

# JANUARY 2025 NEWSLETTER

## PRESIDENT REPORT

*by Duncan McConnell*



What a big year 2024 has been for the development of Paramedic Practitioners in Australia. We saw legislative change in Victoria to enable current Paramedic Practitioners being trained in Ambulance Victoria, via their Monash University Program, which enables them to practice at their full scope. Although this is only one State in Australia, it is a positive step forward for Paramedic Practitioners across Australia. As an Institute we welcome and look forward to continued collaboration with further development as it unfolds.

From an Institute perspective, the Board has been updated, as mentioned in our previous Newsletter, with Bio's from each of the new Directors coming your way soon. In the coming months expect to see some new CPM Webinars, where I talk with current Directors about their roles and the development of Paramedic Practitioners where they currently work. We are aiming to try and provide a Webinar every two months, as they will be set up so that you can watch a pre-recorded interview and then we come online live, to enable you to ask any questions you might have for a presenting speaker.

Moving forward into 2025, the Institute is currently planning more CPD opportunities for our members internally with us, as well as our external affiliates, in which AIPP members will get a discounted rate to participate in them. Examples of our own CPD activities include:

- Online Webinars
- CPD Workshops

As we move into the start of 2025, if you have any stories or news articles you would like us to present in our newsletter or via our social media, please send them in to our email address [info@acpp.net.au](mailto:info@acpp.net.au). If it is something new and innovative related to primary healthcare or paramedic practitioners, please send that in too, as we would love to promote this and celebrate this with you as well.

Regards  
Duncan McConnell  
President – AIPP



## CONFERENCE ALERT 18 – 19 AUGUST 2025

### INTERNATIONAL ROUND TABLE ON COMMUNITY PARAMEDICINE (IRCP)

IRCP is coming back to Australia, as it makes it regular round around the original nations that first got together to discuss community paramedic back in 2004 in Nova Scotia. Now in its 21st year, IRCP is running the two days prior to the Council of Ambulance Authorities (CAA) conference being held in Adelaide this year.

If you have a paper, an idea or an innovation you would like to present at IRCP 2025, Abstract submissions are currently open until the 7th of February. Follow this link to submit an Abstract

[https://caacongress.net.au/index.php/abstracts/?mc\\_cid=61dc832978&mc\\_eid=c0a54caa1a](https://caacongress.net.au/index.php/abstracts/?mc_cid=61dc832978&mc_eid=c0a54caa1a)

This is truly an international conference of like-minded professionals all trying to work together and learn from each other, when it comes to enhancing primary healthcare. You will hear from speakers from the UK, USA, Canada, Australia, NZ, Germany, Africa and many more.

It only comes to Australia every 4 years on its rotation, so if you've got the time, we highly recommend you attend this year's IRCP Conference 18 – 19 August 2025.



From all of us at AIPP, we are excited about 2025 being an amazing year of progress and development of paramedic practitioners being able to work to their full capacities and support healthcare to all Australians throughout the country





## CASE STUDY FROM A PARAMEDIC PRACTITIONER WORKING IN THE UK

*by Luke Giles AIPP Board Member*

### Multidisciplinary Collaboration in Primary Care

A few weeks ago, I managed a complex case involving a patient with a lymphoproliferative disorder following a failed transplant. The patient presented with insidious-onset back pain around the T4-T5 region. After a thorough assessment and conducting a myeloma screen, we concluded that the pain was likely musculoskeletal in nature, stemming from an extended hospital stay. Reassured by the absence of red flags and unremarkable bloods, I referred the patient to our First Contact Practitioner (FCP) physiotherapy team, which operates within our general practice surgery.

In addition, the liver team requested oral magnesium supplements for the patient. As I wasn't entirely familiar with the specific guidance on magnesium prescribing, I collaborated with our primary care pharmacist team. They reviewed the case, provided advice on safe and appropriate dosing and conducted a full medication review.

We reviewed today and I'm pleased to report that the patient's symptoms have resolved.

Just wanted to give some insight to multidisciplinary teams within primary care in the U.K. Working alongside physiotherapists, pharmacists, and various specialists enables us to provide safe, efficient, and patient-centred care and is an advocacy focus for the institute.

## Vertigo: Enhancing Assessment in Primary and Secondary Care

Vertigo is a relatively common presentation in both primary and secondary care in the UK and Australia, accounting for approximately 3% of emergency department presentations and anywhere from 1% to 15% of primary care consultations.

When I first qualified as a paramedic, my assessment of vertigo was fairly limited—often basic observations, blood glucose levels and a FAST test. Over time, I've discovered resources that have completely transformed how I approach patients presenting with true rotational vertigo. I was fortunate to attend an online session with Dr. Shaw, an audiovestibular physician, and Dr. Ahmad, a consultant neurologist which I highly recommend- I'll share the recording below.

One of the most impactful tools has been the HINTS+ examination, which helps differentiate between peripheral and central causes of vertigo, guiding appropriate care and referrals.

I hope this serves as a helpful starting point for anyone looking to improve their assessment of vertigo patients—an area where early, accurate diagnosis can truly make a difference.

<https://youtu.be/RXtqkltQvKo?si=-vQ1Vci0WezFONx->

<https://open.spotify.com/episode/OUAgVctOV00CPFXuYnfe1s?si=nzbeNYVGT6alyv2IKuJoDA&t=601>