



## Preventive Health – antimicrobial resistance

The Australian Government's critical national leadership continues through an additional \$22.5 million investment in antimicrobial usage and antimicrobial resistance (AMR) surveillance, to monitor and address the threat from increasing rates of AMR. AMR increases the likelihood of superbugs in Australia. This builds on a previous investment of \$4.8 million.

The Government is providing funding to continue administration of the national Antimicrobial Use and Resistance in Australia (AURA) Surveillance System. This system provides a full picture of trends in AMR and use in human health.

Funding has also been provided for Australia's national antimicrobial strategy to provide guidance on how to protect the health of humans, animals and the environment by minimising the development and spread of AMR – while continuing to have effective antimicrobials available.

### Why is this important?

AMR is an increasing global threat that needs a proactive response. Without intervention, by 2050 more than 10,000 Australians are estimated to die from infections related to AMR. The widespread and often inappropriate use of antibiotics in both humans and animals has contributed to the development of microbial resistance across the globe. No country is immune. Australia's high use of antibiotics increases the chance of organisms developing resistance. The more they are used – appropriately or not – the less effective they become. AMR infections can move across borders and between health care and community settings, including aged care facilities, and challenge the safety of routine medical procedures, such as hip replacements and chemotherapy.

It is important to ensure that surveillance continues. The AURA Surveillance System was established in 2014 to collect and analyse data to improve our understanding of antimicrobial use and AMR across Australia. It provides valuable information that has informed Australia's response to AMR and established Australia as a global leader in antimicrobial usage and AMR surveillance, with AURA reports published biennially.

### Who will benefit?

Combatting the threat of AMR will benefit all Australians and our animal, agriculture and food sectors. All Australians are at risk of harm from increasing rates of drug-resistant organisms.

### How much will this cost?

This will cost \$22.5 million from 2020–21 to 2023–24.