



# Australia's support for Rabies Zero by 30

## Abstract

The distribution and prevalence of dog-mediated rabies continues to evolve across parts of Asia.

While Australia remains free from rabies, the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF) continues to work at the border and with Australian communities to maintain this freedom.

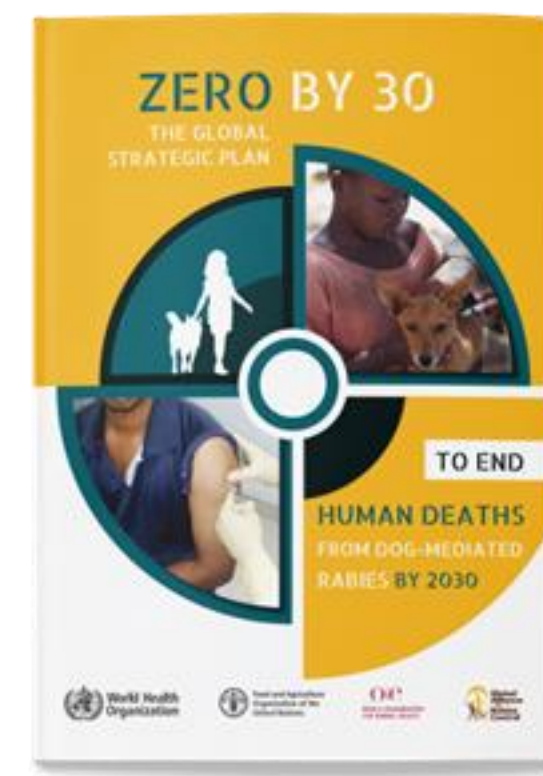
DAFF is also collaborating to support rabies control and prevention within the Indo Pacific region. Together with partnering countries and organisations, it looks to increase the prevention, early detection, preparedness, response, and elimination options for rabies and other emerging and infectious diseases.

## Zero by 30

Over 60,000 people die from rabies each year and over 99% of these cases are caused by bites from infected dogs. Vaccination of dogs is the proven way of preventing human exposure and eliminating disease at source in rabies endemic countries.

The Zero by 30 strategy aims to eliminate dog-mediated rabies deaths in humans by 2030. The Global Alliance for Rabies Control (GARC) is united with WOAHA, WHO, and FAO to deliver this strategy.

Australia contributes to this strategy through its domestic and regional activities.



## Australia's rabies activity highlights

### Rabies in Borneo Conference 2023 📍 Kuching, Sarawak



The Department of Veterinary Services Sarawak, in collaboration with Place Borneo, hosted the conference on 31 October – 1 November 2023. This regional One Health conference was to lead in rabies prevention, control, and elimination, supporting the global Zero by 2030 goal. Participants shared knowledge, explored new ideas, and implement innovative solutions.

DAFF funded Papua New Guinea's rabies focal point to attend the conference. This funding was also extended for a participant from Timor Leste.

Dr Andrea Britton, DAFF Principal Veterinary Officer brought her expertise as a member of the 2023 Scientific Committee.

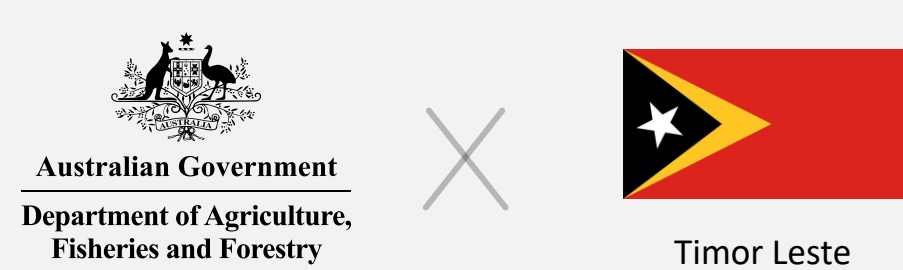


Wilson Ghue (PNG rabies focal point), Andrea Britton, Ronello Abila (left to right) attend the conference



Andrea with Holly Crompton who presented on the protection of wildlife from rabies

### Rabies – Train the Trainer 📍 Dili, Timor Leste



With the recent emergence of rabies in West Timor, DAFF is working with the Timor-Leste Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries and Forestry (MALFF) to deliver training in safe animal handling and rabies vaccine administration techniques.

MALFF will pass on these skills to colleagues across Timor-Leste to ensure safety and wellbeing of people and animals in future rabies vaccination campaigns.



Timor-Leste and Australia participants undertaking training (September 2023)

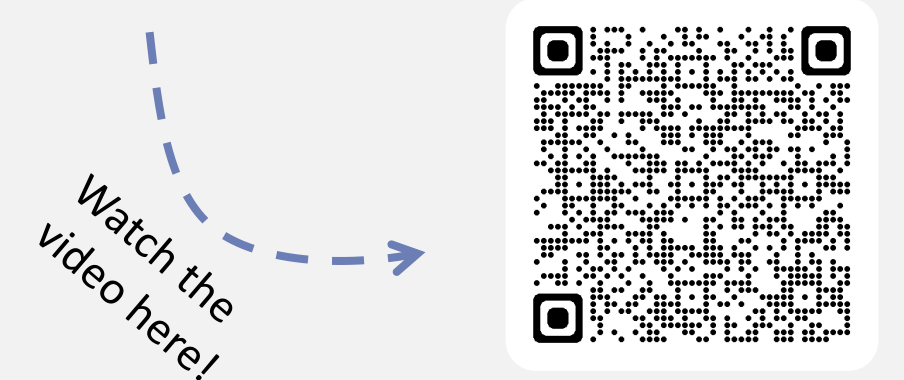
### Northern Australia Quarantine Strategy (NAQS) 📍 Northern Australia



The remote, vast, and sparsely populated northern coastline of Australia is vulnerable to the introduction of exotic diseases like rabies.

NAQS is Australia's biosecurity surveillance program operating in northern Australia and supports rabies prevention via:

- Identifying and monitoring illegal or natural pest and disease entry pathways into Australia
- Animal health surveillance in remote and rural communities
- Engagement with stakeholders, including those working regularly with dogs
- The Indigenous Ranger Biosecurity Program which supports rabies surveillance
- The 'Biosecurity Top Watch' public awareness campaign encourages the public to monitor and report exotic pests and diseases and to comply with border movement requirements



### Rabies elimination in Indonesia 📍 Bali, Indonesia



Through Australia's project to support the implementation of the WOAHA 7<sup>th</sup> Strategic Plan, assistance is being provided for the elimination of rabies in Indonesia. Australia is funding \$1,235,000 AUD over 2022-25.

Since 2022, Australia has gifted

400,000



Dog rabies vaccines to Indonesia



Australia Consul-General, Anthea Griffin at vaccine handover event in Bali (July 2023)

The WOAHA Sub-regional Office for SEA, APCAT and Indonesian Government are partnered to implement the rabies project in Bali through a One Health approach. Work includes:

- Mass dog vaccination campaign
- Advocacy and engagement with Bali leaders to strengthen commitment and prioritization for rabies control
- Promotion of One Health approaches
- Strengthen policy implementation around rabies control
- Increase media engagement and overall awareness of vaccination campaigns and rabies risk

### Pacific dog population management 📍 Pacific region



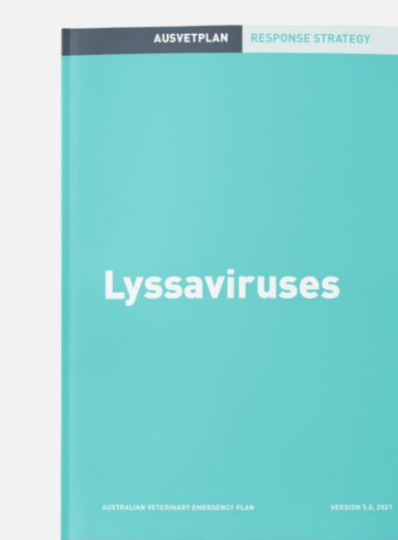
DAFF has a longstanding relationship with Pacific Island nations and has funded re-establishment of the Pacific Heads of Veterinary and Animal Production Services (PHOVAPS) network.

As the region's key decision-making body for animal health, PHOVAPS will deliver a coordinated and integrated approach to improve dog population management and mitigate regional rabies risk.

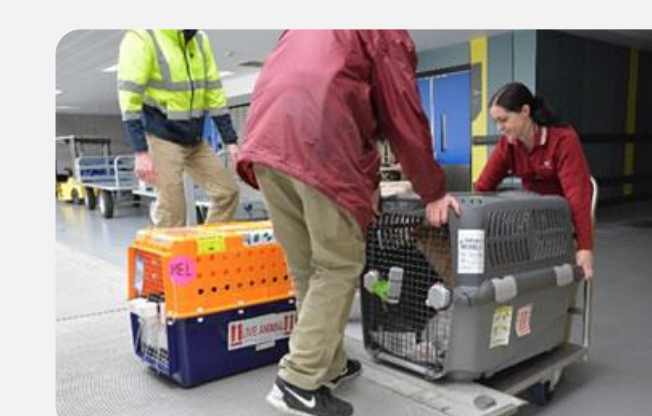


First in-person meeting of the re-activated PHOVAPS network, held on 30 October to 1 November 2023 in Nadi, Fiji. The meeting was funded by DAFF, in partnership with the World Organisation for Animal Health and the Pacific Community.

### Australia's preparedness 📍 Canberra, Australia



The AUSVETPLAN is Australia's nationally agreed emergency response strategy and ensures Australia's preparedness for a rabies incursion. The plan is written and reviewed by a cross-sectoral and multi-disciplinary group of technical experts.



DAFF has reviewed its regulations to reduce the rabies risk from imported live animals. A minimum post-entry quarantine period of 30 days now applies to unverified animals from rabies affected countries.



Public awareness campaign encourages the public to monitor and report rabies and to comply with border movement requirements.

Watch the video on Australia's World Rabies Day 2023 webinar!