

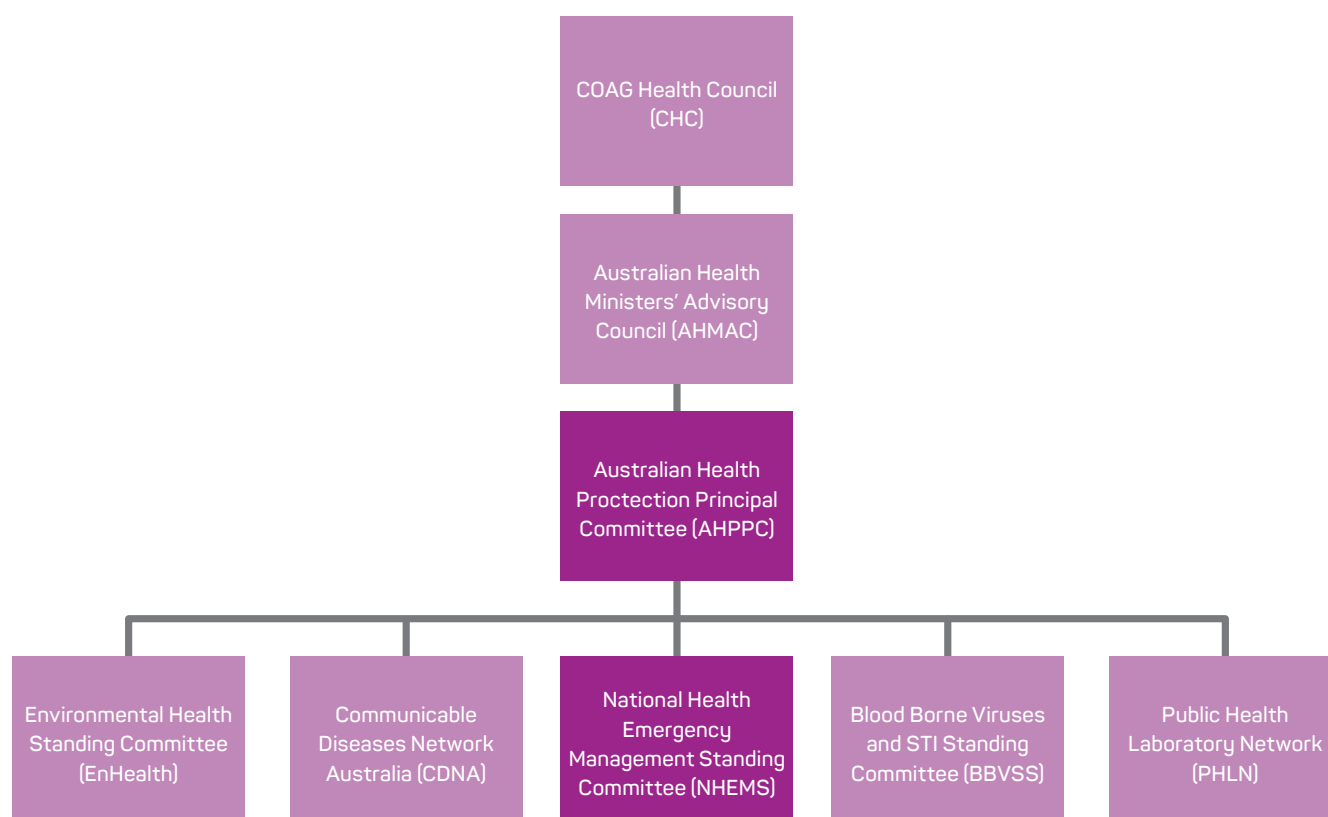
Australian health emergency response arrangements

Speed read

- The primary responsibility for managing the response to emergencies in Australia lies with state and territory governments.
- Cooperation and collaboration between the Australian Government and the state and territory governments is key to Australia's health disaster preparedness and response arrangements.
- Functional plans support the national health disaster response arrangements.

Key points

The relationships between national committees involved in health emergency response in Australia is outlined below:



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The COAG Health Council (CHC).

The CHC provides a forum for continued cooperation on health issues, especially primary and secondary care, and consider increasing cost pressures.

The Australian Health Ministers' Advisory Council (AHMAC).

The AHMAC is the advisory and support body to the COAG Health Council. It operates to deliver health services more efficiently through a coordinated or joint approach on matters of mutual interest.

The Australian Health Protection Principal Committee (AHPPC).

The AHPPC is the peak national health emergency management committee, with the authority to plan, prepare for and coordinate the national health response to significant incidents. The AHPPC is responsible for high-level, cross-jurisdictional collaboration in the planning, preparedness and response in significant health emergencies including trauma, chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear (CBRN), and public health. The AHPPC is supported by a number of standing committees.

National health sector emergency and crisis management plans set out the responsibilities of ministers and officials managing domestic and international health crises that require Australian Government assistance or coordination. **The National Health Emergency Response Arrangements (NatHealth Arrangements)** are Australia's highest level health sector emergency plan. The NatHealth Arrangements establish the following key health sector plans:

The Domestic Response Plan for Mass Casualty Incidents of National Consequence (DoH 2011) (AUSTRAMPLAN).

An agreed framework for the coordination and response arrangements for national health sector operations in response to mass casualty incidents of national significance resulting from trauma.

The Health Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear Incidents of National Significance Plan (Health CBRN Plan 2018)

Details the coordination of a national health response within the context of a deliberate threat or incident, and the special considerations required for national incidents involving CBRN agents.

The Emergency Response Plan for Communicable Disease Incidents of National Significance (CDPLAN 2016)

Australia's primary national plan for coordinating the response to a communicable disease incident of national significance.

The Australian Health Management Plan for Pandemic Influenza (AHMPPI 2014)

Australia's national health sector plan for the management of an influenza pandemic and is often used as a model for communicable diseases. It is aimed at Australian Government and state and territory governments, but also includes links to industry. The AHMPPI is a sub-plan to the CDPLAN.

National plans are supported by plans at state and territory government level. State and territory governments have primary responsibility for health emergencies and for working with local governments.

International regulation of the control of infectious diseases is found in the World Health Organization's International Health Regulations (WHO 2005). Australia's obligations under those regulations are given effect by policies such as the [National Health Security Act](#) 2007 and the [Biosecurity Act](#) 2015.

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Australian Government
National Emergency
Management Agency



Australian Institute for
Disaster Resilience

Take action

- Review the [National Health Emergency Response Arrangements](#)
- Review the [Health and Disaster Management Handbook](#) (AIDR 2019) page 41 for the State, Territory and Local Government health plans

More information

- [Health and Disaster Management Handbook](#) (AIDR 2019)
- [Australian Government Department of Health Emergency health management](#)
- [International Health Regulations](#) (WHO 2005)