

A photograph of three scientists in a laboratory setting. On the left, a woman with dark curly hair is looking down. In the center, a woman with dark hair is looking towards the right. On the right, a woman with glasses and brown hair is looking down. They are all wearing white lab coats. In the background, there are shelves with various laboratory glassware and equipment.

NATIONAL HEALTH SECURITY RESILIENCE ASSESSMENT

NATIONAL HEALTH SECURITY RESILIENCE ASSESSMENT (NHSRA)

The current COVID-19 situation highlights the need for Australia's health security to be underpinned by a nationally coordinated approach to sovereign preparedness, prevention, response, and recovery (PPRR). With a strong focus on supply chain resilience and in-country manufacturing capacity, the NHSRA 2020 will assess the strengths and vulnerabilities of Australia's PPRR ecosystem.

The NHSRA will extend beyond previous audits of Australia's medical countermeasures capability to include end-to-end research, development, manufacturing and distribution in six critical sectors including Medical Countermeasures, Medical Devices, Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), Modelling and Simulation, Hazard Management and Sensing Systems.

The NHSRA, led by DMTC, is supported by the Defence Science and Technology Group through its Next Generation Technologies Fund. Multiple government agency stakeholders were consulted in the development of the NHSRA and will derive strategic insight and direction from the results including:

- Department of Defence;
- Department of Health;
- Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade;
- Department of Industry, Science, Energy, and Resources;
- Department of Home Affairs;
- Commonwealth Scientific & Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO)

DMTC'S NATIONAL MEDICAL COUNTERMEASURES INITIATIVE

The National Medical Countermeasures Initiative (MCMi) at DMTC was established in 2015, in collaboration with the Defence Science and Technology (DST) Group and CSIRO. Its purpose is to build sovereign industrial capability and capacity which can support Australia's defence and health security requirements. Over the last five years, DMTC has led the expansion of the MCMi. As a result, there has been growth in the numbers of medical technology and pharmaceutical organisations working within the MCMi network on vaccine, therapeutic and diagnostic development programs.

The activities within the MCMi and policies in government more broadly, have been informed by the outcomes of two National Capability Audits undertaken in 2012 and 2017. These audits helped to quantify Australia's medical countermeasure research and development (R&D) capability and capacity, while highlighting where strategic investment could impact further growth of the sector. These audits were intended to run on a five-year rolling schedule; however, the COVID-19 pandemic led to a request from government agencies to bring the next Audit forward by twelve months with an expanded remit.

OPPORTUNITY TO CONTRIBUTE

All organisations that play a role in research, product development, manufacture, or distribution of technologies and products of relevance to the six critical sectors identified above are strongly encouraged to complete to the NHSRA. This will involve completion of relevant surveys which inquire about their organisational activities and capabilities. By contributing, organisations may have an opportunity to participate in detailed consultations that follow the first phase of data collection. All contributions to the NHSRA are critical to providing a truly national picture of Australia's capability and capacity in the health security ecosystem.

HARNESSING A BESPOKE TECHNOLOGY PLATFORM

Conducting a national capability assessment, involving multiple stakeholders and potentially hundreds of respondents is a complex endeavour with challenges at each stage from design through to delivery.

To meet these challenges, DMTC has partnered with Gravity iLabs to leverage its StrategyDotZero platform to streamline data collection and enable approved stakeholders to both visualise and interrogate the data generated from the NHSRA in real-time.

The platform has the capacity to digitise and automate workflows and provide key analytics and reports. This will increase the Assessment's outreach, accelerate report delivery and maximise resulting project outcomes. The use of the StrategyDotZero platform aligns with DMTC's overall objective to facilitate stronger cross-sectoral stakeholder engagement and deliver an in-depth analysis of Australia's PPRR ecosystem.

INFORMATION SECURITY

All information provided by participants will be stored on a secure Australian server. Data can only be accessed by approved personnel and strict control measures are in place. In any public reporting of NHSRA findings, information will be de-identified and presented as overall trends for the respective sectors or supply chains.



For more information, please contact:

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NHSRA OPENS	30th November 2020
NHSRA CLOSES	30th November 2021
TIME COMMITMENT	~60 minutes (depending on the sector(s) in which your organisation has capability)
SCOPE	National

MAJOR PARTNERS



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