



Australian Government
Department of Agriculture,
Fisheries and Forestry

Office of the Chief Veterinary Officer

Who we are

The Office of the Chief Veterinary Officer (OCVO) is part of the Australian Government Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF). The Australian Chief Veterinary Officer, Dr Andy Carroll, leads this dedicated group of scientists and policy makers who work on risk assessments, surveillance, laboratory diagnostics, veterinary epidemiology, veterinary public health, policy development and administration.

The OCVO is Australia's pre-eminent centre of scientific excellence and advice on national animal health policy.

OCVO mission statement

OCVO's mission is to maintain and enhance Australia's favourable animal health status to:

- support and enhance trade and market access for animals and animal products
- contribute to sustained productivity and economic viability of Australia's animal-dependent industries
- protect Australia's natural environment
- protect humans from animal-borne diseases.

OCVO will achieve this by:

- strengthening Australia's animal disease prevention, preparedness and response capabilities
- providing national leadership and strategic direction
- working collaboratively with Commonwealth, state and territory agencies, industries and other stakeholders
- providing scientific and professional advice
- scanning the horizon for new and emerging threats
- influencing domestic and international policy to support Australia's strategic biosecurity objectives.

Our programs

Aquatic animal health

OCVO coordinates national management of aquatic animal health issues concerning fish, molluscs and crustaceans. We support **AQUAPLAN**—Australia's National Strategic Plan for Aquatic Animal Health—and coordinate national responses to aquatic animal disease emergencies. OCVO also provides leadership in international and regional (Asia-Pacific) aquatic animal health activities.

Animal health laboratories

OCVO leads the development and implementation of national policies and strategies for animal health laboratories and diagnostic services. In national animal health emergencies, we provide scientific and technical advice and ensure expert laboratory diagnostic facilities and personnel are available.

Disease preparedness and domestic plans

OCVO coordinates national activities of the emergency terrestrial and aquatic animal disease response plans (**AUSVETPLAN** and **AQUAVETPLAN**). We conduct training to help prevent pest and disease outbreaks and to improve responses when they do occur. OCVO also manages the **Wildlife Exotic Disease Preparedness Program** and supports the **Australian Wildlife Health Network's** management of wildlife health issues to protect human and animal health, biodiversity and trade.

Epidemiology

OCVO maintains emergency animal disease preparedness and provides expert technical advice on animal health and disease issues, including surveillance, monitoring and data analysis on the distribution and impact of diseases. Disease-modelling helps us identify geographic regions, sub-populations and production systems that might be at greater risk from key emergency animal diseases—such as foot-and-mouth disease. We evaluate the effectiveness of various surveillance and control strategies, verify economic impact studies and provide realistic scenarios for preparedness or training exercises.

International and disease analysis

OCVO maintains working relationships with animal health authorities in many countries. We manage Australia's involvement with the **World Organisation for Animal Health** (OIE) including the development of OIE science-based standards for trade in animals and animal products. OCVO also contributes to regional capacity building in Asian and Pacific countries, working to identify emerging trends, to improve our analysis and interpretation and to develop a range of options and preferred responses. This minimises uncertainty and leads to more robust and resilient analysis and better planning and policy advice.

Strategic policy and projects

We aim to formulate, develop and implement a national animal health policy and strategies that accomplish OCVO's mission. The quarantine and biosecurity review and the avian influenza program are key elements of our program.

Veterinary public health

OCVO, with other areas of DAFF, is responsible for developing policy and providing scientific advice on veterinary public health matters such as zoonotic diseases, food safety, the safe use of agricultural and veterinary chemical products, counterterrorism (where biological agents may be deliberately used to target agriculture), and the animal health and welfare aspects of biotechnology.

Contact details

Phone: +61 2 6272 5512

Email: ocvo@daff.gov.au