

# AUSTRALIAN COMMISSION ON SAFETY AND QUALITY IN HEALTH CARE

D15-37956

Professor Geoff Coombs  
Chair  
Australian Group on Antimicrobial Resistance  
PO Box 8266 Angelo Street  
SOUTH PERTH WA 6151

Dear Prof Coombs *Geoff*

Thank you for our recent telephone discussion regarding the contract for services between the Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care (the Commission) and the Australian Group on Antimicrobial Resistance (AGAR) for AGAR's continued targeted antimicrobial resistance surveillance in the 2015/16 financial year.

I apologise for the delay in discussing some aspects of the Commission's proposed approach to this financial year's contract; I can assure you that funding will be allocated for AGAR in the coming weeks. In the interim, I would like to provide you the following details concerning current planning for the contract:

The Commission currently funds SA Pathology for Ms Jan Bell for work on the Antimicrobial Use and Resistance in Australia (AURA) Project as senior microbiologist at 0.5 full-time equivalent (FTE). The Commission is aware that Ms Bell will soon transition to the University of Adelaide as microbiologist and laboratory manager.

Given that Ms Bell performs core functions for AGAR, of which the Commission is also the nominated funding body, the Commission is proposing streamlining its contractual agreements by directly funding the University of Adelaide for 1.0 FTE for Ms Bell, for her to continue providing services to both the Commission and AGAR, at 0.5 FTE each. The Commission's contract with the University would also include the costs of undertaking the AGAR data collation and supplementary testing program for gram-negative bacteria (GNSOP), and producing gram-negative GNSOP annual report for 2015, as these are activities undertaken by Ms Bell for AGAR. The current estimate for the consumables associated with this program is in the order of \$60,000.

This arrangement would provide a more efficient model for providing resources to AGAR, whilst minimising transaction of arrangements for both contracts. Furthermore, the Commission's contract with the University of Adelaide may be subject to GST exemption, which would achieve savings and represent good use of public funds.

I would like to reassure you that the draft contract between the Commission and AGAR will be provided to you in the coming week, subject to your advice regarding the Commission's proposed funding pathway for 0.5 FTE of Ms Bell for AGAR, and the development of the gram-negative GNSOP annual report 2015.

If you have any queries regarding this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me at [kathy.meleady@safetyandquality.gov.au](mailto:kathy.meleady@safetyandquality.gov.au) or on (02) 9126 3640.

Yours sincerely

*K.T. Meleady*

Kathy Meleady PSM  
Director, Commonwealth Programs

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