

**Summary of the 25<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Animal Health Accreditation  
Advisory Committee (AHAAC) meeting**  
11 September 2025 (Virtual)

The AHAAC met using a virtual platform and discussed the following matters:

- The Australian National Quality Assurance Program (ANQAP) relies on the provision of samples from diagnostic laboratories. This supply of such samples is an ongoing issue.
- New ELISA diagnostic kits have been developed for gastrointestinal parasites. These are available in the UK and Europe but are yet to be released in Australia.
- Facilities using MALDI-TOF should not skip the Gram staining of specimens as this can provide additional diagnostic information such as the presence of non-culturable microorganisms and inflammatory cells.
- The shift from Calibrated Dichotomous Sensitivity (CDS) tests to Minimum Inhibitory Concentration (MIC) testing may lead to standard drug panels from manufacturers, which sometimes include drugs not recommended for domestic animals in Australia. Facilities should avoid reporting results for these drugs to prevent misuse. Reporting MICs can also be problematic, as Veterinarian's might misinterpret them and choose drugs with the lowest MIC without considering pharmacokinetics. Therefore, it's preferable for facilities to report results simply as Sensitive or Resistant, rather than providing MICs
- There is no formal proficiency program for Aquatic Animal Health.
- There is a decline in the number of fish pathologists as a result of recent retirements and a lack of training opportunities.
- There is a need for proficiency testing for liver fluke. Without a formal program, collaboration between testing facilities is encouraged.
- NATA to consider how to increase engagement with private facilities including engagement with the Australian Society of Veterinary Pathology (ASVP).
- Technical Assessors are needed in the following areas:
  - Clinical chemistry (including Toxicology).
  - Haematology
  - Parasitology
  - Molecular diagnostics