

Outcome 9

BIOSECURITY AND EMERGENCY RESPONSE

Preparedness to respond to national health emergencies and risks, including through surveillance, regulation, prevention, detection and leadership in national health coordination

Outcome | 9

Outcome Strategy

The Australian Government, through Outcome 9, aims to strengthen the nation's capacity and capability to protect the health of all Australians from threats posed by communicable disease outbreaks, natural disasters, environmental hazards, acts of terrorism and other incidents that may lead to mass casualties. This is achieved by developing and maintaining effective systems to identify and monitor risks, and through effective response planning across the health system. In 2014-15 the Government will make a major investment to replenish the National Medical Stockpile and streamline its operations, working with the States and Territories.

The Department will work with other Australian Government, State and Territory and international agencies, to monitor and assess current and emerging population health risks. The Department will also maintain robust and timely communicable disease surveillance to detect, assess and respond to communicable disease threats in Australia and to Australians overseas.

In a health emergency, the Government will respond using established and tested plans and protocols. The Department provides national leadership and coordination in national health emergencies through chairing the Australian Health Protection Principal Committee, working with States and Territories to prioritise the use of resources, and providing a clearing house for critical emergency response information.

The Department will also provide human health risk assessment and advice on the regulation of agricultural and veterinary chemical products, drugs and poisons, and the import, export and manufacture of controlled drugs and chemicals.

Outcome 9 is the responsibility of the Office of Health Protection.

Programmes Contributing to Outcome 9

Programme 9.1: Health Emergency Planning and Response

Outcome 9 Budgeted Expenses and Resources

Table 9.1 provides an overview of the total expenses for Outcome 9 by Programme.

Table 9.1: Budgeted Expenses and Resources for Outcome 9

	2013-14 Estimated actual \$'000	2014-15 Estimated expenses \$'000
Programme 9.1: Health Emergency Planning and Response¹		
Administered expenses		
Ordinary annual services (Appropriation Bill No. 1)	20,695	nfp
Special accounts		
Human Pituitary Hormones	150	160
Non cash expenses - write-down of assets ²	17,301	25,978
Departmental expenses		
Departmental appropriation ³	26,059	25,299
Expenses not requiring appropriation in the budget year ⁴	2,068	2,046
Total for Programme 9.1	66,273	nfp
Outcome 9 totals by appropriation type		
Administered expenses		
Ordinary annual services (Appropriation Bill No. 1)	20,695	nfp
Non cash expenses - write down of assets ²	17,301	25,978
Special accounts	150	160
Departmental expenses		
Departmental appropriation ³	26,059	25,299
Expenses not requiring appropriation in the budget year ⁴	2,068	2,046
Total expenses for Outcome 9	66,273	nfp
	2013-14	2014-15
Average staffing level (number)	156	148

1 This programme includes National Partnerships paid to state and territory governments by the Treasury as part of the Federal Financial Relations (FFR) Framework. National partnerships are listed in this chapter under each programme. For budget estimates relating to the National Partnership component of the programme, please refer to Budget Paper 3 or Programme 1.10 of the Treasury Portfolio Budget Statements.

2 Non cash expenses relate to the write down of the drug stockpile inventory due to expiration, consumption and distribution.

3 Departmental appropriation combines "Ordinary annual services (Appropriation Bill No 1)" and "Revenue from independent sources (s31)".

4 "Expenses not requiring appropriation in the Budget year" is made up of depreciation expense, amortisation expense, make good expense and audit fees.

Programme 9.1: Health Emergency Planning and Response

Programme Objectives

National health emergency planning and response

The Department works with the States and Territories to manage national health emergencies through the Australian Health Protection Principal Committee of the Australian Health Ministers' Advisory Council. The Department also contributes to the development of emergency response plans under the National Health Emergency Response Arrangements.

In 2014-15, the Department will revise the *National Action Plan for Human Influenza Pandemic* (National Action Plan) in collaboration with Australian Government, State and Territory and local government agencies. The National Action Plan establishes pandemic influenza response arrangements for all levels of government in line with the Australian Government Crisis Coordination Arrangements.

National Medical Stockpile

The Government will invest \$22.8 million in the 2014-15 Budget to replenish the National Medical Stockpile and streamline its operations. The Department will work with the States and Territories to find ways to reduce waste and duplication, cut red tape in an emergency and improve the cost effectiveness of national stockpiling arrangements through operational and management efficiencies. This will enhance Australia's world-class health emergency protection arrangements.

Improve biosecurity, drug and chemical safety

In 2014-15, the Government will continue implementing the Security Sensitive Biological Agent Regulatory Scheme to reduce the risk of access to biological agents with potential use in terrorism.

Under the scheme, the Department administers a licensing and permit regime for controlled drugs in line with Australian legislation and international conventions; provides human health risk assessment advice on the regulation of agricultural and veterinary chemical products, drugs and poisons; and determines the need for medicines and chemicals to be included in the Standard for the Uniform Scheduling of Medicines and Poisons (SUSMP).

Minimise the risks posed by communicable diseases

The Australian Government is committed to strengthening Australia's defences against communicable diseases, including the spread of mosquito-borne diseases, such as dengue fever. In 2014-15, the Government will provide funding to continue an exotic mosquito detection, control and elimination programme and support cross border communications between Queensland and Papua New Guinea to reduce communicable disease risk in the Torres Strait.

To ensure efficiency in communicable disease prevention and control, in 2014-15 the Government will test the global market for the guaranteed timely supply of key products, including uniquely Australian antivenoms, and Q fever and pandemic influenza vaccines, ahead of the expiry of current supply arrangements in 2016.

The Australian Government will ensure that Australia's ports and airports are able to respond to public health events, in compliance with the World Health Organization (WHO) *International Health Regulations (2005)* (IHR). In 2014-15, the Department will continue to exchange information with the States and Territories and other countries to enable the tracing and management of potentially infected people through the IHR National Focal Point. The Department will work with border agencies, such as the Department of Agriculture and the Australian Customs and Border Protection Service, to implement human health policies at the border and develop strategies for raising public awareness of travel health issues and emerging diseases that may have an impact on travellers.

Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR)

The Australian Government is providing national and international leadership to help prevent and contain the spread of AMR. In 2014-15 the Government will implement activities to respond to AMR, including through funding the Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care to improve national surveillance of antibiotic usage and resistance, and initiatives to reduce costs relating to health care associated infections (funded under Outcome 7). The Department will consult with key stakeholders on the development of a National AMR Strategy which aims to coordinate Australia's efforts across human and animal health to reduce, monitor and respond to AMR.

Programme 9.1 is linked as follows:

- This Programme includes National Partnership payments for:
 - *Health Services – Critical Care and Trauma Response Centre at Royal Darwin Hospital: Equipped, Prepared and Ready;*
 - *OzFoodNet;* and
 - *Continuation of mosquito control and cross border liaison in the Torres Strait.*Partnership payments are paid to State and Territory Governments by the Treasury as part of the Federal Financial Relations (FFR) Framework. For Budget estimates relating to the National Partnership component of the programme, refer to Budget Paper No. 3 or Programme 1.10 of the Treasury's Portfolio Budget Statements.
- The Department of Immigration and Border Protection (Australian Customs and Border Protection Service – Border Management – Programme 1.2) for drug imports and exports.

Programme 9.1: Expenses**Table 9.2: Programme Expenses**

	2013-14 Estimated actual \$'000	2014-15 Budget \$'000	2015-16 Forward Year 1 \$'000	2016-17 Forward Year 2 \$'000	2017-18 Forward Year 3 \$'000
Annual administered expenses					
Ordinary annual services	20,695	nfp	nfp	nfp	nfp
Special accounts					
Human Pituitary Hormones	150	160	160	160	170
Non cash expenses ¹	17,301	25,978	6,407	12,814	12,814
Programme support	28,127	27,345	26,687	26,377	27,051
Total Programme 9.1 expenses	66,273	nfp	nfp	nfp	nfp

1 Non cash expenses relate to the write down of drug stockpile inventory due to expiration, consumption and distribution.

Programme 9.1: Deliverables**Qualitative Deliverables for Programme 9.1****National health emergency planning and response**

Qualitative Deliverable	2014-15 Reference Point or Target
Develop, exercise and refine national health emergency policy under the National Health Emergency Response Arrangements	National Health Emergency Response Arrangements will be exercised and revised and an emergency response plan for communicable diseases and environmental health threats of national significance will be developed

Improve biosecurity, drug and chemical safety

Qualitative Deliverable	2014-15 Reference Point or Target
Update and maintain the Standard for the Uniform Scheduling of Medicines and Poisons (SUSMP)	SUSMP to be amended as soon as practicable after the Secretary's, or the Secretary's delegate's, final decision under the <i>Therapeutic Goods Regulations 1990</i>

Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR)

Qualitative Deliverable	2014-15 Reference Point or Target
Stakeholders are consulted on the development of the National AMR Strategy	A discussion paper on the National AMR Strategy released for stakeholder input by the end of 2014

Quantitative Deliverables for Programme 9.1

Improve biosecurity, drug and chemical safety

Quantitative Deliverable	2013-14 Revised Budget	2014-15 Budget Target	2015-16 Forward Year 1	2016-17 Forward Year 2	2017-18 Forward Year 3
Percentage of applications for the import, export, and manufacture of controlled substances that are assessed and processed within agreed timeframes	95%	95%	95%	95%	95%

Programme 9.1: Key Performance Indicators

Qualitative Key Performance Indicators for Programme 9.1

National health emergency planning and response

Qualitative Indicator	2014-15 Reference Point or Target
Containment of national health emergencies through the timely engagement of national health coordination mechanisms and response plans	National responses to health emergencies are successfully managed

Improve biosecurity, drug and chemical safety

Qualitative Indicator	2014-15 Reference Point or Target
Perform human health risk assessments and regulate access to chemicals and drugs	Chemical assessments completed in a timely manner and authorisation to access drugs and chemicals issued in accordance with legislative requirements

Quantitative Key Performance Indicators for Programme 9.1

Minimise the risks posed by communicable diseases

Quantitative Indicator	2013-14 Revised Budget	2014-15 Budget Target	2015-16 Forward Year 1	2016-17 Forward Year 2	2017-18 Forward Year 3
Percentage of designated points of entry into Australia capable of responding to public health events, as defined in the <i>International Health Regulations (2005)</i>	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%