

# AUSTRALIAN COMMISSION ON SAFETY AND QUALITY IN HEALTH CARE

D21-3187

Professor Geoffrey Coombs  
President  
Australian Society for Antimicrobials  
Email: [geoff@asainc.net.au](mailto:geoff@asainc.net.au)

Dear Professor Coombs

I write to thank you for your expert contributions since 2015 to the work of the Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care (the Commission). Your expertise and experience with antimicrobial resistance, and your contribution to the development and enhancement of the Antimicrobial Use and Resistance in Australia (AURA) Surveillance System have been extremely valuable.

I would particularly like to mention your contributions, as Chair of the Australian Group on Antimicrobial Resistance (AGAR), to supporting the development of the series of AURA reports on AGAR sepsis outcomes programs data and technical reports on methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA) bacteraemias and changes in the clones that cause MRSA disease, and the national AURA reports in 2016, 2017, 2019 and 2021.


The contribution of AGAR data to the World Health Organization Global Antimicrobial Resistance Surveillance System (GLASS) for the first time in 2019 would not have been possible without your support, and the expertise of the AGAR Executive and the AGAR Scientific Officers. This was a significant achievement for Australia, and for AGAR.

Please convey my thanks and congratulations as well to the AGAR Executive and the AGAR Scientific Officers, Ms Denise Daley and Ms Jan Bell, for the extremely high quality work that AGAR consistently delivers.

Your long-term leadership of AGAR and your collaborative approach have been critical to the capacity of the AURA Surveillance System to inform strategies for improving patient safety.

Thank you again for providing your support and expertise to the Commission. I very much hope there will be opportunities for the Commission to continue to work with you and AGAR toward the important objective of preventing and controlling Antimicrobial resistance in Australia.

Yours sincerely



Adjunct Professor Debora Picone AO  
**Chief Executive Officer**

5 February 2021