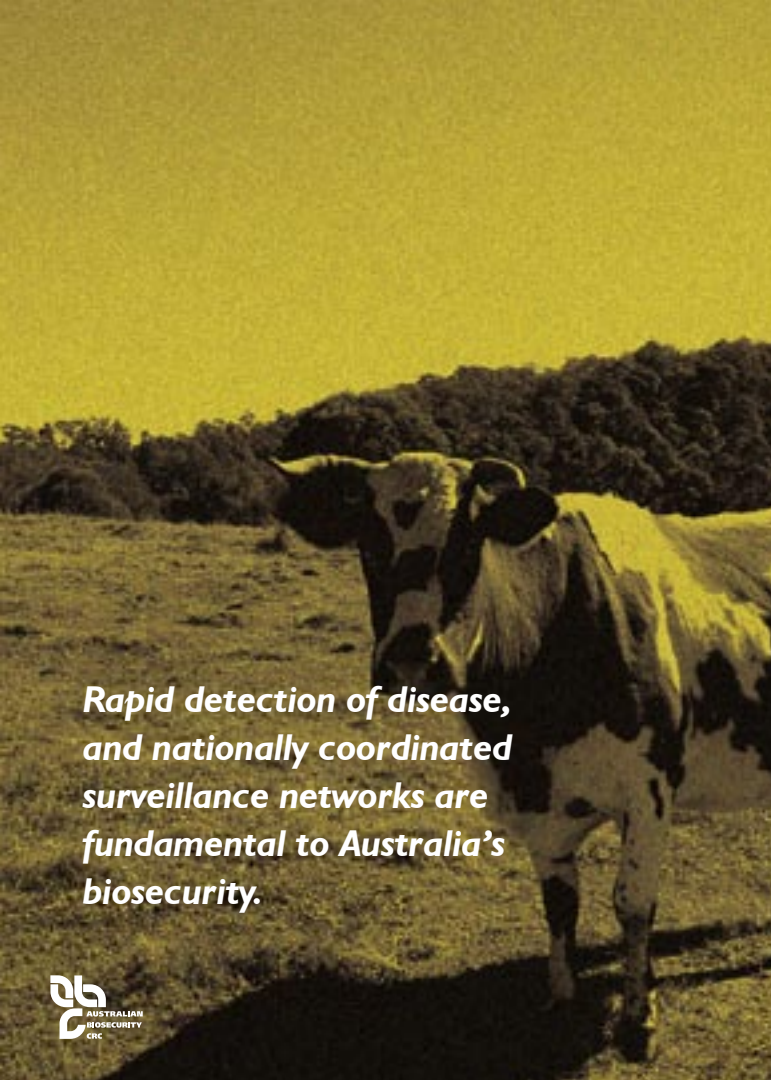


Establishment & Aims

The Australian Biosecurity Cooperative Research Centre for Emerging Infectious Disease (AB-CRC) opened in 2003.

Our aim is to protect Australia's public health, livestock, wildlife and economic resources from emerging infectious diseases. We will achieve this through research and education that strengthens the national capability to detect, identify, monitor, assess, predict and respond to emerging infectious disease threats such as avian influenza, SARS and foot-and-mouth disease.



Rapid detection of disease, and nationally coordinated surveillance networks are fundamental to Australia's biosecurity.



Research

The AB-CRC brings animal and public health professionals together with leading scientific expertise. Our unique partnership brings together multidisciplinary research capacity in:

- microbiology,
- molecular biology,
- nanochemistry,
- geographic information and spatial science, and
- mathematical modelling and applied epidemiology.

Collaboration amongst the AB-CRC's partners creates a critical mass of research expertise. This research expertise, in conjunction with education and training expertise and government and industry knowledge, is essential for building national capacity for responding to complex biosecurity issues.

Our research focuses on:

1. Developing new and improved detection methods for significant emerging infectious diseases, such as avian influenza and foot-and-mouth disease.
2. Elaborating the disease ecology of prioritised emerging infectious disease threats, including Nipah virus and West Nile virus.
3. Developing new methods and capability for (i) systematic and efficient capture of data; (ii) organising and linking data from an expanded range of sources; and (iii) developing new decision support tools and systems that exploit the potential of spatial analysis and computer modelling.



Fundamental to emerging infectious disease preparedness is an appropriately skilled workforce.




Education & Training

An appropriately skilled workforce can implement industry-wide, farm-level and community-based measures to reduce the likelihood of disease establishment and spread.

The AB-CRC's Education & Training Program focuses on:

1. Producing research graduates with high-level experience in industry settings, both within Australia and overseas, to address a critical shortage of specialist skills.
2. Developing specialist modules for postgraduate Masters programs for delivery within Australia and offshore.

3. Contributing to professional development and community awareness initiatives, in partnership with stakeholders such as Animal Health Australia and government agencies.



Our success relies on delivering research outcomes that increase protection to animal and public health.



Application & Linkage

While our extensive collaborative network facilitates technology transfer and knowledge exchange, our Application & Linkage Program provides the formal mechanism for maximising the translation of new knowledge generated through the Research Program into real changes in both policy and practice in the biosecurity arena.

The Application & Linkage Program delivers outcomes through our Knowledge Exchange, Communication, Consultancy and Commercialisation strategies.

Anticipated commercial outcomes include new diagnostic tests, remote sensing technologies, and education and training tools.

Structure

The AB-CRC is an unincorporated joint venture under the direction of a Governing Board.

The Centre is funded for seven years, with more than \$60 million in cash and in-kind resources.

Joint venture partners include research organisations, livestock industry groups, and commonwealth and state government agencies with policy and regulatory responsibility for biosecurity.

The AB-CRC has major research nodes in Brisbane, Sydney, Geelong and Perth, and partners in Thailand, the USA and Canada.

AB-CRC Partners

Government

- Australian Government Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry
- CSIRO Livestock Industries' Australian Animal Health Laboratory
- Department of Agriculture and Food, Western Australia
- Queensland Department of Primary Industries and Fisheries
- Queensland Health Department
- PathWest Laboratory Medicine WA

University

- Curtin University of Technology
- James Cook University
- Murdoch University
- University of Queensland
- University of Sydney

Industry

- Animal Health Australia Ltd
- Australian Pork Ltd
- AusVet Animal Health Services
- PANBIO Ltd

Associate and International Partners

- AGEN Biomedical Ltd
- Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing
- Australian Wildlife Health Network
- Meat and Livestock Australia Ltd
- National Centre for Epidemiology and Population Health
- New South Wales Department of Primary Industries
- Northern Territory Department of Primary Industry, Fisheries and Mines
- Consortium for Conservation Medicine (USA)
- National Center for Foreign Animal Diseases (Canada)
- OIE South-East Asian Foot-&-Mouth Disease Campaign Regional Coordinating Unit (Thailand)
- The Jerome L. & Dawn Greene Infectious Disease Laboratory, Columbia University (USA)

More info

For more information about the Australian Biosecurity CRC, our research projects, and education and training opportunities contact:

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What is a CRC?

The Cooperative Research Centre (CRC) Programme was established by the Australian Government in 1991.

CRCs are joint ventures between research organisations (e.g. universities, CSIRO), government agencies and industry. To enable collaboration between the partners, formal long-term contractual agreements are put in place between research providers and research users in the public and private sectors.

Benefits of the CRC model include:

- Strengthened collaboration between researchers and research users to more effectively capture the benefits of research.
- Increased efficiency of research and training through collaboration of researchers from a variety of organisations.
- Better use of research resources through sharing of major facilities and equipment.
- Involving people from outside the university system in education programs, and offering degree and non-degree courses and training focussed on industry and other user needs.

For more information about the CRC Programme
visit www.crc.gov.au

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