

Animal Health Australia: A collaborative partnership for the livestock sector

Timeframe: 1996 to date

CASESTORY



LED BY

PUBLIC SECTOR

Australian Government, Department of
Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

State and territory governments

Service providers including the Australian
Veterinary Association and Australian
Centre for Disease Preparedness (CSIRO)

PRIVATE SECTOR

Industries covering intensive livestock
(poultry meat and eggs, dairy, pigs and
feedlots), extensive production
(cattle, sheep meat, wool, goats and
alpacas) and equestrian



GOVERNANCE

Animal Health Australia (AHA) is an independent, not-for-profit public company established in 1996 under Australian Corporations Law. Members, including government, industry, and service providers, hold equal voting rights. The primary contributors to funding and decision-making are governments and livestock industries. Governance ensures transparency under the Emergency Animal Disease (EAD) Response Agreement, defining roles, responsibilities, and cost-sharing for disease management.

FUNDING

AHA operates on a shared funding model. Core programmes are funded through member contributions, while specific programmes follow a "beneficiary pays" principle, with costs generally covered by industry levies. Government partners support public Veterinary Services, infrastructure and coordination. EADRA ensures equitable cost-sharing for disease eradication and compensation.



PURPOSE

This PPP unites government, industry and stakeholders to protect Australia's livestock through biosecurity, disease surveillance, traceability and animal welfare, reducing emergency animal disease risks. It provides training and response plans to ensure swift, effective outbreak management, strengthening animal health and the livestock sector's sustainability.

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

PUBLIC SECTOR

- Co-fund AHA's activities through annual subscriptions based on the gross value of production using a three-year rolling average.
- Retain legislative authority and oversight for core veterinary service functions.
- Contribute to committees, reference groups, working groups and forums supporting animal health initiatives.

PRIVATE SECTOR

- Co-fund AHA's activities through annual subscriptions based on the gross value of production using a three-year rolling average.
- Actively participate in committees, reference groups, working groups and forums.
- Collaborate with AHA to establish and maintain a nationally coordinated animal health system.

LESSONS

- The AHA model demonstrates the importance of shared responsibility for biosecurity, integrating preparedness and response activities across all stakeholders. This principle now underpins national and other biosecurity legislation in Australia.
- Continued funding commitment and goodwill from government, industry representatives and farmers are essential for sustaining the partnership and achieving its goals.
- The Emergency Animal Disease Response Agreement is a cornerstone of Australia's national animal health system, enabling successful disease eradication and underscoring the value of well-resourced, integrated public-private partnerships.
- The partnership's success highlights the importance of shared governance, strategic priorities, and robust stakeholder engagement in delivering outcomes that benefit both the public and private sectors.

UP-SCALING OPPORTUNITIES

- Animal Health Australia's shared funding model, combining member contributions, service fees, government support, and equitable cost-sharing for disease response, offers a scalable framework for managing animal and plant health in other countries.

RESULTS

AGREED NATIONAL STRATEGIES AND TRAINING

Developed and maintained AUSVETPLAN and the Emergency Animal Disease Response Agreement, **ensuring clear policies, legal frameworks and roles for handling emergencies.**

Delivered **emergency response training** to equip members with essential skills and understanding for EAD preparedness.



BIOSECURITY & SURVEILLANCE

Established **robust biosecurity and animal welfare standards**, reducing the risk of EAD outbreaks.

Enhanced surveillance systems enable prompt detection of notifiable diseases, ensuring swift and effective responses.



ECONOMIC & TRADE IMPACTS

Strengthened Australia's animal health system, fostering resilient and sustainable livestock industries.

Improved market access and trade opportunities, backed by international confidence in Australian animal health services.