

Additional information on AMR activities

The Portfolio Budget Statements 2013-14 Budget Related Paper No. 1.9 Health and Ageing Portfolio note that –

The Australian Government will develop a National Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) Prevention and Containment Strategy for Australia, to provide national and international leadership on this significant global health priority. The Strategy will also coordinate Australia's efforts across human and animal health to reduce, monitor and respond to AMR. The Government will expand surveillance of AMR and antibiotic usage; implement infection prevention and control activities to reduce the spread of infection in general and of resistant infections in particular; and implement antimicrobial stewardship programs to provide a systematic approach to optimising the use of antibiotics in primary health care, residential aged care facilities and hospitals. (page 23).

This initiative is also referred to under Outcome 10.5 (page 182), and Outcome 14.1 (pp. 219-220).

The Australian AMR Prevention and Containment Steering Group, which is jointly chaired by the Secretaries of the Department of Health and Ageing, and the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, will oversee the development of the National AMR Prevention and Containment Strategy.

To reflect the new opportunities for national coordination and improvement, two new priority areas, including 'nationally coordinated action to address health care associated infection and antimicrobial resistance (AMR)', have been added to the ACSQHC's 2013-16 work plan, which is funded through joint arrangements with the Commonwealth, States and Territories. This priority builds on the success of the Commission's existing healthcare associated infection (HAI) program to address AMR and HAI, to identify, assess and communicate current and emerging threats to human health posed by infectious diseases. The Commission is proposing to coordinate national action to address HAI and AMR in alignment with initiatives under development by the Australian Health Protection Principal Committee. This provides an integrative approach to the prevention of AMR and HAI through coordination of national activities such as surveillance, response to emerging health threats, scientific opinions, scientific and technical assistance, collection of data and identification of emerging health threats, and provision of public information.

This work is referred to at page 278 of the PBS.

The Antimicrobial Resistance Standing Committee (AMRSC) will continue in its role to advise the Australian Health Protection Principal Committee (AHPPC) on matters relating to AMR; provide expert advice and assistance on issues relating to AMR; and recommend national priorities relating to AMR for action. AMRSC advice will also be provided to the Australian AMR Prevention and Containment Steering Group, to inform development of the National AMR Prevention and Containment Strategy.