

ANIMAL HEALTH AUSTRALIA MEMBERSHIP

ABOUT AHA

Animal Health Australia (AHA) is the trusted and independent national animal health body in Australia, bringing together government and industry to deliver animal health and biosecurity.

With our members we scan the horizon for threats and opportunities, advocate for and drive solutions and take a whole-of-sector approach to ensure the long-term success of Australia's animal health and biosecurity system.

Our key areas of responsibility are to:

- facilitate and coordinate a cooperative, whole-of-industry and whole-of-government approach to the development, implementation and resourcing of sustainable funding and brokering for animal health and biosecurity strategies, policies and programs, including incursion management and the Emergency Animal Disease Response Agreement (EADRA);
- provide strategic leadership in the development and implementation of national animal health and biosecurity policies, management programs and strategies;
- and to maintain and improve international and domestic confidence in Australia's animal health and biosecurity systems and status.



Our work is guided by our five-year strategic plan, [The AHA 2025 Strategy](#) which was developed in close consultation with our members and key stakeholders. The Plan is supported by three strategic priorities:

- **Strategic Priority One** – Prepared and ready to respond
- **Strategic Priority Two** – Better health and biosecurity practices
- **Strategic Priority Three** – Connecting systems for stronger biosecurity

Our members are:

- the Australian Government
- all state and territory governments
- livestock industry organisations
- organisations active in the Australia’s animal health service system, or scientifically or commercially interested in the health of Australian livestock or aquatic animals.

Members are part of a collective that:

- Work to increase Australia’s capacity and capability to prepare for, and respond to, emergency animal disease incursions through national programs such as the EADRA, AUSVETPLAN, surveillance and biosecurity.
- Contribute their expertise and experience and collaborate with other members in working groups and committees to build the overall capability of our biosecurity system.
- Has access to AHA’s technical, communications and project management expertise to progress animal health and biosecurity projects.

MEMBERSHIP LEVELS

We have three categories of members:

Membership type	Eligibility*	EADRA signatory*
Full member (government)	The Australian Government and state and territory governments	Yes
Full member (livestock industries)	Any organisation determined by the Board to represent a sector of the Australian industry for the raising of animals for commercial, recreational and peri-urban uses	Eligible for signatory status if specific conditions are met as required by EADRA.
Associate member	Any organisation determined by the Board to be active in the Australian animal health service system, or scientifically or commercially interested in the health of Australian livestock or aquatic animals	No

*To become an industry or associate member, an organisation needs to apply and be approved by the AHA Board and member vote. EADRA signatories must be AHA members and are subject to further requirements.

The EADRA is foundational to a quick and effective response if an outbreak occurs

The EADRA is a legally binding contractual arrangement between Australia's governments and industry groups to collectively prepare for emergency animal disease (EAD) incursions and sets out the decision-making process for managing a cost-shared response if an EAD outbreak occurs. The agreement makes it possible to respond quickly and effectively to an EAD incident by minimising uncertainty over management and funding arrangements.

The EADRA currently has 23 signatories, including the Australian, state and territory governments and 14 livestock industry groups. As signatories, they commit to the EADRA responsibilities for preparedness for, and response to, an EAD response.

For our livestock industry associations, the main benefits are:

- having a voice to contribute to incursion response discussions, should that industry be affected
- mutual agreements of all signatories to work to reduce the risk of an EAD through a wide range of commitments including the implementation of biosecurity plans and maintaining national surveillance capabilities
- access to training that builds capability for representatives on national committees that are convened to make decisions about the strategic management of the response to an EAD and for industry representatives deployed to EAD control centers in jurisdictions.

AHA MEMBER BENEFITS AND SERVICES

Members of AHA receive benefits and services as part of their membership which is funded through annual subscription fees from all members. Some of the key core programs which deliver these core benefits and services are:

- EADRA operations and integrity
- Informing EAD response through AUSVETPLAN
- EAD training to increase response capability.
- Better on-farm biosecurity
- Surveillance support and programs including the National Significant Diseases Investigation Program, National Animal Health Laboratory Coordination, and supporting trade and market access through collection, collation, analysis and reporting of national animal health surveillance information.
- Ongoing support of veterinary investigations and support of jurisdictions in training veterinarians to undertake effective disease investigations.
- Assist members to meet their welfare commitments as they relate to animal health and biosecurity.

These programs are budgeted for each financial year and are aligned to the strategic priorities from the [AHA 2025 Strategy](#). Our members endorse their subscription service commitment annually through the Annual Operating Plan consultation process and through a member vote. For subscription program details see the [AHA Annual Operating Plan](#).

KEY MEMBER BENEFITS AND SERVICES

Member benefits & services	Full member (government and livestock industry)	Full member and EADRA signatory	Associate member
Endorse commitment annually to AHA subscription services and programs via member vote at the AHA General Meeting			
Collaborate to ensure EADRA continues to be fit-for-purpose through workshops and reviews			
Endorse proposed variations to the EADRA			
Able to cost share eligible response costs including compensation payments under an EAD response plan approved by the NMG			
Participate in collective approvals of AUSVETPLAN documents			
Participation in CCEAD, NMG and LLI workshops (where individual meets eligibility requirements)			
Support for national biosecurity planning activities and communications			
Ability to provide input on relevant national animal health surveillance programs that maintain market access and support early detection of significant animal diseases			
Access to general emergency animal disease and biosecurity education and resources to support your organisation, stakeholders and/or your industry producers			
Attendance at Member Engagement Week (twice per year) including participation in Industry Forum or Government Forum			 
Support of AHA to maintain an EAD contact list which facilitates effective involvement of affected industry			
Regular email updates on AHA programs, projects and strategic insights			
Membership status promoted on AHA website (logo and link included)			

◇ except EADRA forums and can attend Industry Forum without voting rights.

MEMBERSHIP COMMITMENT

Annual subscription contributions from most full members are calculated using the 3-year rolling average of the gross value of production (GVP) of the industry or jurisdiction; there are some industries that contribute according to other calculations.

As subscription programs contribute collectively to outcomes for all members and for the benefit of the whole Australian biosecurity system, the amount of a member's subscription contribution does not determine the amount of access to programs or services.

Associate members contribute a fixed annual amount that may be revised annually in line with budgeting and our annual operating plan development.

Non-subscription services and programs are also provided by AHA.

These are a collection of projects with deliverables and timeframes funded and owned by a subset of members and non-members. **These services are provided on a fee for service basis.** For full details of the current year's non-subscription services and programs, see the [AHA Annual Operating Plan](#).

If your organisation is not already a member of AHA, or you work with another organisation that you think may want to become a member, please contact our Head of Member and Customer Value, Jennifer Sullivan: jsullivan@animalhealthaustralia.com.au for more information.

A nationally agreed approach for the response to specific emergency animal disease: Australian Veterinary Emergency Plan (AUSVETPLAN)

The AUSVETPLAN suite of resources is made up of a series of manuals and documents that set out the pre-agreed national strategy to respond to specific EADs. This means that in the event of an EADRA listed EAD, there is a nationally agreed approach to help guide a response.

Development and approval of AUSVETPLAN resources is a collaborative process between AHA, its government and industry members, and other stakeholders as required. We manage the ongoing maintenance and review, with collaboration and input from members, to keep the AUSVETPLAN manuals current, accurate and fit for purpose.

