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**Subject: National Antimicrobial Resistance Genomics Initiative**

Dear AGAR Executive

As discussed at the last Executive meeting AGAR has accepted an invitation from the Doherty Institute to be a member of a national antimicrobial resistance genomic initiative

**Establishment of a National Antimicrobial Resistance Genomics Initiative to Complement the NASCAR**

**Prof Benjamin Howden<sup>1,2,4</sup>, A/Prof Torsten Seemann<sup>1,3</sup>, Prof Geoffrey Coombs<sup>5</sup>, Prof Graeme Nimmo<sup>6</sup>,**

<sup>1</sup> The Doherty Centre for Applied Microbial Genomics, Peter Doherty Institute, Parkville, VIC

<sup>2</sup> University of Melbourne, Parkville, VIC

<sup>3</sup> Victorian Life Sciences Computation Initiative, Carlton VIC

<sup>4</sup> The Microbiological Diagnostic Unit Public Health Laboratory, Peter Doherty Institute, Melbourne VIC <sup>5</sup> The Australian Group on Antimicrobial Resistance, Murdoch University, WA

<sup>6</sup> Pathology Queensland, Brisbane, QLD, Australia.

The idea of the initiative is to bring Australia in line with other countries, and set the framework for collaborative genomics programs in Australia. The outcomes of this initiative will be the provision of a coordinated genomics based program to monitor and respond to the threat of emerging antibiotic resistant pathogens in Australia

As MRSA and *E faecium* isolates from the 2015 AGAR programmes are being typed by WGS establishing a coordinated genomics based programme at this time is very opportune for AGAR

Ben has organised a one day meeting in Melbourne next month to discuss the initiative. To enable me to attend the meeting I am seeking approval from the Executive for AGAR to fund a return economy airfare and one night accommodation

Could you please let me know if you support this request and please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any queries

Kind regards

Geoff