

Summary of the significant elements relevant to addressing antimicrobial resistance issues between 1998 and 2013

Date	Significant element	Role / Outputs / Comments	Outcomes
1998 - 1999	JETACAR (Joint Expert Technical Advisory Committee on Antibiotic Resistance)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> brought together human, veterinary and food interests reviewed scientific evidence of linkage between use of antimicrobials in food-producing animals, and emergence and spread of resistant microorganisms to humans 	The Committee was effective in raising awareness of the use of antibiotics in animals as an issue that could impact on human health.
Oct 1999	JETACAR Report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> provided the basis for the development of an integrated antibiotic-resistance management strategy 22 recommendations, including a number related to surveillance 	The JETACAR report provided an evidence base to demonstrate the link between antibiotic use in animals, and resistance in humans, and proposed a framework for future action.
Aug 2000	Commonwealth Response to JETACAR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> largely supported the thrust of JETACAR recommendations proposed the establishment of CIJIG and EAGAR to plan and implement 	The Commonwealth response initiated the commencement of a number of significant activities, including the establishment of CIJIG and EAGAR, and activities relating to regulation, monitoring and surveillance, targeted activity on specific organisms, research and education.
2000 - 2002	AHMC JETACAR Taskforce	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> oversaw activities arising from the JETACAR report provided conduit for human health related issues to Health Ministers 	<p>The AHMC JETACAR Taskforce released its final report in November 2000. In summary, it recommended that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the Expert Advisory Group on Antimicrobial Resistance continue to provide scientific and policy advice on AMR issues; an AMR surveillance network implement a national surveillance strategy; and ongoing implementation of all JETACAR recommendations, including those related to surveillance, to be coordinated by CIJIG.
2000 - 2004	CIJIG (Commonwealth Interdepartmental JETACAR Implementation Group)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> responsible for promoting implementation of JETACAR recommendations reported through AHMC JETACAR Taskforce 	CIJIG provided a central coordination point and oversight of the implementation of the Government's response to the JETACAR recommendations.
Apr 2001	AICA - National Surveillance of Healthcare Associated Infection in Australia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> report developed in response to JETACAR study of surveillance activities, policies and programs across Australia 	This report informed considerations regarding future actions and priorities for surveillance.

May 2001	National Summit on Antibiotic Resistance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> involved participants from human health, food and primary industries proposed priorities for national action 	The National Summit achieved: increased awareness of antibiotic resistance as a public health threat; better understanding of the national and international perspective; a snapshot of activities, issues and future needs within each sector; stronger networks for fostering cross-sectoral partnerships; and greater insight into gaps in existing systems, policies and practices, and ideas for future action.
2001	National consultation on antibiotic resistance surveillance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> formed part of the post-JETACAR Report consultation workshops and focus groups involved all states and territories seeking input to a antibiotic resistance surveillance plan 	These consultations informed the development of recommendations regarding future actions and priorities for surveillance.
2003	Strategy for Antimicrobial Resistance Surveillance in Australia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> published in <i>Communicable Diseases Intelligence</i> proposed a comprehensive strategy to address JETACAR recommendations relating to surveillance 	The Strategy aimed to: identify priorities for action to strengthen surveillance at the local, state/territory and national levels; outline surveillance needs; strengthen communication and reporting mechanisms; and raise awareness of surveillance and antimicrobial resistance. It also outlined how surveillance data generated could be used to provide evidence to evaluate policies and set priorities to manage AMR, and proposed a staged approach for implementation of the strategy.
2001 – 2007	EAGAR (Expert Advisory Group on Antimicrobial Resistance)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> role of expert advisory group under the oversight of the NHMRC produced outlines of a comprehensive set of projects to address JETACAR recommendations 	EAGAR provided independent scientific and policy advice on AMR and related matters to national, state and territory governments and regulatory authorities.
Aug 2006	EAGAR Comprehensive Integrated Surveillance Program to Improve Australia's Response to Antimicrobial Resistance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> contained the outlines for nine projects that would address surveillance of antimicrobial resistance and antibiotic use 	The report identified gaps in Australia's current surveillance initiatives and proposed priorities for future action.

2010 - 2012	NHMRC AMRAC (Anti Microbial Resistance Advisory Committee)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> established by NHMRC in 2010 AMRAC's term expired on 30 June 2012 	<p>The AMRAC provided independent and timely expert advice to NHMRC on antimicrobial resistance in Australia, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> measures necessary to reduce the risks and levels of AMR in Australia; risks of developing resistance to new and marketed antimicrobials; and public health implications of AMR. <p>Two examples of NHMRC advice that AMRAC contributed to, during this time:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advice to PBAC on the implications for AMR of listing the antibiotic rifaximin (Xifaxan®) on the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (October 2011). Advice to Senator Kim Carr, the then Minister for Industry and Innovation, on the public health risk posed by nanosilver, particularly with regard to the implications for AMR (February 2012).
Feb 2011	Antimicrobial Resistance Summit – A call to urgent action	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> jointly convened by the Australasian Society for Infectious Diseases (ASID) and the Australian Society for Antimicrobials (ASA) a proposed plan of action was published in the AMA journal 	The Summit recommended the establishment of a national AMR management body, to be responsible for: implementing a comprehensive national resistance monitoring and audit system; coordinating education and stewardship programs; implementing infection prevention and control guidelines; expanding funding to support research into all aspects of AMR; and reviewing and upgrading the current regulatory system applying to antibiotics.
2012 - ongoing	AMRSC (Antimicrobial Resistance Standing Committee)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> established in 2012 in the review of committee structures under the COAG Standing Council on Health (SCoH) 	AMRSC is finalising a review of surveillance activity currently undertaken in Australia, to inform the development of a nationally coordinated approach to surveillance and reporting on AMR and antibiotic use in Australia.
2013	Senate Inquiry into progress of JETACAR recommendations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In November 2012, the Senate referred the matter of progress in the implementation of the JETACAR recommendations for inquiry and report 	The Senate Inquiry has provided an opportunity to review Australia's response to AMR, identify gaps, and consider future priorities.
Legend:	Committees and working groups	Major reports and publications	Key meetings and activities