Public Health Association of Australia:  
Policy-at-a-glance – Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) and Stewardship  
Policy Position

**Key message:** PHAA will –

1. Increase awareness within Australia and the Asia-Pacific region of antimicrobial resistance being a major threat to public health.
2. Recognise and promote an integrated One Health approach to antimicrobial resistance surveillance.
3. Promote judicious and responsible use of antimicrobial agents within both human and animal health.
5. Create advocacy for intersectoral collaboration between human, animal and environmental public health sectors to combat AMR.

**Summary:** Antimicrobial resistance is one of the world’s most pressing public health problems and a national health priority and potentially a national security priority. The World Health Organization (WHO) Global Action Plan on AMR[^2] and Australia’s National AMR Strategy call for an integrated One Health approach to address increasing resistance to antimicrobial agents and comprehensive population-based AMR surveillance system. This policy is for PHAA to support the global and national AMR strategies, providing an advocacy voice for action and commitment to intersectoral collaboration of this complex issue.

**Audience:** Relevant Australian Government agencies, State and Territory government agencies, policy-makers and program-managers. Other relevant stakeholder groups involved in agriculture, human and animal health and environmental management.

**Drafted by:** PHAA’s One Health SIG

**Policy Statement approved in:** October 2017

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Antimicrobial Resistance Policy Position

The Public Health Association of Australia notes that:

1. AMR is a serious global threat requiring a coordinated multisectoral response by human health, animal health and environment sectors.3,6

2. The tripartite alliance (WHO, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE)) has united to fight against AMR through a Call-To-Action resolution.

3. Australia has focused on AMR for several years with JETACAR (Joint Expert Advisory Committee on Antimicrobial Resistance) but has not be able to sustain an impact. Responding to the threat of AMR, Australia’s First National Antimicrobial Resistance Strategy 2015-2019 was developed.

The Public Health Association of Australia affirms the following principles:

4. There needs to be improved coordination and cooperation across sectors and agencies with AMR government groups closely associated and regular feedback to stakeholders.

5. Australia needs to learn from international lessons and adopt effective interventions.6,7

6. By identifying and reviewing the evidence on behaviours and behavioural context that drive AMR in Australia we can help find appropriate interventions to change behaviours.8

The Public Health Association of Australia believes that the following steps should be undertaken:

7. Encourage and promote a better understanding of the extent of AMR and antibiotic use across sectors.9

8. The seven objectives for the Australian AMR strategy should be implemented by the end of 2019.10
   a. Increase awareness and understanding of AMR, its implications and actions to combat it through effective communication, education and training.
   b. Implement effective antimicrobial stewardship practices across human health and animal care settings to ensure the appropriate and judicious prescribing, dispensing and administering of antimicrobials.
   c. Develop nationally coordinated One Health surveillance of AMR and antimicrobial usage.
   d. Improve infection prevention and control measures across human health and animal care settings to help prevent infections and the spread of AMR.
e. Agree a national research agenda and promote investment in the discovery and development of new products and approaches to prevent, detect and contain AMR.

f. Strengthen international partnerships and collaboration on regional and global efforts to respond to AMR.

g. Establish and support governance arrangements at the local, jurisdictional, national and international levels to ensure leadership, engagement and accountability for actions to combat AMR.

The Public Health Association of Australia resolves to undertake the following actions:

9. Promote information on AMR awareness, surveillance and interventions to PHAA members and World Federation of Public Health Associations.

10. Create advocacy with the government about the importance of a One Health approach in preventing further development of AMR and funding intersectoral collaboration especially a national population based surveillance program combining human and animal health.

11. Hold the Government to the commitments they have made in the implementation plan for the National AMR Strategy.

CREATED 2017.
References