olsen², Sally M. Havers², Susan Greig³, Marilyn Cruickshank^{4 5}

¹Hand Hygiene Australia and Austin Health, Infectious Diseases, Melbourne, Australia, ²Hand Hygiene Australia, Australia, ³Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care, Australia, ⁴, ⁵University of Technology Sydney, Ultimo, Australia

Background: The National Hand Hygiene Initiative (NHHI) is a standardised culture-change program based on the World Health Organization 5-Moments for Hand Hygiene to improve hand hygiene compliance (HHC) among Australian healthcare workers (HCWs) and reduce the risk of healthcare-associated infections.

Materials/methods: Outcomes of the NHHI were assessed for the 8 years post-implementation (2009-June 2017), including rates of participation (no. hospitals, HH Moments audited), thrice-annual national HHC (by jurisdiction, hospital category, HCW craft-group, Moment type), impact of a mobile direct-entry auditing tool, educational engagement and cost for each NHHI phase.

Results: From 2009, there were significant increases in national rates of healthcare facility participation (105 [103/2 public/private] vs 937 [598/339 public/private]), overall HHC (63.6% [36,213/56,978 Moments], 95% CI: 63.2–63.9%; vs 84.3% [494,673/586,559 Moments], 95% CI: 84.2–84.4%; $p < 0.0001$), Moment-type HHC and HCW craft-group HHC. HHC among nurses was ~10-15% higher than doctors, but medical HHC rates increased significantly (50.5% [4377/8669]; 95% CI: 49.4% – 51.5%) vs 71.7% [53,620/74,788]; 95% CI: 71.4–72.0%; $p < 0.0001$). HHA e-learning/credentialing programs were completed on 1,989,713 occasions. The annual 2016 HHA budget was equivalent to AUD\$0.06 per inpatient admission nationally.

Conclusions: The NHHI has been associated with significant sustained improvement in HHC among Australian HCWs. Key design features include sustained central coordination of a standardised national approach, incorporation into national hospital accreditation standards and community (and bipartisan political) support. The NHHI may serve as a potential “blue-print” for other national culture-change programs.