

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 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.

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 across Australian Government entities, 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.

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

Programme 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

| | 2014-15 Estimated actual expenses \$'000 | 2015-16 Estimated expenses \$'000 |
|--|---|--|
| Programme 9.1: Health Emergency Planning and Response¹ | | |
| Administered expenses | | |
| Ordinary annual services (Appropriation Bill No. 1) | npf | npf |
| Special Accounts | | |
| Human Pituitary Hormones | 160 | 160 |
| Non cash expenses – write down of assets ² | 3,228 | 101,656 |
| Departmental expenses | | |
| Departmental appropriation ³ | 23,655 | 21,874 |
| Expenses not requiring appropriation in the budget year ⁴ | 1,237 | 627 |
| Total for Programme 9.1 | 28,280 | 124,317 |
| Outcome 9 totals by appropriation type | | |
| Administered expenses | | |
| Ordinary annual services (Appropriation Bill No. 1) | npf | npf |
| Special Accounts | 160 | 160 |
| Non cash expenses - write down of assets ² | 3,228 | 101,656 |
| Departmental expenses | | |
| Departmental appropriation ³ | 23,655 | 21,874 |
| Expenses not requiring appropriation in the budget year ⁴ | 1,237 | 627 |
| Total expenses for Outcome 9 | 28,280 | 124,317 |
| | 2014-15 | 2015-16 |
| Average staffing level (number) | 121 | 121 |

1 This programme includes National Partnerships paid to State and Territory Governments by the Treasury as part of the Federal Financial Relations 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 1.9 of the Treasury's 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 (s74)".

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

Programme 9.1: Health Emergency Planning and Response

Programme Objectives

Provide a comprehensive and effective response to a national health emergency

The Department will continue to work with the relevant Commonwealth entities and States and Territories to plan, prepare for, and provide, a coordinated, comprehensive and effective response to public health or mass casualty incidents of national significance. The Department's contribution to this work will be managed through the Australian Government Crisis Management Framework, and the Australian Health Protection Principal Committee of the Australian Health Ministers' Advisory Council.

Since the time of the Bali bombings, the Australian Government has demonstrated a long standing commitment to investing in activities and assets that ensure Australia is well placed to respond to large scale emergencies and disasters. Funding of \$63.5 million over four years will be provided for the Critical Care and Trauma Response Centre at the Royal Darwin Hospital.

Replenishment and reform of the National Medical Stockpile

The Australian Government will continue to ensure that the National Medical Stockpile holds a contingency reserve of essential pharmaceuticals and protective equipment to maintain Australia's capacity to respond to health emergencies. Funding of \$34.2 million over two years from 2015-16 will support the replenishment of expired or expiring stock.

Reform activities to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the operation and management of the National Medical Stockpile will continue. Engagement of a Prime Vendor, negotiation of a National Stockpiling Agreement with the States and Territories, and pre-deployment of inventory will occur over 2015-16.

Improve biosecurity and minimise the risks posed by communicable diseases

In 2015-16, the Government will continue to administer the Security Sensitive Biological Agent Regulatory Scheme to minimise the risk of access to biological agents that could be used in acts of terrorism or biocrime.

The Government will continue to strengthen national laboratory capacity through funding support of \$5.9 million over 2015-16 to the World Health Collaborating Centre for Reference and Research on Influenza, the National High Security Quarantine and Smallpox Laboratory, and the Proficiency Testing Program for biological agents of security concern by the Royal College of Pathology Australia.

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 2015-16, this will include working closely with the Department of Agriculture on vector monitoring, and on planning the implementation of the *Biosecurity Bill 2014*. In addition, 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.

The Department will continue to maintain the National Notifiable Diseases Surveillance System. Under this system, notifications of more than 50 communicable diseases are made to State and Territory health authorities to ensure effective surveillance of communicable diseases.

In 2015-16, the Department will also continue to maintain surveillance systems for seasonal and pandemic influenza to ensure national surveillance capacity is strengthened.

The Australian Government is providing national and international leadership to help prevent and contain the spread of antimicrobial resistance (AMR). In 2015-16, the National AMR Implementation Plan will be developed, in consultation with States and Territories and industry to support the National AMR Strategy. The Government will also continue to fund the Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care (ACSQHC)¹ to establish national surveillance of AMR and antibiotic usage.

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;*
 - *Continuation of mosquito control and cross border liaison in the Torres Strait; and*
 - *Continuation of contribution towards the cost of treating PNG nationals at Queensland Health facilities.*

National Partnership payments are paid to State and Territory Governments by the Treasury as part of the Federal Financial Relations Framework. For Budget estimates relating to the National Partnership component of the programme, refer to Budget Paper No. 3 or Programme 1.9 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.
- The Department of Agriculture (Biosecurity and Export Services – Programme 2.1) for the human health aspects of biosecurity.

¹ For further information on the work of the ACSQHC, refer to the ACSQHC chapter in these Portfolio Budget Statements.

Programme 9.1: Expenses

Table 9.2: Programme Expenses

| | 2014-15 Estimated actual \$'000 | 2015-16 Budget \$'000 | 2016-17 Forward Year 1 \$'000 | 2017-18 Forward Year 2 \$'000 | 2018-19 Forward Year 3 \$'000 |
|-------------------------------------|--|-----------------------------|--|--|--|
| Annual administered expenses | | | | | |
| Ordinary annual services | npf | npf | npf | npf | npf |
| Special Accounts | | | | | |
| Human Pituitary Hormones | 160 | 160 | 160 | 170 | 170 |
| Non cash expenses ¹ | 3,228 | 101,656 | 17,577 | 28,276 | 20,796 |
| Programme support | 24,892 | 22,501 | 20,546 | 20,502 | 20,808 |
| Total Programme 9.1 expenses | 28,280 | 124,317 | 38,283 | 48,948 | 41,774 |

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

Provide a comprehensive and effective response to a national health emergency

| Qualitative Deliverable | 2015-16 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 and minimise the risks posed by communicable diseases

| Qualitative Deliverables | 2015-16 Reference Point or Target |
|---|---|
| Collect and disseminate data in the National Notifiable Diseases Surveillance System and monitor data quality in accordance with the <i>National Health Security Act 2007</i> . | Data is collected and available for regular reporting by the Commonwealth and ad hoc requests by stakeholders, including publishing in the Department's journal <i>Communicable Diseases Intelligence</i> . |
| Manage and control exotic mosquito populations to reduce the risk of disease transmission in the Torres Strait and mainland Australia. | Regular mosquito surveillance to indicate whether the mosquito population has reduced in the target areas in the Torres Strait and not spread to the mainland. |
| Commence implementation of actions under the National Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) Strategy. | National AMR Implementation Plan is developed by 30 June 2016. |

Programme 9.1: Key Performance Indicators

Qualitative Key Performance Indicators for Programme 9.1

Provide a comprehensive and effective response to a national health emergency

| Qualitative Indicator | 2015-16 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 and minimise the risks posed by communicable diseases

| Qualitative Indicator | 2015-16 Reference Point or Target |
|--|---|
| The development and spread of antimicrobial resistance (AMR) is minimised. | Progress reports indicate that actions to minimise the development and spread of AMR are being implemented in accordance with the National AMR Implementation Plan. |

Quantitative Key Performance Indicators for Programme 9.1

Improve biosecurity and minimise the risks posed by communicable diseases

| Quantitative Indicator | 2014-15 Revised Budget | 2015-16 Budget Target | 2016-17 Forward Year 1 | 2017-18 Forward Year 2 | 2018-19 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% |