

THE AUSTRALIAN ANTIMICROBIAL RESISTANCE PREVENTION AND CONTAINMENT STEERING GROUP (AMRPC)

TERMS OF REFERENCE

March 2013

Role

The Australian Antimicrobial Resistance Prevention and Containment Steering Group (AMRPC) will provide governance and leadership on antimicrobial resistance (AMR) and oversee the development and implementation of a coherent national framework for current and future work related to AMR. This will ensure that issues are identified within a congruent “one health” framework, and that there is accountability for progress and outcomes on AMR.

Terms of Reference

The AMRPC will develop and manage the framework for AMR in Australia by:

- providing input, as appropriate, to international AMR issues through relevant international organisations, including the World Health Organization (WHO), the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE);
- providing advice to Government on AMR issues, including options for action to prevent and contain the spread of AMR;
- engaging, as appropriate, with other Commonwealth portfolios and relevant processes across the health and agriculture sectors; and
- engaging with State and Territory governments, as appropriate, to progress implementation of recommended strategies, in particular using existing Commonwealth/state processes in health and agriculture.

To further inform the development of the framework, the AMRPC will review relevant scientific evidence to:

- assess gaps in the current range of work on AMR and commission new work or processes to fill those gaps;
- guide the development of a more integrated national surveillance system for antimicrobial resistance and antibiotic usage;
- ensure integration of policies and processes relevant to AMR across health and agriculture, where this supports improved antibiotic stewardship and more rational use of antibiotics;
- promote activities to strengthen infection prevention and control activities to reduce the spread of infection;
- provide advice on future research priorities for Australia in relation to AMR; and
- promote greater understanding of AMR and related issues among the public, relevant professional bodies and stakeholders.

Membership

The AMRPC is jointly chaired by Professor Jane Halton, Secretary, Department of Health and Ageing and Mr Andrew Metcalfe, Secretary, Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry.

Other members are:

- Professor Chris Baggoley, Commonwealth Chief Medical Officer, and
- Dr Mark Schipp, Commonwealth Chief Veterinary Officer.

Secretariat is provided to the AMRPC by Professor Debora Picone, AM, Chief Executive Officer of the Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care.

Linkages

The AMRPC will seek scientific and clinical expert advice, as appropriate, on AMR and antibiotic usage programs.

Meetings

The AMRPC will meet at least four times a year.