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Industry ready to fight superbugs

MSD welcomes recommendations in new antimicrobial resistance white paper

MSD Australia has welcomed today's launch of 'Fighting Superbugs', a white paper from MTPConnect addressing antimicrobial resistance (AMR) in Australia, and the establishment of the Australian Antimicrobial Resistance Network (AAMRNet).

The white paper, based on the inaugural meeting of Australia's antimicrobial resistance stakeholders led by MTPConnect, provides recommendations for new and improved approaches for addressing drug resistance, including the need for pricing and health technology assessment (HTA) reform to better capture the full value of antimicrobials in the HTA process; and providing incentives for continued private sector investment in antimicrobial research and development.¹

The paper acknowledges that industry is a key contributor in addressing the AMR challenge due to its expertise in product research and development, and as a manufacturer and supplier of products to combat AMR. In acknowledgment of broken market for novel antimicrobials, the paper recommends that new reimbursement and procurement models are considered in Australia, such as an alternative payment scheme, including models where payments are delinked from sales volume.²

Mr Michael Azrak, Managing Director of MSD Australia, said that this national focus on AMR comes at a critical time as AMR continues to be one of the world's most pressing global health priorities: "MSD is one of the few remaining large pharmaceutical companies investing in antimicrobial research and development and we are committed to working with Government, and as a member of AAMRNet, to help drive recognition and re-stimulate innovation for these therapies."³

"We have been advocating, for some time now, the need for an innovative funding model for novel antimicrobials, which could help Australia tackle the challenges of antimicrobial resistance. It is a significant step forward that this approach is recognised across our broader industry and listed as a recommendation in today's Fighting Superbugs white paper," continued Mr Azrak.

“However, a new funding pathway for novel antimicrobials is just one piece of the puzzle. In order to slow the development of AMR in Australia, all stakeholders must partner more closely to improve stewardship, surveillance, diagnostics and the regulatory framework.⁴ We welcome the opportunity to work with AAMRNet, to drive change and action to combat AMR in Australia and demonstrate our global leadership in addressing this urgent health priority.”

MSD was present at the inaugural meeting of antimicrobial resistance stakeholders which resulted in the white paper, and is also represented on the steering committee of AAMRNet.

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About MSD

For more than 125 years, MSD has been inventing for life, bringing forward medicines and vaccines for many of the world’s most challenging diseases in pursuit of our mission to save and improve lives. MSD is a trade name of Merck & Co., Inc., Kenilworth, N.J., U.S.A. We demonstrate our commitment to patients and population health by increasing access to health care through far-reaching policies, programs and partnerships. Today, MSD continues to be at the forefront of research to prevent and treat diseases that threaten people and animals – including cancer, infectious diseases such as HIV and Ebola, and emerging animal diseases – as we aspire to be the premier research-intensive biopharmaceutical company in the world. For more information, visit www.msd-australia.com.au and connect with us on [Twitter](#) and [LinkedIn](#).

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