

Recommendations

Recommendation 1

2.61 The committee recommends that the Commonwealth establish an independent body or national centre, to develop a strategy, report publicly on resistance data and measures taken to combat antimicrobial resistance and to manage the response to antimicrobial resistance in Australia.

Recommendation 2

2.62 The committee recommends that the independent body be resourced to implement a rigorous monitoring and reporting regime of antibiotic use in humans and animals and of multiple drug resistant infections in humans and animals.

Recommendation 3

3.75 The committee recommends that the voluntary reporting of the quantity of antimicrobials sold by volume be made mandatory for the registrants of antimicrobials.

Recommendation 4

3.77 The committee recommends that the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority:

- publish, as a matter of priority, the antibiotic usage report for the period 2005–06 to 2009–10; and
- publish antibiotic usage reports on an annual basis and within 18 months of the end of the relevant financial year.

Recommendation 5

4.81 The committee recommends that the Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care consider mechanisms to improve coordination and tighten access to antimicrobials in healthcare services, particularly in relation to any new antimicrobials that become available.

Recommendation 6

4.83 The committee recommends that the Department of Health and Ageing investigate additional mechanisms to improve antibiotic stewardship in general practice.

Recommendation 7

4.86 The committee recommends that consideration be given to banning all antibiotics listed as 'critically important in human medicine' by the World Health Organisation for use in animals in Australia.

Recommendation 8

5.58 The committee recommends that Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care coordinate the development of a national system of enhanced infection control including minimum hospital inpatient infection control standards, and standards for community health practices and aged care facilities.

Recommendation 9

5.60 The committee further recommends that the Commonwealth consider further support for research and development in infection control in farmed animals with the goal of reducing the need for the use of antibiotics in agriculture, taking into account the costs and impacts of proposed measures on animal health and farming practices.

Recommendation 10

6.46 The committee recommends that the Commonwealth consider measures to support research into strategies to deal with antimicrobial resistance, including research into new antibiotics and consideration of antimicrobial resistance being designated a National Research Priority Area.