

Outcome 1

Population Health

The incidence of preventable mortality, illness and injury in Australians is minimised

OUTCOME SUMMARY – THE YEAR AHEAD

POPULATION HEALTH DIVISION

Population health is a systematic approach to prevent, detect, and manage health risks in the whole population or in population sub groups. The Department of Health and Ageing is responsible for leading the development of national population health initiatives to combat preventable illness and injury, to contribute to health throughout life and to increase overall life expectancy.

The responsibility for ensuring that Australia is able to respond effectively to national health emergencies, including infectious disease outbreaks, terrorism and natural disaster, has been transferred to Outcome 15 – Biosecurity and Emergency Response.

Outcome 1 is the responsibility of Population Health Division and the Therapeutic Goods Administration group of regulators.

THERAPEUTIC GOODS ADMINISTRATION GROUP OF REGULATORS

The Therapeutic Goods Administration group of regulators includes the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA), the Office of the Gene Technology Regulator (OGTR) and the Office of Chemical Safety (OCS) – incorporating the National Industrial Chemicals Notification and Assessment Scheme (NICNAS). The group is responsible for the regulation of therapeutic products (including medicines, medical devices, blood, blood products and tissues), chemicals and gene technology in Australia.

The TGA, the OCS and the OGTR carry out regulatory activities determined by the *Therapeutic Goods Act 1989*, the *Industrial Chemicals (Notification and Assessment) Act 1989* and the *Gene Technology Act 2000* respectively. The group also provides advice to Ministers in relation to the operation of the current regulatory systems for therapeutic products, chemicals and gene technology, as well as possible changes to these systems to meet the future needs of the Australian population.

On 10 December 2003, the Australian and New Zealand Governments signed an agreement to establish a joint scheme for the regulation of therapeutic products. The scheme will be administered by a single, bi-national agency to be named the Australia New Zealand Therapeutic Products Authority (ANZTPA). The ANZTPA will replace the TGA in Australia and the Medicines and Medical Devices Safety Authority (Medsafe) in New Zealand and will be accountable to both the Australian and New Zealand Governments.

POPULATION HEALTH DIVISION

Key Strategic Directions for 2006-07

During 2006-07, the Australian Government will:

- focus on the main causes of preventable disease including poor nutrition, physical inactivity, tobacco use and alcohol misuse, with an emphasis on preventing disease associated with obesity, particularly childhood obesity;
- focus on other forms of disease prevention and protection through ongoing work on breast and cervical cancer screening programs, commencement of the bowel screening program, and implementation of the national HIV/AIDS, Sexually Transmissible Infections and Hepatitis C strategies and the National Immunisation Program;
- continue to implement a range of strategies that reduce the demand, supply and harm caused by illicit drug use through its contribution to the Government's Tough on Drugs Initiative; and
- continue to ensure Australia has a well trained workforce for dealing with population health issues and that Australia has good data available for decision making in matters concerning population health.

Major Activities

In 2006-07, the Government will increase its investment in tackling chronic disease in the Australian community.

The Government will continue to provide national leadership to implement a consistent, national effort to reduce lifestyle health risk factors that contribute to avoidable chronic disease, such as alcohol misuse, tobacco smoking, physical inactivity and unhealthy weight. As announced by the Council of Australian Governments in 2006, the Australian Better Health Initiative will see Australian, State and Territory governments working together, and with communities, to promote good health and reduce the burden of chronic disease.

The initiative will encourage people to make informed lifestyle choices and reduce the risk of developing chronic disease through a national social marketing campaign, nationally consistent school canteen guidelines, and school and local community based programs to facilitate healthy lifestyle changes. Support will also be provided for people at high risk of chronic disease through individual and group lifestyle counselling and education services, including education and training for health and other professionals delivering lifestyle advice.

These activities will complement the other three priority areas of the Initiative - supporting early detection of risk factors and chronic disease; encouraging active patient self management and improving communication and coordination between care services - to be managed under Outcomes 5, 3 and 13 respectively.

In 2006-07, the Department will continue to implement national initiatives to reduce smoking rates and prevent youth uptake, and reduce risky and high-risk drinking. This will include previous Budget commitments to a National Youth Smoking campaign and Smoking During Pregnancy initiative, as well as a new Alcohol Campaign to encourage responsible alcohol consumption.

The Government will continue and expand on its commitment to provide Lifescripts Resources for use by Divisions of General Practice, General Practitioners and their staff, and Aboriginal Medical Services and Health Workers, so individuals can receive advice and support to adopt

healthier lifestyles to prevent and better manage chronic disease. Further training for General Practitioners and their staff will be made available, and the Lifescrpts Resources will be adapted for use with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds.

In 2006-07, a priority will be the implementation of the Blueprint for Surveillance of Chronic Diseases and Associated Determinants, endorsed by Australian Health Ministers, to improve information available for chronic disease prevention. The Department will also continue to support the Australian Longitudinal Study on Women's Health, to deliver high quality information about the health and well-being of women.

Illicit drug use will continue to be addressed through new Budget initiatives targeting the increased use of psychostimulants, cannabis use, and the third phase of the National Illicit Drugs Campaign. New measures will also be implemented to inform the community of the connections between drug abuse and the development of mental illness and provide specialist training and resources for drug and alcohol workers dealing with these issues. The Government will also continue existing activities and extend funding for community based treatment services funded under the Non-Government Organisation Treatment Grants Program for an additional two year period from 2006-07.

The early detection and prevention of disease through screening activities for cervical and breast cancer will continue. The Government will also continue to phase in a National Bowel Cancer Screening Program with invitations commencing early in 2006-07. These diseases can be treated successfully if detected early.

In 2006-07, the Department will continue to fund and support the Australian Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation in its consideration of new vaccines such as rotavirus and human papilloma virus (HPV), and the publishing of the 9th edition of the *Australian Immunisation Handbook*.

New national strategies on HIV/AIDS, sexually transmissible infections and hepatitis C will continue to be implemented, including undertaking a four year program to increase awareness of chlamydia, improve its surveillance and pilot a testing program.

In 2006-07, a National Pregnancy Support helpline will be implemented to provide counselling and support for women who face an unintended pregnancy or who are uncertain about continuing with a pregnancy.

The Australian Government will also continue to ensure that Australia has a well trained workforce for dealing with population health issues. A key feature of this investment will be the implementation of the new phase of the Public Health Education and Research Program.

THERAPEUTIC GOODS ADMINISTRATION GROUP OF REGULATORS

Key Strategic Directions for 2006-07

During 2006-07, the Australian Government will:

- in consultation with the New Zealand Government, undertake development work to establish the Australia New Zealand Therapeutic Products Authority (ANZTPA), including the Australian implementing legislation, the Ministerial Council rules and the infrastructure required to support the ANZTPA;
- continue to promote harmonisation of regulatory requirements for therapeutic products, genetically modified organisms and industrial chemicals through participation in

international forums and implementation of cooperative agreements with international regulatory agencies; and

- develop and implement a response to the independent review of the operation of the *Gene Technology Act 2000* commissioned by the Gene Technology Ministerial Council in accordance with the Gene Technology Act.

Major Activities

In 2006-07, the TGA group of regulators will continue to regulate therapeutic products, gene technology and industrial chemicals cohesively and strategically, with a primary focus on public health and the environment.

In 2006-07, the implementing legislation for the ANZTPA will be developed for introduction into the Australian Parliament following consultation with stakeholders, including industry, consumers, health professionals and State and Territory governments. Consultation with stakeholders will also be undertaken on the regulatory scheme to be administered by the ANZTPA. Development of the infrastructure of the ANZTPA will be finalised and the TGA will align its operational and management structures to ensure a smooth transition to the new authority.

In 2006-07, the TGA will continue its work to develop international relationships. In relation to medical devices, the TGA will continue to work with industry to meet the five-year transition to the medical device regulatory scheme that was introduced in 2002 and to demonstrate that their products meet the requirements of the new scheme. As a result of this, the TGA is likely to process an estimated 17,000 additional applications in the 2006-07 financial year for medical devices to be included in the Australian Register of Therapeutic Goods. Australian importers of medical devices will benefit because medical devices imported into Australia no longer need to meet unique Australian regulatory requirements. This reduces regulatory costs, and time delays for imported devices entering the Australian market. Australian manufacturers will also benefit from the assessment of their medical devices against international benchmark standards as it facilitates international trade and reduces regulatory costs for Australian made medical devices exported to our major trading partners.

In 2006-07, the Office of the Gene Technology Regulator (OGTR) will provide input into the Australian Government's response to the report of the Independent Panel on the review of the *Gene Technology Act 2000*.

The OGTR concluded a review of the Gene Technology Regulations 2001 in 2005-06, following extensive consultation with organisations working with genetically modified organisms, expert authorities and the public. The review aimed to identify technical amendments that would improve the clarity and workability of the Regulations based on operational experience acquired during the first four years of the gene technology regulatory system. Changes to the Regulations proposed by the Gene Technology Regulator and agreed to by the Gene Technology Ministerial Council and the Governor-General will be implemented by the OGTR in 2006-07. The commencement date will allow appropriate notification of stakeholders.

The OCS will give effect to the recommendations to be approved by the Parliamentary Secretary in July 2006 arising from the review of the National Industrial Chemicals Notification and Assessment Scheme (NICNAS) Existing Chemicals Program. In 2006-07, NICNAS, in conjunction with the TGA, will undertake regulatory reform work to better delineate the regulation of disinfectants that are not therapeutic products. The OCS will develop an implementation strategy to effect the recommendations arising from the Globalised Harmonised System. The OCS will also continue to be the coordinating body for Project Cohesion, an

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interdepartmental cooperative initiative to track drug precursors. During 2006-07, OCS will continue to progress work on the Trans-Tasman Mutual Recognition Arrangement Chemicals Cooperation Program through a five-year work plan to determine which elements of the Australian and New Zealand industrial chemicals assessment schemes could be mutually recognised or harmonised.

Outcome 1 Resourcing

Table 3.1.1 shows how the 2006-07 Budget appropriations translate to total resourcing for Outcome 1, including administered expenses, revenue from government (appropriation), revenue from other sources, and the total price of outputs.

Table 3.1.1: Total resources for Outcome 1

	Estimated actual 2005-06 \$'000	Budget estimate 2006-07 \$'000
Administered appropriations		
Program 1.1: Chronic Disease - Early Detection and Prevention		
Appropriation Bill 1	20,079	34,295
	20,079	34,295
Program 1.2: Communicable Disease Control		
Appropriation Bill 1	19,324	18,924
Appropriation Bill 2	2,266	2,317
	21,590	21,241
Program 1.3: Drug Strategy		
to Department of Health and Ageing	63,544	75,406
to Services for Other Govts and Non-Depts Bodies (Special Account) - <i>FMA Act 1997, s20⁽¹⁾⁽²⁾</i>	375	375
Total Appropriation Bill 1	63,919	75,781
Appropriation Bill 2	55,294	66,795
	119,213	142,576
Program 1.4: Food and Regulatory Policy		
to Department of Health and Ageing	62	263
to Services for Other Govts and Non-Depts Bodies (Special Account) - <i>FMA Act 1997, s20⁽¹⁾⁽²⁾</i>	158	158
Total Appropriation Bill 1	220	421
	220	421
Program 1.5: Immunisation		
to Department of Health and Ageing	10,863	11,291
to Australian Childhood Immunisation Register (Special Account) - <i>FMA Act 1997, s20⁽¹⁾⁽²⁾</i>	5,192	5,346
Total Appropriation Bill 1	16,055	16,637
Appropriation Bill 2	259	384
<i>National Health Act 1953</i> - Essential Vaccines	181,493	174,518
Total Special Appropriations	181,493	174,518
	197,807	191,539
Program 1.6: Public Health		
Appropriation Bill 1	21,262	27,818
Appropriation Bill 2	163,874	166,643
	185,136	194,461
Total Administered Appropriations	544,045	584,533

Budget Statements – Department of Health and Ageing

Table 3.1.1: Total resources for Outcome 1 (cont)

	Estimated actual 2005-06 \$'000	Budget estimate 2006-07 \$'000
Departmental appropriations		
Health and Ageing		
Output Group 1 - Policy Advice	15,508	17,761
Output Group 2 - Program Management	31,487	36,060
Total price of departmental outputs <i>(Total revenue from government and from other sources)</i>	46,995	53,821
Total revenue from government (appropriations) contributing to price of departmental outputs	42,973	49,671
Total revenue from other sources	4,022	4,150
Total price of departmental outputs <i>(Total revenue from government and from other sources)</i>	46,995	53,821
Therapeutic Goods Administration Group of Regulators		
<i>Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA)</i>		
Output Group 3 - Agency Specific Service Delivery	74,259	76,368
<i>Office of Gene Technology Regulator (OGTR)</i>		
Output Group 3 - Agency Specific Service Delivery	8,159	7,920
<i>National Industrial Chemicals Notification and Assessment Scheme (NICNAS)</i>		
Output Group 1 - Policy Advice	349	258
Output Group 3 - Agency Specific Service Delivery	7,441	7,473
Total price of TGA group of regulators outputs <i>(Total revenue from government and from other sources)</i>	90,208	92,019
Total revenue from government (appropriations) contributing to price of departmental outputs	9,329	11,656
Total revenue from other sources	80,879	80,363
Total price of TGA group of regulators outputs <i>(Total revenue from government and from other sources)</i>	90,208	92,019
to Department of Health and Ageing	42,973	49,671
to NICNAS Special Account ⁽¹⁾	349	258
to OGTR Special Account ⁽¹⁾	7,843	7,920
to TGA Special Account ⁽¹⁾	1,137	3,478
Total revenue from government (appropriations) contributing to price of departmental outputs	52,302	61,327
Total revenue from other sources	84,901	84,513
Total Price of Outputs for Outcome 1 <i>(Total Revenue from Government and from other sources)</i>	137,203	145,840
Total estimated resourcing for Outcome 1 <i>(Total price of outputs and administered appropriations)</i>	681,248	730,373
	2005-06	2006-07
Average staffing level (number)		
Department	889	943

1. Appropriation flows into Special Accounts are also shown in the receipts column of the Special Accounts table in Table 2.6.

2. Where names of Acts have been abbreviated, the full name of the Act can be found in the Acts Glossary at the end of Table 2.6.

Measures Affecting Outcome 1

A summary of measures affecting this outcome is provided at Table 2.2, Section 2. Measure descriptions are published in full in Budget Paper No. 2, *Budget Measures 2006-07*, available on the Australian Government website at <<http://www.budget.gov.au>>.

Contribution of Administered Programs to Outcome 1

Program 1.1: Chronic Disease – Early Detection and Prevention

To provide funding for governments, health professionals and community based organisations to promote and support the prevention of chronic disease through the adoption of healthy lifestyles. The program also provides funding to improve the early detection of breast, cervical and bowel cancer. The contribution to this outcome is measured by participation in programs.

Program 1.2: Communicable Disease Control

To provide funding for governments and a range of non-government organisations to develop and deliver programs that prevent and control the spread of HIV/AIDS, Hepatitis C and Sexually Transmissible Infections. Programs include diverse activities such as workforce development, targeted health education programs and activities to ensure the safety of the blood supply. The contribution to this outcome is measured by the notification rates of relevant communicable diseases.

Program 1.3: Drug Strategy

To provide leadership in research, program development and public awareness on the harmful affects of drug use. Funding is provided for research to monitor emerging trends in illicit and licit drug use and the identification of best practice in regard to prevention or treatment. The program also funds public awareness initiatives to raise community understanding about the consequences of their decisions on drug issues. Non-government organisations receive funding for initiatives to complement State and Territory programs. The contribution is measured by monitoring of drug usage trends and the impact of that on the cost and social burden of drug related disease.

Program 1.4: Food and Regulatory Policy

To provide direction and leadership in food policy issues. Funding is provided for high-level support to the Australia and New Zealand Food Regulation Ministerial Council and its supporting committees. Funding also supports a national stakeholder communications forum. The contribution is measured by Ministerial Council satisfaction and meeting legislative requirements on notifications on food standards.

Program 1.5: Immunisation

To provide vaccines and immunisation advice to the Australian community to protect against major vaccine preventable diseases. It contributes to population health and safety by seeking to increase national immunisation coverage rates and reduce the incidence of vaccine preventable diseases. This contribution is measured by assessment of vaccination coverage and disease rates in the targeted age groups, including children and older Australians.

Program 1.6: Public Health

To lead and coordinate the chronic disease prevention agenda in Australia, and contribute to the development and maintenance of national population health infrastructure and workforce capacity. The item also includes funding to evaluate the efficiency and effectiveness of public health activities through the Priority Setting Mechanism announced in the 2003-04 Budget. The contribution to this outcome is measured through its ability to inform the prevention agenda.

Contribution of Departmental Outputs to Outcome 1

The Department describes its core activities in terms of three output groups: policy advice, program management and agency-specific service delivery. Outcome 1 reports on all three output groups. Refer to Section 3.1 for more information on output groups.

Performance Information for Outcome 1

Performance information for administered programs, individual outputs and output groups relating to Outcome 1 are summarised in Table 3.2.1.

Table 3.2.1: Key Performance Information for Outcome 1

Performance Information for Administered Programs

Population Health Division

Indicator	Measured by	Reference Point or Target
Administered Funding – Population Health Programs		
Evidence based evaluations of investments in disease prevention and health promotion.	The number of evaluations undertaken.	All lapsing programs and selected HIV/AIDS activities undertaken through the National Public Health Program are evaluated through the Priority Setting Mechanism for Prevention.
Reform of the Public Health Education and Research Program in accordance with the recommendations of the 2005 review.	Extent of implementation of the review recommendations and stakeholder satisfaction.	Comprehensive implementation of review recommendations to satisfaction of stakeholders.
Reduced community harm caused by licit and illicit drugs.	Number of Australians using tobacco or illicit drugs and/or consuming alcohol at risky levels.	Evidence of continued reduction in the population using tobacco or illicit drugs, and/or consuming alcohol at risky levels.
Initiatives targeting nutrition, physical activity and overweight and obesity, and injury.	Initiatives developed and managed to address risk factors.	COAG Healthy Living Measure developed and implemented.

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Indicator	Measured by	Reference Point or Target
Administered Funding – Population Health Programs (cont)		
Effective screening programs delivered in accordance with a sound evidence base and with responsiveness to new and emerging trends.	Breast and cervical cancer screening rates for women in the target age groups, and participation rates in the National Bowel Cancer Screening Program.	Participation rates in breast and cervical screening programs increase, and participation rates between 39.9% and 57.5% for bowel cancer screening.
Effective communicable disease prevention and detection in accordance with a sound evidence base and with responsiveness to new and emerging trends.	Notification rates of HIV/AIDS, Hepatitis C, Sexually Transmissible Infections (STIs) and Vaccine Preventable Diseases (VPDs).	A positive impact on notification rates of HIV/AIDS, Hepatitis C and STIs and VPDs.
Improved knowledge, attitude and behaviours in relation to diseases and health risks through targeted health promotion and disease prevention campaigns.	Provide advice on how feedback is obtained eg. surveys on health promotion and disease prevention campaigns.	Improvements in knowledge, attitudes and behaviours in specific target populations.
High rates of immunisation coverage for vaccines funded through the National Immunisation Program.	Immunisation rates in the target age groups.	Increase from previous year.
Cost: \$584.533m		

Performance Information for Departmental Outputs

Population Health Division

Indicator	Measured by	Reference Point or Target
Output Group 1 – Policy Advice		
Quality, relevant and timely advice for Australian Government decision-making.	Ministerial satisfaction.	Maintain or increase from previous year.
Relevant and timely evidence-based policy research.	Production of relevant and timely evidence-based policy research.	Relevant evidence-based policy research produced in a timely manner.
Price: \$17.761 m		

Indicator	Measured by	Reference Point or Target
Output Group 2 – Program Management		
Administered budget predictions are met and actual expenses vary less than 0.5% from budgeted expenses.	Percentage that actual expenses vary from budgeted expenses.	0.5% variance from budgeted expenses.
Stakeholders to participate in program development.	Opportunities for stakeholder participation through a range of avenues, such as surveys, conferences and meetings.	Stakeholders participated in program development.
Price: \$36.060m		

Performance Information for Departmental Outputs

Therapeutic Goods Administration Group of Regulators

Indicator	Measured by	Reference Point or Target
Output Group 1 – Policy Advice		
Quality, relevant and timely advice for Australian Government decision-making.	Ministerial satisfaction.	Maintain or increase from previous year.
Price: \$0.258m		

Indicator	Measured by	Reference Point or Target
Output Group 3 – Agency-Specific Service Delivery		
<p>Timeliness of evaluations and appeals of decisions on applications in relation to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • entry of products onto the Australian Register of Therapeutic Goods; • dealings with GMOs; and • industrial chemicals. 	Evaluations and appeals of decisions made within legislated timeframes, where applicable.	<p>100% of evaluations are made within legislated timeframes.</p> <p>100% of appeals of decisions are considered within legislated timeframes.</p>
Timeliness of evaluations of applications on human health aspects of pesticides and veterinary medicines.	Evaluations are made within agreed timeframes.	97% of evaluations on human health aspects of pesticides and veterinary medicines are made within agreed time frames.
Timeliness of licensing and surveillance audits of Australian and overseas manufacturers.	Audits performed within target timeframes.	100% of audits are performed within target timeframes.

Budget Statements – Department of Health and Ageing

Indicator	Measured by	Reference Point or Target
Output Group 3 – Agency-Specific Service Delivery (cont)		
Efficient post-marketing surveillance testing of therapeutic products.	Number of therapeutic products tested.	Minimum of 800 therapeutic products tested.
Compliance with conditions in licences to undertake dealing with GMOs.	Percentage of field trials inspected.	Minimum of 20% of field trials inspected.
Efficient issuing and reporting of permits and licences.	Timeliness of permits and licences issued and reported.	97% of permits and licences completed within agreed targets.
High level of compliance with the <i>Therapeutic Goods Act 1989</i> , the <i>Gene Technology Act 2000</i> and the <i>Industrial Chemicals (Notification and Assessment) Act 1989</i> .	Breaches of the <i>Therapeutic Goods Act 1989</i> , the <i>Gene Technology Act 2000</i> and the <i>Industrial Chemicals (Notification and Assessment) Act 1989</i> are investigated and appropriate action taken.	Reports of alleged breaches are assessed within 10 working days and appropriate response initiated.
Consultation with stakeholders on regulatory change in relation to therapeutic products, GMOs, industrial chemicals, pesticides and veterinary medicines.	Timeliness and thoroughness of consultation.	Stakeholders affected by regulatory change are effectively consulted.
International relationships facilitate cooperation and harmonisation in the implementation of regulatory controls for therapeutic products, GMOs and industrial chemicals.	Cooperative arrangements in place with key international regulatory agencies. Active participation in key international forums.	High degree of cooperation with key international regulatory agencies.
Price: \$91.761m		

Evaluations

Evaluation and Monitoring of the National Drug Strategy 2004-2009

The Department is in the final stages of planning the evaluation of the National Drug Strategy 2004-2009. The project will be directed by the Ministerial Council on Drug Strategy (MCDS) and Inter-governmental Committee on Drugs and will help inform any future National Drug Strategy. The evaluation is to commence upon MCDS endorsement and conclude in December 2008.

Evaluation of BreastScreen Australia

On 20 October 2005, the Australian Health Ministers' Advisory Committee (AHMAC) agreed to a comprehensive evaluation of BreastScreen Australia, to be overseen by a committee including Australian and overseas experts. The purpose of the evaluation is to assess whether the program is meeting its aims and objectives and to address a range of unresolved and emerging issues, including (but not limited to): estimating the impact the program has on breast cancer mortality; determining the appropriate age range for the program; and examining the program's role in relation to women with symptoms or increased risk of breast cancer. The methodology will be developed in consultation with the expert committee and States and Territories. The evaluation will take place in stages with reports on the first stage being provided to AHMAC late in 2006.

Major Reviews

Review of Food Regulation Agreement 2000

The terms of the Food Regulation Agreement 2000 (amended 2002) require a review of its effectiveness within five years of the commencement of the Agreement. The Agreement, signed by the Australian Government and State and Territory governments, establishes a cooperative national system for the regulation of food. The results of the review will be reported to the Council of Australian Governments by December 2006.

Review of Treaty between the Australian Government and New Zealand Government

There will be a review of the Treaty between the Australian Government and New Zealand Government that established the joint food regulatory system. The Treaty covers a range of issues that: establish and maintain a framework for the harmonisation of food standards and a joint Australia New Zealand Food Standards Code. It also covers a commitment by the two countries to an assessment process for food standards characterised by transparency, timeliness and accountability, which includes a commitment to consultation and public involvement. A review steering committee of Australia and New Zealand officials has been established to conduct the review. The review of the Treaty must be completed prior to the review of the Food Regulation Agreement.

Review of the Public Health and Education Research Program

In 2006-07, a number of actions will be undertaken to implement the recommendations of the Review of the Public Health and Education Research Program. This Program has been continued following a review in 2004-05. The review was undertaken to inform decision making about the future of the Australian Government's investments in public health workforce and capacity building beyond December 2005. The actions to be undertaken to implement the

review's recommendations include developing and implementing quality measures to assess universities' teaching outputs and establishing a more coordinated and integrated approach to continuing professional development.

Economic and Process Review of HIV Funding

This review will examine funding provided to: HIV/AIDS community based organisations; the National Research Centres in HIV, Hepatitis and Sexually Transmissible Infections (STIs); and World AIDS Day and AIDS Awareness Week activities. The overall objective of the review is to establish the appropriateness of current funding arrangements and provide a basis from which to improve funding processes. An external consultant will be engaged to conduct the review which is expected to be completed by the end of 2006.

Performance Improvement Initiatives

Public Health Outcome Funding Agreement

Development work will commence in 2006-07 to plan a review of the operation of the Public Health Outcome Funding Agreements in 2007-08, in accordance with the requirement of the Agreements. This review will include a review of the performance information and other reporting requirements.

Australian Immunisation Agreements

Development work will commence in 2006-07 to plan a review of the Australian Immunisation Agreements in 2007-08 in accordance with the requirements of the Agreements with each jurisdiction. This review will include a review of the performance indicator requirements under the Agreements.