

## Australian health emergency response arrangements

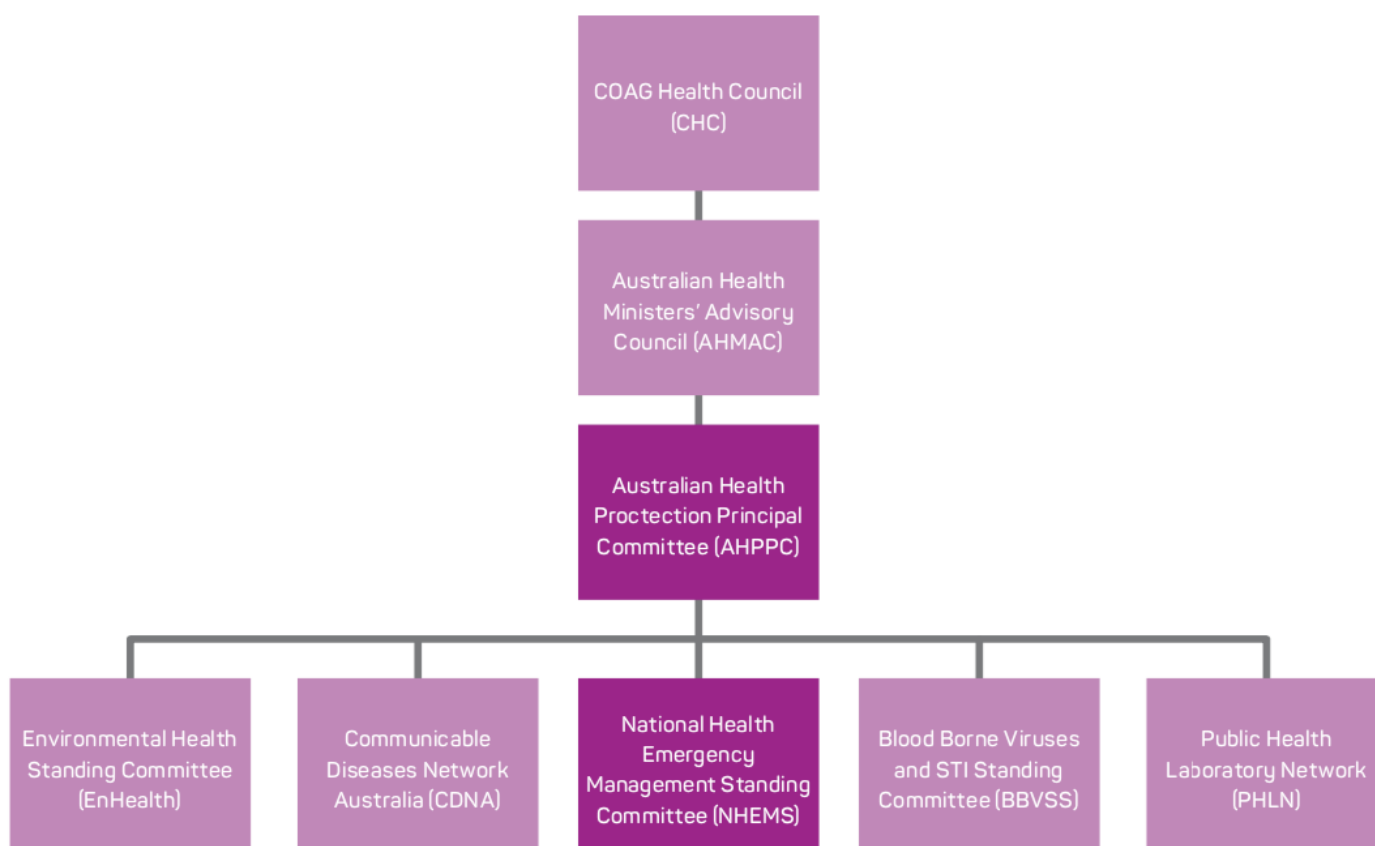
### Speed read

- State and territory governments have primary responsibility for managing emergency response.
- Australia's health disaster preparedness and response arrangements require cooperation and collaboration between the Australian Government and state and territory governments.
- Committees and plans support the national health emergency response arrangements.

### Key points

#### National health emergency response committees

This diagram outlines the relationship between national committees involved in health emergency response:



#### Council of Australian Governments (COAG) Health Council

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

#### Australian Health Ministers' Advisory Council

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.

### Australian Health Protection Principal Committee

The peak national health emergency management committee, with the authority to plan, prepare for and coordinate the national health response to significant incidents. 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. Supported by a number of standing committees.

### National health emergency response plans

**National health sector emergency 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. These arrangements establish the following key health sector plans:

#### Domestic Response Plan for Mass Casualty Incidents of National Consequence (AUSTRAUPLAN)

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.

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

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.

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

The primary national plan for coordinating the response to a communicable disease incident of national significance.

#### Australian Health Management Plan for Pandemic Influenza (AHMPPI)

National health sector plan for the management of an influenza pandemic. Primarily a plan for national, state and territory governments, but also includes links to industry. 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.

### Take action

- Review the [National Health Emergency Response Arrangements](#)
- Find your state or territory health plans in the Health and Disaster Management Handbook: [knowledge.aidr.org.au/resources/health-and-disaster-management-handbook](http://knowledge.aidr.org.au/resources/health-and-disaster-management-handbook)

### More information

- [Health and Disaster Management Handbook](#) (AIDR 2019)
- [Australian Government Department of Health: Emergency health management](#)
- [International Health Regulations](#) (WHO 2005)
- [AUSTRAUPLAN](#) | [Health CBRN Plan](#) | [CDPLAN](#) | [AHMPPI](#)