



AUSTRALIAN COMMISSION ON SAFETY AND QUALITY IN HEALTH CARE

WHAT'S NEW IN AURA

January 2018 Newsletter

The Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care (the Commission) has established a national surveillance system for Antimicrobial Use and Resistance in Australia (AURA) to collect, analyse and provide reports to inform policy and practice. The AURA National Coordination Unit (ANCU) of the Commission works with a range of stakeholders to inform action at the local, state and territory, and national levels to prevent and contain the spread of AMR. As the volume and comprehensiveness of surveillance data grows, the capacity for more in-depth analysis and epidemiological review of the data will also be improved on and reported.

The Commission released *AURA 2017: Second Australian report on antimicrobial use and resistance in human health* on 3 August 2017. This report, which is primarily focused on analyses of 2015 data, provides the most comprehensive and up-to-date picture to date of antimicrobial use, resistance and the appropriateness of prescribing in Australia across all healthcare settings. The report can be found on the Commission's website at: www.safetyandquality.gov.au/publications/second-australian-report-on-antimicrobial-use-and-resistance-in-human-health/

AURA 2017 demonstrates the impact of the Commission's actions to improve the diversity and utility of antimicrobial use and resistance surveillance data for state and territory health departments, and for health service providers generally. This data provides the platform for a better understanding of patterns of antimicrobial use and antimicrobial resistance to inform strategies to improve prescribing and prevent and contain resistant organisms.

USB drives containing the *AURA 2017* documents have been distributed to many key stakeholders. If you would like a copy, please email the AURA team at aura@safetyandquality.gov.au.

Recent publications available on the Commission or AURA partner websites include:

- Presentations from the *AURA 2017* Launch: www.safetyandquality.gov.au/antimicrobial-use-and-resistance-in-australia/2017-report
- Australian Group for Antimicrobial Resistance (AGAR) Surveillance and Annual Reports: www.asainc.net.au/aasp/agar

- The Commission funds the Australian Group on Antimicrobial Resistance (AGAR), a component of the Australian Society for Antimicrobials, to conduct targeted surveillance of selected pathogens; to collect demographic, treatment and outcome data, and data on antimicrobial resistance rates; and to analyse and report on these data. The 2015 AGAR Amalgam brings together the key findings of the 2015 AGAR sepsis outcome programs and is available from: www.safetyandquality.gov.au/wp-content/uploads/2017/10/AGAR-2015-Amalgam-Report.pdf
- The National Antimicrobial Utilisation Surveillance Program (NAUSP) focuses on standardised measurement of antimicrobial use in Australian adult public and private hospitals. NAUSP is administered by the Infection Control Service, Communicable Disease Control Branch, at SA Health. Development and implementation of NAUSP have been an ongoing collaboration between SA Health and the Commission as part of AURA since 2013. The NAUSP report: *Antimicrobial use in Australian hospitals: Results of the 2016 National Antimicrobial Utilisation Surveillance Program* is available from: www.safetyandquality.gov.au/publications/antimicrobial-use-in-australian-hospitals-results-of-the-2016-national-antimicrobial-utilisation-surveillance-program/
- The Surgical National Antimicrobial Prescribing Survey (SNAPS) was developed by the National Centre for Antimicrobial Stewardship (NCAS) with support from the Commission to collect more detailed information about prescribing practices for surgical antimicrobial prophylaxis, to guide quality improvement programs. The 2016 pilot SNAPS has identified a continuing high level of inappropriate prescribing of surgical antimicrobial prophylaxis of just over 43%. You can download the report from: www.safetyandquality.gov.au/wp-content/uploads/2017/11/Surgical-National-Antimicrobial-Prescribing-Survey-SNAPS-Report-Results-of-the-2016-Pilot-November-2017.pdf
- The Aged Care National Antimicrobial Prescribing Survey (acNAPS) is a standardised survey instrument developed by NCAS with support from the Commission to monitor the prevalence of infections and appropriateness of antimicrobial use in Australian aged care homes. The objective of acNAPS is to support the implementation of antimicrobial stewardship programs in aged care homes. Information on acNAPS and *The 2016 Aged Care National Antimicrobial Prescribing Survey Report, September 2017* is available at: www.safetyandquality.gov.au/antimicrobial-use-and-resistance-in-australia/acnaps/
- The National Alert System for Critical Antimicrobial Resistances (CARAlert) was established by the Commission in March 2016 and collects surveillance data on nationally agreed priority organisms with critical resistance to last-line antimicrobial agents. More information and data updates and reports are available from: www.safetyandquality.gov.au/antimicrobial-use-and-resistance-in-australia/what-is-aura/national-alert-system-for-critical-antimicrobial-resistances-caralert/

Further information and AURA resources can be found at:

www.safetyandquality.gov.au/antimicrobial-use-and-resistance-in-australia/resources-page/



Above: Prof John Turnidge, Prof Brendan Murphy and Prof Villis Marshall AC at the AURA 2017 Launch in Sydney in August 2017.



Above: If you have not yet received a USB please do not hesitate to email us at: aura@safetyandquality.gov.au

The AURA Surveillance System is funded by the Australian Government's Department of Health and the Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care.