

Factsheet

Establishing the Australian Centre for Disease Control

**\$251.7
million**

over four years from
2024–25 to establish the
Australian CDC from
1 January 2026

**\$90.9
million**

allocated in 2023–24 to
establish the interim
Australian CDC from
1 January 2024

**\$73.3
million**

Annual funding for
the Australian CDC
from 2028–29

Summary

The Australian Government is delivering on its commitment to establish an independent Australian Centre for Disease Control (Australian CDC).

The Australian CDC is expected to be launched on 1 January 2026, pending the passage of legislation through federal parliament.

The Australian CDC will ensure Australia has a national organisation that brings together critical information and experts to deliver coherent, transparent, timely, independent, evidence-based health advice to improve health outcomes for the whole community.

It will build on the considerable work already undertaken by the interim Australian CDC to strengthen Australia's preparedness levels to respond to future health challenges.

Ongoing work to establish the permanent Australian CDC will be informed by the outcomes of the independent COVID-19 Response Inquiry, insights from the interim Australian CDC, and lessons from recent communicable disease events.

Work to date to design the Australian CDC has been informed by consultation with states and territories, other stakeholders and our international counterparts – including the United Kingdom, Singapore, Canada and the United States.

The headquarters of the Australian CDC will be located in Canberra.

Benefits of an Australian CDC

The Australian CDC will:

- bring together critical information and experts to deliver trusted health advice to improve health outcomes for the whole country,

- ensure we are better prepared for the next pandemic through early detection and analysis of health threats,
- partner with key stakeholders, including other Commonwealth agencies, state and territory governments, leading organisations in the scientific and research communities, peak bodies, and advocacy and community groups to deliver positive outcomes,
- modernise Australia’s national disease surveillance and data systems as a frontline defence against communicable infections,
- roll out a national wastewater surveillance program to detect emerging diseases, such as avian influenza,
- strengthen Australia’s preparedness levels to respond to future health challenges.

A phased approach

The Australian Government continues to take a phased approach to establishing the standalone Australian CDC to allow for the lessons of COVID-19 to inform the final makeup of the centre.

Functions and funding for the Australian CDC will continue to build and be phased in over time to ensure a sustainable, credible public health agency is created before it is expanded through additional functions and partnerships.

The Department of Health and Aged Care will move functions from the interim Australian CDC to the permanent Australian CDC once it is established. These functions will relate to communicable disease surveillance, analysis and public health advice; human biosecurity and health protection; environmental health; One Health; and health security.

The Australian CDC’s functions will expand over time. This will include a future role for the Australian CDC in working to prevent non-communicable diseases, in partnership with states and territories.

COVID-19 Inquiry

The model for the Australian CDC aligns with key recommendations from the COVID-19 Inquiry report, including through its:

- establishment as a new Commonwealth agency separate to the Department of Health and Aged Care, with functions and responsibilities set out in legislation,
- enhanced capabilities in data and analytics,
- responsibility to deliver evidence-based independent public health advice to the Australian Government,
- work to publish credible and accessible public health information for the Australian public,
- efforts to embed a health equity approach to ensure the needs of the whole community are met.

Work of the interim Australian CDC

The interim Australian CDC will continue to operate until the standalone Australian CDC is established. Since its commencement, the interim Australian CDC has made good progress in health protection, surveillance and national health emergency planning and preparedness, including through:

- leading work to implement the National Occupational Respiratory Disease Registry,
- leading the first multi-jurisdictional exercise preparing for a national health emergency since COVID-19,
- publishing the Preliminary Data Strategy for the Australian CDC,
- delivering newly established specialist capabilities in One Health and health security,
- scoping a new National Public Health Surveillance System to address the limitations of the current National Notifiable Disease Surveillance System,
- its contributions to whole-of-government responses to potential threats, such as Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza and mpox.