



**Australian Government**  
**Department of Health**

Professor Geoff Coombs  
Chair  
Australian Group on Antimicrobial Resistance  
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Dear Professor Coombs

As Co-chair of the *Australian Strategic and Technical Advisory Group on Antimicrobial Resistance* (ASTAG) I would like to thank you for the Australian Group on Antimicrobial Resistance's (AGAR's) participation in ASTAG, including your own contribution during ASTAG's 2018 – 2020 term. Your contribution has played an important role in strengthening Australia's response to the global health threat of antimicrobial resistance (AMR), particularly through informing development of *Australia's National Antimicrobial Resistance Strategy – 2020 and Beyond* (the 2020 Strategy).

While an organisational representative from AGAR has not been appointed to ASTAG for its 2021 – 2023 term, I look forward to your continued contribution to Australia's response to the threat of AMR.

I would also like to provide you with an update on recent changes to the structure and governance arrangements for ASTAG. The 2020 Strategy was endorsed by the Council of Australian Governments in March 2020. An important focus will now be the implementation of actions, across the One Health sectors, to address the objectives of the 2020 Strategy. Given this shift in focus and the conclusion of the 2018 – 2020 membership term, it was timely to reconsider ASTAG's Terms of Reference, membership and supporting governance structures, to ensure ASTAG is well-positioned to support the implementation phase of the 2020 Strategy.

This has resulted in the following key changes to ASTAG and the composition of its membership:

- ASTAG will consist of a smaller, core group of members appointed on an individual basis from across all One Health Sectors, including animal, human, plant, the environment and food.
- This core group will provide advice to the Antimicrobial Resistance Governance Group (ARGG) on current and emerging issues, research priorities and implementation approaches to support the 2020 Strategy. The ARGG will consist of senior executives of relevant Australia Government portfolios.

- ASTAG will also be supported by the ASTAG Consultative Group, a broader group which will consist of additional representation from One Health stakeholders and will support ASTAG in the development of advice.
- Time-limited Technical Working Groups will also be established on specific issues, as needed. Membership of the Technical Working Groups may include representatives from the Consultative Group, as well as representatives from outside of the Consultative Group where required.

While arrangements for the Consultative Group are currently being finalised, it is anticipated that this group will include organisational representatives from key stakeholders across the One Health Sectors. It will provide a valuable platform for ASTAG to draw upon for additional expertise and stakeholder representation and will have an important role in contributing to ASTAG's work in developing advice on key AMR activities and priorities. Where required, ASTAG may also draw upon specific, identified expertise from beyond the Consultative Group.

These additional consultative structures are aimed at ensuring advice developed through ASTAG is comprehensive, well-informed and considers the different perspectives from across the broad AMR stakeholder group.

Thank you again for your organisation's input and commitment to the work of ASTAG.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'PKelly', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Professor Paul Kelly  
Chief Medical Officer

16 September 2021