



## The Australian Group on Antimicrobial Resistance

<http://antimicrobial-resistance.com>

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### AGAR Progress Report against activity for the period 1 July to 31 December 2021

Prepared: 25 January 2022

In relation to services for operating the

- Australian Enterococcal Sepsis Outcome Program (AESOP)
- Australian Staphylococcal Sepsis Outcome Program (ASSOP)
- Gram-negative Sepsis Outcome Program (GNSOP)

#### 1. Summary of the last six months

- a. Final reports for 2020 AESOP, ASSOP and GNSOP published and available on the AGAR web site (<https://agargroup.org.au/agar-surveys/>)
- b. AGAR Sepsis Outcome Programs 2020 Report finalised with the Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care and available on the commission's website (<https://www.safetyandquality.gov.au/publications-and-resources/resource-library/agar-sepsis-outcome-programs-2020-report>). The Report provides analyses of data on AMR associated with episodes of bacteraemia, reported by 30 laboratories servicing 49 public and private institutions across Australia in 2020. The report also includes issues that have implications for the delivery of health care services and the safety of care provided patients
- c. Three additional participating institutions confirmed for the 2022 survey
  - i. Prince of Wales, Sydney, NSW
  - ii. Gosford Hospital, NSW
  - iii. Mater Private Hospital, Townsville, Qld

#### 2. Status of Program elements

- a. For the 2021 surveys data has been received from 28 laboratories servicing 44 institutions across Australia, with information on 8,742 bacteraemia episodes available (Quarter 4 2021 data is not due until 11<sup>th</sup> February 2022)
  - i. 2021 AESOP:
    - 88% of the expected data for the period has been received.
    - No significant changes in data trends have been identified in the preliminary analyses
    - Of the 247 *E. faecium* received to date whole genome sequencing has been completed on 195 isolates
  - ii. 2021 ASSOP:
    - 89% of the expected data for the period has been received.
    - No significant changes in data trends have been identified in the preliminary analyses
    - Of the 226 MRSA received to date whole genome sequencing has been completed on 169 isolates
  - iii. 2021 GNSOP:
    - 86% of the expected data for the period has been received.
    - No significant changes in data trends have been identified in the preliminary analyses

- Of 6,019 isolates, 865 have been requested for referral to for molecular investigation.

### 3. Issues/challenges

- a. COVID-19 has had a significant impact on the participating laboratories operation. Specifically:
  - i. Royal Prince Alfred Hospital, Sydney confirmed that they are unable to contribute data for 2021.
  - ii. Liverpool Hospital also under significant pressure and no data available to date due to staff shortages.
  - iii. Queensland Children's Hospital – no data received, and clarification of their status has been sought.
- b. Competing with resources for sequencing.
- c. The scheduled November 2021 face-to-face AGAR Executive Committee Meeting postponed due to COVID-19 travel restrictions.

### 4. Risks

Targeted risks outlined in Project Plan

- a. Laboratories - refer to item 3a above – Risk being managed
- b. AGAR Scientific Officers – No action required
- c. AMRID, Murdoch University – No action required
- d. Westmead Institute for Medical Research – No action required
- e. AGAR Writing Groups – No action required
- f. Web Portal Data Governance – No action required
- g. Web Portal Maintenance and Sustainability – No action required

### 5. Financing and resources

During the reporting period, AGAR received one contracted payment from the Department of Health:

- \$400,00 (GST exclusive) on 22 September 2021

Financial report attached

Expenditure tracking below expected costs due to the postponement of the November 2021 AGAR Executive Committee Meeting.

The staff outlined in the contract for services remain involved in the project at the levels quoted

### 6. Next steps

As reflected in the Project Plan provided 07-09-2021, we are on schedule to be finalised for the preliminary report due 31st July 2022.

Prepared by



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