



Australian Government

Department of Health and Ageing

I, Jane Halton, Secretary, on behalf of all at the Department of Health And Ageing in Canberra, Australia, on 10 November 2006,

Recognising the serious disease burden and significant economic impact that health care-associated infection places on patients and health systems throughout the world,

Considering that the majority of these infections are treatable and avoidable,

Appreciating the momentum that the Global Patient Safety Challenge programme of the WHO World Alliance for Patient Safety is bringing to reduce health care-associated infection at the global level,

Emphasising that a unique opportunity now exists to reverse the incidence of health care-associated infection in Australia,

I resolve to work to reduce health care-associated infection through actions such as:

- Continuing to acknowledge the importance of health care-associated infection;
- Promoting understanding at national or sub-national levels of the importance of improving hand hygiene among health care providers;
- Making reliable information available on health care-associated infection at community and district levels to foster appropriate actions;
- Sharing experiences and, where appropriate, available surveillance data, with the WHO World Alliance for Patient Safety;
- Considering the use of WHO strategies and guidelines to tackle health care-associated infection, in particular in the areas of hand hygiene, blood safety, injection and immunization safety, clinical procedures safety and water, sanitation and waste management safety;

I resolve to work with relevant national, state and territory instrumentalities as well as health professionals and associations in this country:

To promote the highest standards of practice and behaviour to reduce the risks of health care-associated infection;

To foster and sustain collaboration with research institutions, training schools, educational centres, universities and health care settings of other WHO Member States to ensure full utilization of knowledge and experience in the field of health care-associated infection;

To encourage senior management support and role-modeling from key staff to promote the implementation of interventions to reduce health care-associated infection.

Australia

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Jane Halton', written over a horizontal line.

Jane Halton, Secretary, Department of Health and Ageing