

2023 FSRACA NATIONAL CONFERENCE

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CENTREPIECE AT
MELBOURNE PARK, VICTORIA

OUR TEAMS
KICKING GOALS

Infection Prevention & Control in Endoscopy

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The performance of endoscopy procedures constitutes a high risk for transmission of infection to patients. With the instruments used requiring decontamination for reuse, the adoption of Australian Standards relating to the reprocessing of medical devices has been one of the most important factors in raising the standards of reprocessing where endoscopic procedures are performed. This was achieved through the process of the Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care referencing AS/NZS 4187 in their hospital accreditation process, particularly in relation to the NSQHS Standard 3, Preventing and Controlling Infections. The site for endoscope reprocessing varies between health services, between onsite in the endoscopy unit or within the central sterilising services. Irrespective of site, the processes and facilities will need to meet standard. Many health services had to implement significant changes to their sites to meet the requirements of the standard, both in structure and processes. Some of those changes have taken longer than originally proscribed, as a result of the sheer volume of capital works and equipment procurement required. The 2021 GENSA/GENCA publication “Infection Prevention and Control in Endoscopy” functions as an interpretive guideline to AS/NZS 4187 and is invaluable for staff in day to day practice in endoscopy services and for health facilities working to demonstrate compliance with standards. This presentation will cover the issues most relevant to sterilising services.

