Australian Government

Rapid Antigen Testing

Implementation planning overview

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RAT implementation discovery objectives

Purpose of 1 October session

- Agree high level objectives of the discovery phase
- Refine RAT implementation problem statement and design principles
- Discuss RAT implementation timeline (Phase 1, Phase 2, Phase 3) and key milestones
- Discuss key implementation workstreams, milestone dates and activities
- Agree next steps and ways of working

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Objectives of Discovery Phase

Project Overview	Objectives
Discovery Phase to support the Rapid Antigen Testing (RAT) Branch with the development of their RAT Implementation Plan. This will include the definition of the policy questions to be answered and tasks to be undertaken in order to meet the TGA timeframes.	High level definition of the following: • Key policy questions / decisions required and associated infrastructure implications • Key delivery workstreams and task / work packages defined including: ◦ Accountability for delivery ◦ Key areas where additional support is required • Key implementation dependencies and risks • Proposed program governance for the next phase of the program - implementation planning

COVID-19 RAT – Problem statement and design principles

Problem Statement – for discussion

The RAT implementation plan seeks to deliver safe, effective and measured use of RAT to support enablement of Australia's National Plan and to maintain trusted use across high-risk settings to protect vulnerable populations.

The approach to implementing RAT will enable the government to manage incidents as Australia reopens and the COVID-19 environment evolves. The approach will be flexibile and adaptable to apply learnings to RAT implementation in both planned and new settings.

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Design Principles to guide decision making

- Safe and effective testing
- Targeting high risk and high value settings
- Enables equitable access
- Engagement & collaboration (States, territories, industries, peak bodies)
- Consumer centricity – Ease of use, access and confidence in data management

In order to achieve...

- Supports real time decision making
- Appropriate data usage and storage
- Supports the National Plan

COVID-19 Rapid Antigen Testing Implementation in Priority Settings

Discovery & Planning

Key Discovery Activities

- Key policy decisions defined at a high level and associated infrastructure implications
- Key delivery workstreams and work packages defined, including accountability
- International insights and learnings considered
- Key dependencies and program risks identified
- Program governance for ongoing phases defined at a high level

Key Planning Activities

- TGA approval of RAT for home use obtained
- Supply and distribution channels confirmed
- Policy and funding model agreed
- State vs Federal responsibilities agreed and supporting Health Orders defined
- Engagement activities to refine approach (Fed, Industry, Community groups)
- Workstream planning

Implementation Phases

October	November	Post November
Phase 1: High Risk & High Value Settings		
	Phase 2: Economic Recovery & Availability of Self Testing RAT kits	
		Phase 3: User Experience (Timing TBA)
Immediate support for high risk and high value settings. 1. Vulnerable people and high risk settings: • Aged care facilities (pilot in progress) • Disability sector • Prisons • Others* (To be confirmed) 2. High value Settings: • Schools 3. Workplaces: • Continuation of existing business usage of RAT for business continuity and worker health and Safety	**Facilitate workplace, borders and business to re-open** 1. Re-opening of the following to stimulate economic recovery: • Workplaces • Venues • Borders 2. Availability of home testing kits for individuals to: • Provide peace of mind • Allow individuals to take responsibility for community infection control	Nationalise, digitise and share covid status information Facilitate the following through data sharing: • Individual freedoms • Better user experience • Increases in process efficiency and accuracy
Point of care testing		
	Self-testing - With and without Supervision	
		Digitisation

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Key workstreams

Program Foundations

- Policy & Funding
- Delivery Governance
- Communications & Stakeholder Engagement
- Data & Digital Strategy

Program Enablers

- Sourcing & Distribution
- Delivery Model inc. supervision
- Pilot & Evaluation
- Data & Digital Infrastructure

Priority Settings

- Schools
- Workplaces
- High risk settings
- Venues
- Domestic Border
- Individuals

COVID-19 RAT Implementation - overview of key workstreams

	Workstream	Description	Work in Progress / Completed	To be completed
Program Foundations	1. Policy and Funding	Workstream to confirm policy decisions and associated infrastructure considerations, definition and approval of high risk and high value settings and roles and responsibilities between States and Federal to inform funding model and submission to Expenditure Review Committees	*Approach & activities may vary by priority settings and at State and Federal Levels* Schools Workplaces High risk settings Venues Domestic Border Individuals	
	2. Communications and stakeholder engagement	Workstream to establish and implement RAT program communication and stakeholder engagement activities (within Commonwealth, state and territory governments, industry and consumer groups) to ensure aligned and informed implementation		
	3. Delivery governance	Workstream to develop the program governance framework, roles and accountabilities and approach to risk management with clear delineation between jurisdiction and Federal responsibilities. In addition, a workstream to establish project management requirements.		
	4. Data & Digital Strategy	Workstream to determine strategy and framework to define data requirements, governance, integration and privacy settings to digitally collect, verify and share test results and associated reporting. This workstream includes consideration for stakeholder consultation and engagement processes and planning of implementation.		
Program Enablers	1. Sourcing & Distribution	Workstream to confirm processes for Federal versus State-based sourcing for priority settings and associated distribution and logistics		
	2. Delivery model inc. supervision	Workstream to design and develop the RAT delivery model including supervision, guidelines and support infrastructure for testing in various settings		
	3. Pilot, evaluation and monitoring	Workstream to confirm pilot approach in different settings, and evaluation to identify lessons learned for full implementation		
	4. Data and digital infrastructure	Workstream to implement data governance and management framework and to design and build of digital infrastructure to support collection, verification and sharing of test results		

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Document 2

This matrix demonstrates the diversity of workstreams and their application in different settings

		Setting					
	Workstream	**Schools**	**Workplaces**	**High Risk Settings** (aged care, prisons)	**Venues and events**	**Domestic/international borders**	**Individuals**
Program Foundations	**1. Policy and Funding**	Equitable access principles to underpin policy and funding decision making across all settings RAT can be fully funded, subsidised with a co-payment, unsubsidised considering mandatory requirements, level of vulnerability, essential worker status and other relevant variables					
	2. Communications and stakeholder engagement	Consideration for jurisdiction state, catholic and independent sectors as well as primary, secondary or other school type	Consideration for unions and Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry	Consideration for peak bodies incl. ACSA, NACA, LASA and ACIA as well as multi-purpose services	Consideration for sporting associations and ticket vendors (Ticketek, Ticketmaster etc) and venues e.g. MCG	Consideration for airlines, airports, Air Services Australia.	Consideration for versions incl. plain English, accessible and multi-language
	3. Delivery governance	Overarching governance structure will provide oversight across all settings					
	4. Data & Digital Strategy	Data considerations are likely to be similar, incl. Privacy, security, anonymity, access, individual level of mobility, secondary use of data etc.				Additional consideration for international travelers and Australians permanently leaving	See far left
Program Enablers	**1. Sourcing & Distribution**	Distribution considerations are likely to be similar, with particular concern for access to rural and remote settings					
	2. Delivery model inc. supervision	Consideration for teacher/school staff 'training' requirements	Consideration for how to transfer home-test results. Consideration for next steps following a positive in the workplace	Consideration for aged care staff requirements. Consider visitor requirements	Consideration for set up of pop up RAT clinics prior to events, including required time to wait for results	Consideration for transfer settings, arrivals from high risk destinations and next steps for positive results	Determine assurance framework to identify high risk points of day
	3. Pilot & Evaluation	Determine KPIs related to outbreaks considering timing, responsiveness and compliance	Consider ability to collect aggregated data and its use as well as user experience	Commenced in Aged Care facilities – evaluation is underway	Consider ability to collect aggregated data and its use as well as user experience	Determine KPIs related to outbreaks considering timing, responsiveness and compliance	Determine methods to understand consumer experience
	4. Data and digital infrastructure	See 'Data and digital strategy' in addition, consideration for redundancy and downtime risk and impacts					

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COVID-19 RAT Implementation – overview of workstream activities

	Workstream	Key activities	Work in Progress / Completed	To be completed

Program Foundations	1. Policy and Funding	• Define and approve high risk and high value RAT Implementation settings. Supporting activities include to:
		  ◦ forecast workforce risk exposure and
		  ◦ determine additional pilot settings
		  ◦ determine personal assurance framework
		  ◦ size patient/consumer and workforce cohorts for new settings drawing on publicly available data
		• Define cost items, funding model and funding mechanisms by phase and setting, including confirmation of jurisdiction level National Medical Stockpiles and preparation of submission to the Expenditure Review Committee
		• Develop RAT inputs to the National Plan to transition Australia's National COVID Response (the National Plan)
		• Deliver inputs to any other required papers or information requests from other areas of government		

	2. Communications and stakeholder engagement	• Federal communications, updates and briefings on RAT implementation program • Commonwealth and state/territory government liaison to remain in alignment for the National Plan • Industry and community engagement in development and refinement of approach, and implementation plan across priority settings • Government media campaign for priority settings, in particular home testing (social and digital, tv, websites, etc.) • Communication plan for priority settings, including channels and feedback processes (e.g. comms plan for schools)		
	3. Delivery governance	• Determine program governance framework and mobilisation, including definition of roles, responsibilities and accountabilities between jurisdiction and federal governments and appropriate meeting cadence • Develop of risk management framework considering each high risk/high value setting • Develop detailed implementation schedule, including agreeing and scheduling approval gates, committee approvals / sign-offs that align to National Plan Milestones • Implement project management processes • Compliance principles / frameworks defined • Establish project management requirements		
	4. Data & Digital Strategy	• Engage with the Office of the Australian Information Commissioner • Develop data management framework, including governance structures and integration with vaccination status, PCR results for consumers/health providers • Undertake Privacy Impact Assessment • Identify impacts to consumer confidence • Determine digital infrastructure requirements, including any integration with existing digital platforms MyHealthRecord, Vaccine Passport, Check-in App etc.		

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COVID-19 RAT Implementation - overview of workstream activities

	Workstream	Key Activities	Work in Progress / Completed	To be completed
Program Enablers	1 Sourcing & Distribution	**Sourcing** • Confirmation of approved RATs and providers. Confirm current supply (National Medical Stockpile, State-based supplies) • Sourcing model defined across priority settings • RAT providers contracts defined (Roche suppler for Phase 1 pilot) • Supply chain assurance processes defined **Distribution** • Test kit distribution model and channels confirmed across priority settings (e.g. online order via website, pharmacy) • Distribution and Logistics planning • Distribution and logistics contracts • Inventory management processes and reporting		
	2. Delivery Model including supervision	• Define delivery model for RAT in priority settings including supervision requirements, guidance, frameworks (I.e. in schools, borders, venues, workplaces, high risk settings, etc) - Supervision verson self-test settings defined. - Requirements / settings for proof of test completion and results • User support infrastructure defined and implemented (e.g. workplace guidance, websites, etc)		
	3. Pilot, evaluation and monitoring	• Identify further providers for expansion of pilot • Expand pilot of RAT screening to additional providers • Refine and extend RAT implementation program logic, including understanding • Implement pilot evaluation infrastructure • Provide update to Advisory Group Members once the pilot has been completed • Identify lessons learned for insight and recommendations into scaling into existing and new environments		
	4. Data and digital infrastructure	• Identify and confirm data collection use cases (e.g. I am attending a nightclub, I am going to work, I am going to school, I am going to travel) and requirement for both positive and negative results • Implement data governance and management framework • Design and build agreed digital infrastructure to support collection, verification and sharing of test results • User Acceptance Testing and Go-Live		

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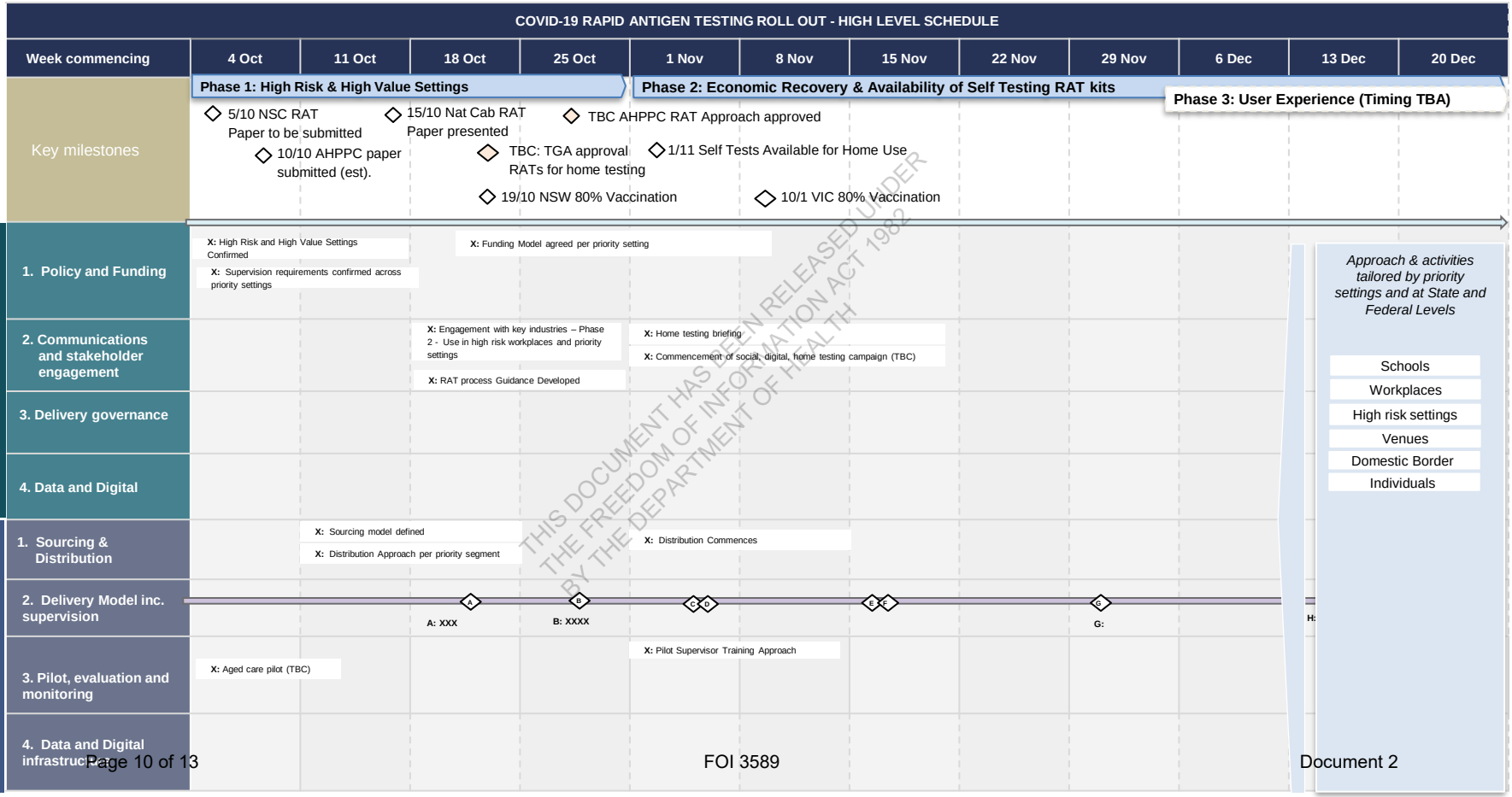
COVID-19: Rapid Antigen Testing Implementation - High Level Schedule (October 2021) - to be completed



Note: Indicative dates that will be validated during detailed planning

RAT Program Logic Framework

Program logic is a systematic tool to guide planning and undertaking evaluation. It deconstructs how the desired objective can be achieved by considering causal relationships and underlying assumptions of program activities. The program logic will:

- Illustrate how project inputs are related to resulting outputs and outcomes
- Identify the way in which each activity should be monitored and evaluated

Illustrative high level RAT program logic

Situation/need	Program objectives	Inputs	Processes/ activities	Outputs	Outcomes	Culm. impacts
As at 30 September 2021, over 77% of Australians have had one vaccination and over 54% are double vaccinated; in NSW the double vaccination rate is 64%. Jurisdictions are beginning to plan roadmaps to recovery which will need to be supported with RAT, particularly for high risk and high value environments to manage outbreaks. RAT is being used overseas in education and travel contexts (as well as others). Australia has announced a plan to make RAT available for home testing by November	The RAT implementation plan seeks to deliver safe, effective and measured use of RAT to support enablement of Australia's National Plan and to maintain trusted use across high-risk settings to protect vulnerable populations (*public health objective*). The approach to implementing RAT will enable the government to manage incidents as Australia reopens and the COVID-19 environment evolves (*economic objective*). The approach will be flexibile and adaptable to apply learnings to RAT implementation in both planned and new settings.	Example inputs • TGA approved RATs • Resources to establish, approve and implement RAT approach (including communications, data infrastructure, training and supervisor materials etc) • Channels to disseminate RAT information • Learnings from international landscape	Workstreams (will be built out to include activities): 1. Policy and funding activities 2. Communications and stakeholder engagement activities 3. Delivery governance activities 4. Data & digital strategy activities 5. Sourcing and distribution activities 6. Delivery model incl. supervision 7. Pilot activities 8. Data and digital infrastructure activities	Sample outputs KPIs that would be developed for activities: 1.1 Jurisdiction governments are clear on funding mechanisms and expectations 2.1 User RAT process guidance availability to relevant stakeholders (which is downloaded/ distributed) 4.1 Data solution is deployed 7.1 Successful pilots that demonstrate scalability (or lessons to support scalability) • To be completed.	• Schools/RACF are not closed down; they implement RAT procedures as intended and can manage outbreaks within one day of a positive COVID case • Verified self-testing enables a positive consumer experience and limits spread • RAT data informs contract tracers and policy makes about hot spots in real time • Access is available to vulnerable populations as intended through effective funding mechanisms • To be completed	• Effective and timely outbreak management • People within high-risk settings can safely receive services and have visitors • Workplaces are operational • Open jurisdiction and international borders meaning that Australians can trav el safely • To be completed

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Data/privacy considerations

Privacy

- The amount of personal information that will be captured. Privacy Impact Assessment will be required.
- How will consent be sought/captured. Test results may be considered sensitive personal information under the Privacy Act so consent will be likely be required for the collection, use and disclosure of this information.
- Will entities collecting personal information fall under State/Territory/Federal privacy laws.

Data (electronic record)

- Method of data collection, facilitated tests vs self-tests. (self-managed vs entity managed)
- Quality at collection (how do we ensure that the right data is being captured), validity of tests (i.e. what timeframe is a test acceptable)
- Who will collect/store/manage data collected from tests (i.e. entity (employer, venue) responsibility, state/territory health, federal department of health)
- How will data be Shared/Disclosure to Local Health Authorities (State/Territory) in the event of positive tests and what data will be shared.
- What level of data will be shared with Federal Department of Health (aggregate data or unit level data)
- Link to My Health Record (what about those that opted out) / Surfacing in state based Apps and records.
- How long will data be retained (negative tests v positive tests)
- How will be it destroyed/archived?

Data (non-electronic record)

- What data, and how will this be captured (i.e. paper based)
- How will this be managed?
- Notifications of positive tests (self-managed)
- Quality / Validity
- How long will non-electronic record be kept?
- How will it be disposed of?

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