Australia has a high rate of antimicrobial use (AU) compared with many other countries, and increasing rates of some types of antimicrobial resistance (AMR). A nationally coordinated and comprehensive surveillance system for AU and AMR will enable a better understanding of the drivers of AMR in Australia; will further inform antimicrobial stewardship; and, minimise the threat that AMR poses to health care delivery.

**METHODS**

The Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care (the Commission) undertook wide-ranging consultation, planning and development activities to review current AU and AMR surveillance systems, identify the requirements of the national system, and negotiate with a range of stakeholders to build and improve surveillance infrastructure. The planning phase for the Antimicrobial Use and Resistance Australia (AURA) Surveillance System confirmed the key elements required for a comprehensive approach to surveillance in Australia.

**RESULTS**

The establishment of the AURA Surveillance System focused on identifying and sourcing data which covered eight information streams. These streams focus on AU and AMR from the community and acute sectors, through the use of passive and targeted data collections. These streams are illustrated in Figure 1.

Once the types of data needed were confirmed, AURA engaged with established programs, experts and key stakeholders. A collaborative approach was the basis for harnessing existing knowledge and expertise to improve the coverage, capture and quality of existing data collections and to inform the development of new collections where there were identified gaps. The key data collections coordinated through AURA are in Box 1. As these collections have developed and been enhanced, AURA has published a range of national reports providing the results of analysis. The reports include:


**CONCLUSION**

The foundation of a comprehensive national surveillance system for AU and AMR has been established as part of the AURA Surveillance System. AURA coordinates data from a range of collections produce integrated surveillance information and reports about the current state of play, trends over time, and where feasible, the interrelationships between AMR and AU.

Further expansion and development of the AURA Surveillance System is planned, particularly focusing on increasing passive resistance and hospital antimicrobial use surveillance components.