

# Aged care workers learn the secrets of infection control

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**Spokesperson:** Duplex

Higher cleaning standards can help to prevent outbreaks of healthcare associated infections in around 3000 residential aged care facilities across Australia, infection control experts say.

Director of Australian cleaning equipment distributor, Duplex Cleaning Machines, Murray McDonald, says the residential aged care industry is becoming one of the fastest growing sectors in Australia, and with the elderly more susceptible to infection it's essential for facilities to have the highest cleaning standards.

"The costs of a poor cleaning process can lead to facilities and rooms being temporarily closed and the need for additional staff and supplies to be brought in," he said.

Leading infection control expert, Glenys Harrington, from Infection Control Consultancy (ICC) says staff training and risk management is key to preventing and managing outbreaks in this setting.

"Most outbreak management strategies are simple yet effective, such as effective hand hygiene practices and understanding the importance of using personal protective equipment when necessary.

Being aware of these requirements involves continuous training and education within the industry," she said.

Ms Harrington is conducting a simulated, hands on training workshop on Friday 23 March 2012 for residential aged care workers. The workshop will discuss common infections seen in this setting, managing residents with multi-resistant organisms, investigating outbreaks and what's new in cleaning and disinfection. Duplex Cleaning Machines are key sponsors for the workshop.

The workshop, Infection Control in Residential Aged Care Services will be held at the Australian Centre for Health Innovation, and will provide managers, residential aged care staff and risk management personnel an opportunity to update their knowledge and practical skills in infection prevention and control.

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