



**Wildlife Health**  
AUSTRALIA

# Annual Report 2024-2025



**Acknowledgements:** Wildlife Health Australia acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of Country throughout Australia. We respectfully acknowledge Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples' continuing connection to land, sea, wildlife and community. We pay our respects to them and their cultures, and to their Elders past and present.

**Join Us:** Wildlife Health Australia (WHA) aims to link, inform and support people and organisations who work with or have an interest in wildlife health across Australia and the Indo-Pacific through technical advice, facilitation, communications and professional support. By becoming a member and joining our community, you join a network of stakeholder with an interest in wildlife health.

Follow the link to join our community: [www.wildlifehealthaustralia.com.au](http://www.wildlifehealthaustralia.com.au)

WHA would like to thank its members, supporters and employees for their dedication and commitment to the ongoing development of Australia's wildlife health system.

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### Terminology Statement

This report uses changing terminology to refer to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. No one term is used as we acknowledge that preferences vary across communities and individuals, and we respectfully recognise the importance of self-determination in how people choose to identify, including by their Nation, Country or language group.





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# ABOUT WHA

**Our Vision:** Healthy wildlife, healthy planet.

**Our Purpose:** To advance wildlife health for a healthier future for all.

We are a national body that advances wildlife health for a healthier future for all.

We are built on strong, trusted partnerships across Australia and beyond, bringing together experts, governments and communities to understand and respond to wildlife health issues. This includes collaborating with multidisciplinary experts and knowledge holders to build Australia's understanding of wildlife health factors such as diseases, emerging risks and their drivers.

We harness scientific and strategic insights to lead national efforts to address threats to native wildlife populations, people, agriculture and the systems which sustain us. We are trusted advisors on national and international wildlife health issues; informing policies, programs and strategies to integrate wildlife objectives and implement One Health solutions.

We bring extensive expertise, experience and foresight to advancing wildlife health in Australia and internationally – and are strongly committed to listening to and elevating Indigenous voices in our work and at all levels of the wildlife health system.

It is our mission each day to lead change that improves health outcomes for wildlife and ecosystems to create a healthier future for all species.

# MESSAGE FROM THE CEO & CHAIR

The past year has been one of future-focus for Wildlife Health Australia (WHA). Under the leadership of our Board and executive team, we have taken significant steps to ensure the organisation is prepared for the challenges and opportunities ahead. Central to this was the development of our new **Strategic Framework 2025–2050** which positions wildlife health at the heart of environmental sustainability, community wellbeing and economic resilience.

Developed throughout 2024/25 by the Board in consultation with staff and stakeholders, the Strategic Framework provides a clear roadmap to guide WHA's priorities, reflecting our belief that meaningful change is possible when we lead with courage, collaboration and foresight. By embedding One Health principles across all aspects of our work, amplifying the needs of wildlife in national and global decision-making, bolstering resilience in systems and communities, and creating and sharing knowledge, WHA is **setting a bold and impactful course for the decades ahead**.

Alongside this work, as Chair and CEO we began engagement with parliamentarians about Parliamentary Friends group opportunities to incorporate **One Health** and build support for **integrated approaches on issues** such as climate change, emerging diseases, antimicrobial resistance and biodiversity loss. These conversations are an important step towards raising awareness about One Health, encouraging cross-sector collaboration, influencing policy and ensuring Australia demonstrates leadership in the region and globally. These conversations and work on parliamentary sessions for One Health continue into the new financial year.

Together with the development of our new Strategic Framework 2025–2050, these efforts represent the forward-looking agenda of WHA. They build on our **strong foundations in surveillance, emergency preparedness, international collaboration and capacity building** towards our vision of **healthy wildlife, healthy planet**. They also demonstrate the value of WHA as a trusted voice, working with partners across government, research, communities and international networks. We have seen outstanding achievements across our core programs, from record participation in surveillance reaching 20,000 eWHIS records, to high-impact international collaborations under our role as a WOAHC Collaborating Centre, to the development of national-first wildlife health guidance documents. Importantly, **we continue to prioritise the building of strong partnerships with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities**, recognising their deep knowledge and connection to Country in wildlife health.

We thank fellow board members for their service and deeply vital contributions – and our incredible staff whose **expertise, passion and commitment underpin every WHA achievement** and continue to drive us forward. We also extend our appreciation to our funders, partners, peers and members for their continued commitment. With your continued support, together we will drive change that strengthens Australia's wildlife health system and contributes to a healthier, more sustainable future for all.

Richard Russell, Chair  
Rupert Woods, CEO

# THE WHA BOARD



**Chair:** Richard Russell  
Joined 2024



**Deputy Chair:** Cameron Bell  
Joined 2021



Michelle Campbell-Ward  
Joined 2023



Sharon Kolek  
Joined 2023



Nicola Craddock  
Joined 2023



Michelle Rodan  
Joined 2024



Julien Grosmaire  
Joined 2023



Martin Baird  
Joined 2025



Stephen Cartwright  
Joined 2025

We would like to thank the following  
Board members, who retired during  
2024-2025 for their service:



Rodney Vile (6 years)



Leanne Wicker (4 years)



Andrew Pearce (3 years)

# WHA Snapshots

## 2024-25

Partnered **with over 120 government and non-government agencies** and **organisations** in Australia and internationally.



Co-hosted **2 Asia-Pacific Workshops** in USA & Japan, expanding regional networks.

**24 professionals** trained worldwide through Wildlife Disease Risk Analysis online courses.

**54 participants** from **12 countries** joined the Wildlife Health Risk Analysis Workshop (Sydney).

A record **1,146 wildlife disease events** reported into eWHIS in 2024.



**First** National Guidance for Koala Vaccination developed with **27 Indigenous participants.**



**9,000+ samples collected** for avian influenza surveillance — a **50% increase** on 2023.

**Launched AviFluMap**, a national-first tool modelling H5 bird flu risk in wild birds.

**75,000 wildlife cases** seen by Sentinel Surveillance partners in 2024.

**10,000+ views** of WHA's HPAI incident webpages and resources.



# WHA Snapshots

## 2024-25

Indigenous-focused engagement with **17 government departments**, **40+ organisations**, and **50+ Indigenous individuals**.



Released WHA's **Artificial Intelligence Guiding Principles**, signalling the organisation's commitment to ethical and innovative technology adoption.

Surveyed **112 wildlife rehabilitators** for new engagement strategies.



Introduced a **Targeted Recruitment and Retention Strategy**.

Participation in **3 Indigenous-led** forums, strengthening partnerships and cultural capability.

Responded to **44 media enquiries** – a **70%** increase year on year.



**Increased WHA's social media reach** by **27%** compared to the previous financial year, with **LinkedIn** followers up **28%**, **Instagram** up **40%**, with growth to nearly **7,700** followers across the three platforms

Recruited for **six positions** across **five states** into **four** WHA program streams.



# STRATEGIC VISION 2025-2050

Throughout 2024–25 Wildlife Health Australia was undertaking the development of its new **Strategic Framework 2025–2050**, a high-level roadmap that puts wildlife health at the centre of Australian and global health and environmental sustainability.

The Board led the development process over 18 months, supported by a Strategic Working Group (with Board and staff representation) and a Project Management Team (comprised of WHA staff and the Board chair of the Strategic Working Group), with critical contributions from WHA staff at all stages. External consultation on the draft framework generated over 90 responses from Australian and international stakeholders, shaping the final document.

The final version of the Strategic Framework was approved by the Board in June 2025. This bold and transformative framework guides WHA forward to lead change that improves outcomes for wildlife and ecosystems, and ultimately supports thriving communities, economies, and the planet.

The framework is built on WHA's **Vision — *Healthy wildlife, healthy planet*** — and four interconnected pillars: **Embed One Health**, **Amplify the Needs of Wildlife**, **Bolster Resilience**, and **Create and Share Knowledge**. None of these priorities can be achieved in isolation; progress in one strengthens the others.

- **Embed One Health** integrates animal, environmental, and human health across all WHA activities, ensuring a sustainable wildlife health system and elevating Indigenous voices.
- **Amplify the Needs of Wildlife** ensures wildlife health is recognised in decision-making on climate change, biodiversity loss, and pandemic preparedness.
- **Bolster Resilience** builds capacity and coordination to prevent and respond to emerging risks.
- **Create and Share Knowledge** enhances intelligence, data, and insights through collaboration, technology, and foresight.

The Strategic Framework provides long-term direction while also designed to evolve alongside changing needs and emerging challenges. It positions WHA to lead with courage, unity and expertise, working with stakeholders at all levels to deliver meaningful change for Australia's wildlife and contributing to a healthier planet for all.



# WHA PROGRAM STREAMS



**One Health** recognises that the health of animals, the environment and humans are fundamentally linked for survival; therefore a One Health approach is essential to **advancing wildlife health for a healthier future for all**. Wildlife Health Australia's International One Health Program builds networks, skills and knowledge to address wildlife health risks across Australia and the Asia-Pacific.

As a World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH) Collaborating Centre for Wildlife Health Risk Management, WHA links policy, science and practice to ensure **wildlife health is considered in global One Health frameworks**. Our work connects professionals across sectors, fosters collaborative approaches and embeds risk management expertise in **regional and national systems**.

## Key Highlights International One Health Team:

- Hosted **Wildlife Health Risk Analysis Workshop** in Sydney (December 2024) with 54 in-person participants from 34 organisations across 12 countries, plus virtual participants.
- Partnered with The Korean National Institute of Wildlife Disease Control and Prevention and United States Geological Survey to deliver **Asia-Pacific Wildlife Health Workshops** in Hawaii (August 2024) and Japan (June 2025) covering topics such as avian influenza, African Swine Fever, climate change, emerging diseases and regional cooperation.
- Launched the **Online Canvas Knowledge Hub** with the University of Minnesota, providing curated partner-generated content, technical modules and practical resources to addresses critical capacity gaps and enable global partners to exchange expertise and strengthen collective responses for wildlife health.
- Delivered **Wildlife Disease Risk Analysis Online Training** twice in partnership with the International Union for Conservation of Nature [Conservation Planning Specialist Group](#) (IUCN CPSG), training 24 participants globally.
- Co-hosted or represented WHA at **seven international forums, and presented at an additional four**, including the World One Health Congress, International Wildlife Disease Association Conference, Oceania Planetary Health Forum and WOAHA General Session.
- **Co-chaired and supported four WOAHA Wildlife Health Networks** - a platform to facilitate effective sharing of information, expertise and advocacy to promote the wildlife health agenda in the region - ensuring **Australian leadership in global wildlife health governance**.
- Contributed technical input to WOAHA documents, including the **Terrestrial Animal Health Code** and technical governance recommendations.



The **Surveillance Program** delivers intelligence on wildlife health through national general surveillance, targeted programs **and collaborative networks**. Surveillance partners report cases into the eWHIS database and support WHA in the identification of unusual and emerging wildlife diseases, management of disease outbreaks, development of policy on wildlife disease and in meeting Australia's national and international reporting commitments.

Targeted surveillance and programs focus on **detecting and monitoring of priority threats**, such as H5 HPAI (H5 bird flu), as we work to build strong, inclusive and **innovative knowledge systems** to assist in informed decision-making, evaluating impact and learning from others.

## Key Highlights The Surveillance Program Team:

- Launched the **eWHIS Data Hub**, a web-based application to provide enhanced analysis and visualisation of data entered into eWHIS – the **national electronic Wildlife Health Information System** – and reached 20,000+ eWHIS records in October 2024.
- Expanded National Avian Influenza Wild Bird (NAIWB) targeted surveillance with more than **9,000 samples** collected in 2024 calendar year — **a 50% increase compared to 2023** – adding extra sampling locations, pilot projects in new jurisdictions, and new and enhanced targeted surveillance on migratory shorebirds and seabirds to offshore territories.
- Began development of a new, **secure digital platform** for the NAIWB targeted surveillance database to **streamline data upload processes** and provide more efficient analysis and reporting.
- **Supported Australia's largest HPAI H7 poultry outbreak** response with wild bird monitoring, data provision and enhanced monitoring of wild birds for HPAI spillover through Victorian WHA sentinel surveillance partners, with more than 230 samples submitted.
- Grew the **Sentinel Surveillance Program** by **three new partners** for a total of nine zoos, 13 sentinel clinics and seven universities, with a consultant-led scoping project completed and pilot planning now underway to **expand the program to more veterinary clinics** around Australia.
- Received nearly 500 events reported into eWHIS through the Sentinel Surveillance Program, contributing **32% of the total eWHIS submissions** for 2024/25.
- Marked **20 years of the Bat Health Focus Group**, with presentations given in various forums including the Australasian Society for Infectious Diseases Zoonoses Conference highlighting the WHA Bats & Public Health Communication Guide.
- Supported **28 wildlife disease investigations nationally**, linking field diagnostics to laboratory confirmation for timely management.
- Maintained and updated technical fact sheets on priority wildlife diseases to **support stakeholder awareness and preparedness**.



The **Emergencies Program** builds Australia's **preparedness and capacity** to respond effectively to wildlife health emergencies. Its focus is on developing guidance, tools and partnerships that **enable coordinated action** when emerging or emergency diseases, natural disasters or other threats impact wildlife.

The program works closely with governments, researchers, Indigenous communities and reaching out into rehabilitation networks (in coordination with our Capacity Building program) to ensure that wildlife health considerations are **fully integrated into broader emergency responses**. These efforts position WHA as a leader in advancing effective, One Health-aligned emergency management to bolster resilience.

## Key Highlights

### The Emergencies Program Team:

- Developed the first **National Guidance for vaccination of koalas against chlamydia**, in partnership with the Department of Climate Change, Energy, Environment and Water, and the National Koala Recovery Team, including input from **27 Indigenous community participants**.
- Produced an **internal WHA Emergency Animal Disease 4-Day Plan** and **incident management procedures** to strengthen organisational readiness for emergencies involving wildlife, and published the **Principles of Effective Management of Wildlife in Emergencies** national guidance document.
- Expanded WHA's HPAI H5 (H5 bird flu) resources: webpages recorded **over 10,000 views**, including **over 2,000 views** of the **risk mitigation toolboxes** page, with new resources including H5 bird flu FAQs and a national webinar for wildlife managers.
- Contributed to the major review of the AUSVETPLAN *Avian influenza response strategy*, ensuring **wild bird perspectives** were incorporated.
- Updated **27 technical Fact Sheets** and developed a new one; our Fact Sheet webpage was **viewed over 4,000 times** in 2024/25, with bird diseases representing the most views.
- Distributed **12 monthly WHA newsletters**, attracting **nearly 400 new subscribers** to the community, sharing updates on WHA activities, wildlife rehabilitation, national and international news and information on wildlife health, and upcoming conferences.
- Allocated \$468,000 from the One Health Investigation Fund, supporting **expansion of NAIWB surveillance** (four new projects targeting shorebirds and seabirds in four jurisdictions), development of **AviFluMap: a H5 Bird Flu Model Tool for Australia's Wild Birds** in partnership with Deakin University and BirdLife Australia (launched May 2025), and the pilot of the **SOS Wild Birds reporting platform** designed by the Northern Australian Quarantine Strategy to capture real-time reports of wild bird sickness and mortality from across Australia.
- Allocated \$55,000 from the Wildlife Disease Investigation Fund, **supporting incident investigations across five states**, covering amphibians, reptiles, birds, and mammals.
- Supported specialist projects, including retrospective pathogen screening of **237 samples from 103 cetaceans** (1999–2024), detecting cetacean morbillivirus and an environmental risk assessment of anti-parasitic treatment for wombats.
- Established a combined **Paralysis Syndromes Working Group** which developed a communications guide, lorikeet triage protocol and flying fox paralysis syndrome summary. Paralysis incident webpages were **viewed over 2,000 times** in 2024–25.



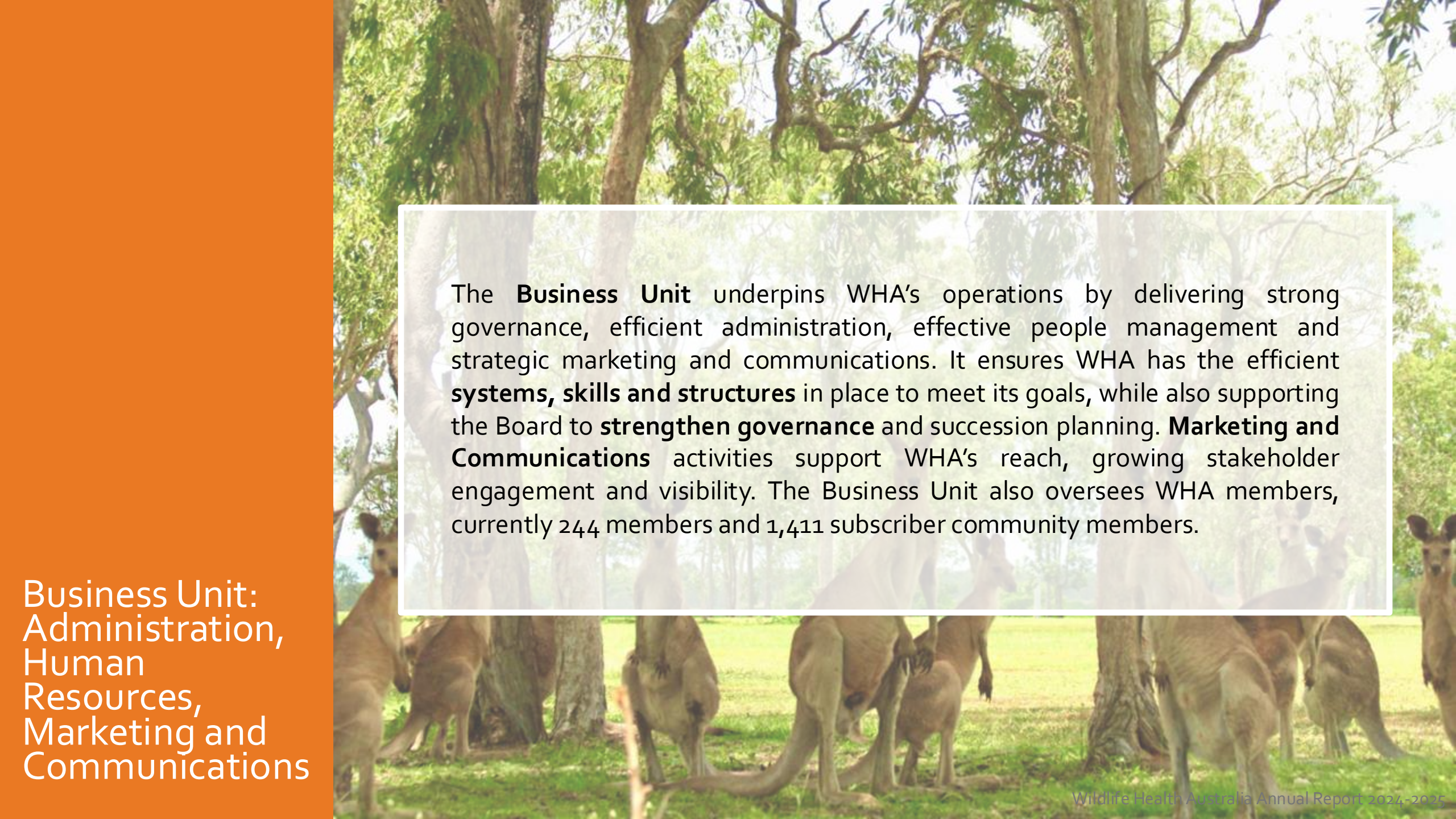
# Capacity Building & Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships

The **Capacity Building Program** aims to strengthen wildlife health capability through training, knowledge-sharing and inclusive **partnerships with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities**. Guided by WHA's 'Reflect' Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) and cultural learning strategy, the program builds connections so that **cultural perspectives are considered in wildlife health** and stronger networks built with government, research and community sectors. These efforts will contribute to a more resilient, nationally coordinated wildlife health system that reflects **diverse knowledge and expertise**.

## Key Highlights The Capacity Building Team:

- Engaged **17 government departments, 40+ organisations, and 50+ Indigenous individuals** to broaden mutually beneficial partnerships with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities and organisations.
- Completed a **national survey on feral animal disease surveillance and management**, identifying key gaps and informing the case for a more coordinated national approach.
- Represented WHA on the national **Environment and Invasives Committee**, the **Terrestrial Vertebrate Working Group** and the **Environmental and Biosecurity Advisory Group** to raise awareness about the impact of feral animals and other invasives species on wildlife health.
- Presented at the **Australasian Pest Vertebrate Conference** and **National Feral Pig Conference**, and connecting, listening and learning about community priorities on feral animal diseases.
- Conducted a **national survey of wildlife rehabilitation stakeholders** (112 respondents), confirming **strong demand** for increased access to WHA resources and support.
- Participated in **Indigenous-led events**, including the Social and Emotional Wellbeing Forum, Indigenous Women Rangers Conference and the East Kimberley Invasive Species Workshop.
- Progressed WHA's '**Reflect**' **Reconciliation Action Plan** and delivered **cultural learning opportunities** for staff to strengthen cultural capability across the organisation.
- Supported the WHA **Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) Committee** – comprising staff, external stakeholders and Board members – which promoted significant Indigenous dates, led **knowledge-sharing at staff meetings** and launched a **culture club** to spotlight books, music and film by First Nations artists.
- Organised **eight Lunchtime Yarns with Indigenous speakers** to create opportunities for staff to learn more about Indigenous perspectives and experience, and **promote two-way learning** and knowledge sharing to benefit both wildlife health and Indigenous communities.



The background of the slide is a photograph of a group of kangaroos in a lush green forest. The kangaroos are of various sizes and are scattered throughout the scene, some standing and others partially obscured by the dense foliage and tree trunks. The lighting is bright, suggesting a sunny day, and the overall atmosphere is natural and serene.

## Business Unit: Administration, Human Resources, Marketing and Communications

The **Business Unit** underpins WHA's operations by delivering strong governance, efficient administration, effective people management and strategic marketing and communications. It ensures WHA has the efficient **systems, skills and structures** in place to meet its goals, while also supporting the Board to **strengthen governance** and succession planning. **Marketing and Communications** activities support WHA's reach, growing stakeholder engagement and visibility. The Business Unit also oversees WHA members, currently 244 members and 1,411 subscriber community members.

## Key Highlights

### The Business Unit:

- Increased **WHA's social media reach by 27%** compared to the previous financial year, with LinkedIn followers up 28%, Instagram up 40%, with **growth to nearly 7,700 followers across the three platforms**.
- Responded to **44 media enquiries – a 70% increase** in the number of enquiries from previous financial year.
- Provided critical **planning, communications, strategy, administration, support and people management** in the development of the Board's new **Strategic Framework 2025 – 2050** to succeed WildPLAN with a bold new vision.
- Delivered **strategic communications advice** and content development across the organisation including for corporate communications, parliamentary briefs, news articles/media releases, web pages, stakeholder engagement, technical documents, marketing collateral and talking points.
- Introduced a **Targeted Recruitment and Retention Strategy** that reflects the organisation's commitment to **diversity and inclusion**, and also recruited for **six positions across five states** into four WHA program streams.
- Welcomed **two new Board members** following a skills-based recruitment process to strengthen legal, governance and finance expertise, and completed the **transition of WHA to a Public Company Limited by Guarantee** with the new Constitution formally adopted by members.
- Launched a **restructured budgeting framework** in Xero to **improve financial oversight**.
- Rolled out the **Dext** online bookkeeping software to staff to **avoid duplication and aid efficiency** of expense tracking and streamline credit card reconciliation.
- Completed a **Cyber Security Audit** and delivered Level 1 & 2 **cyber training** (Safe AI for Small Business) to all staff, with a 12-month uplift program now underway.
- Released WHA's **Artificial Intelligence Guiding Principles**, signalling the organisation's commitment to **ethical and innovative** technology adoption.



# WHA SUPPORTERS



## Partner Agencies

WHA works with a broad group of over 120 different partner agencies, including funding, organisational & individual members, wildlife networks, peak bodies, academia, zoos and carers. We recognise and thank all partners for bringing their broad range of expertise and insights to inform our work and the national outlook on Australia’s unique wildlife, including policy perspectives to clinical innovations, disease discoveries and investigative breakthroughs.

## Funding Streams & Bodies

|                                                                                       |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Australian Government Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water |
| Australian Government Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry               |
| Australian State and Territory Biosecurity Agencies                                   |
| Animal Health Australia                                                               |

Significant in-kind funding and support is also provided by Australia’s states and territories, zoo, university and other veterinary practices that see wildlife, as well as many other supporters and collaborators both within and outside of government.

## Donations, Bequests & Corporate Partners

WHA has deductible gift recipient status, meaning any donations to the organisation are tax deductible. By making a tax-deductible donation to WHA, you will be supporting an organisation that is working to protect our amazing wildlife for future generations. Donations can be made [here](#).

If you would like to discuss leaving a gift for WHA in your will, please contact Rupert Woods, CEO, on 0438 755 078, or [rwoods@wildlifehealthaustralia.com.au](mailto:rwoods@wildlifehealthaustralia.com.au). WHA is a sponsorship-friendly organisation looking for partners. Please contact Rupert Woods, CEO, at [rwoods@wildlifehealthaustralia.com.au](mailto:rwoods@wildlifehealthaustralia.com.au) if you are interested in helping with our work.

## Members

Membership of Wildlife Health Australia offers individuals and organisations an opportunity to actively contribute to the governance and future direction of Wildlife Health in Australia. Members play a vital role in ensuring accountability, transparency and good governance by participating in annual general meetings, voting on key resolutions and supporting the election of directors. Becoming a member demonstrates a commitment to strengthening Australia's wildlife health system and provides a direct voice in shaping the organisation's priorities, strategy and impact. WHA currently has 244 members and 1,411 community members that subscribe to WHA's monthly newsletter.

### Benefits of Membership:

- Direct voice in shaping the organisation's priorities, strategy and impact
- Notifications of elections, meetings and other key events and activities
- The WHA Newsletter: a monthly email packed with the latest news, journal articles, events and job opportunities relating to wildlife health
- Wildlife disease fact sheets and other resources, via the WHA website
- Ad hoc disease notifications via email
- Linkage to other experts
- Information and advice on wildlife health queries from our friendly and helpful staff.

*Membership forms are available here: <https://wildlifehealthaustralia.com.au/About-Us/Who-We-Are>*

FINANCIAL  
OVERVIEW  
2024-2025



Core Funding

Wildlife Health Australia (WHA) is supported through ongoing core funding supported by the National Biosecurity Committee (NBC) with commitments from the Australian Government as well as all state and territory governments. This commitment ensures wildlife is included in Australia’s biosecurity arrangements and is the foundational support for WHA’s core operations. Though WHA’s total core income for the financial year was \$1,501,022, it is important to note that its funding, organisation and individual members, as well as service partners and supporters, significantly contributed to achieving the objects of the organisation as non-cash contributions, services and time including wildlife diagnostics, estimated at a value over \$11,000,000.

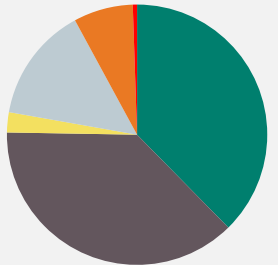
WHA’s Annual Information Statements and Audited Financial Reports are available on the [ACNC website](#).

| 2024-2025 Core Income and Expenditure |                   |             |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------|-------------|
|                                       |                   | 2025        |
| Income                                |                   |             |
|                                       | Revenue           | \$1,212,061 |
|                                       | Investments       | \$215,576   |
|                                       | Other Income      | \$73,385    |
|                                       |                   | \$1,501,022 |
| Expenses                              |                   |             |
|                                       | Project Expenses  | \$232,112   |
|                                       | Employee Expenses | \$936,390   |
|                                       | Other Expenses    | \$188,499   |
|                                       | Rental Expenses   | \$7,189     |
|                                       |                   | \$1,364,190 |

Core income supports 5.8 FTE

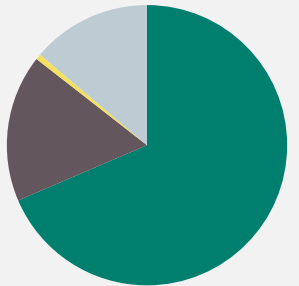
Core Funding Income:

- Australian Government: \$567,158
- States & Territories: \$567,158
- Animal Health Australia: \$37,744
- Interest: \$215,576
- Other: \$111,275
- Donations: \$2,111



Core Expenditure:

- Salaries: \$936,390
- Projects: \$232,112
- Office Space: \$7,189
- General Administration: \$188,499



One Health Program and special projects

In 2022, WHA received significant additional funding through the One Health Program (the One Health Surveillance Initiative), provided by the Australian Government Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF). The extension of this Program in June 2025, resulted in WHA receiving a further \$7,325,307. Over the life of the 6-year program (2022-2027), WHA will have received a total of \$15,927,272. The One Health Program will enhance Australia’s wildlife health surveillance and intelligence program to better protect wildlife and support global and national One Health outcomes and will put Australia at the forefront of the global transformational change agenda aimed at preventing future pandemic and other zoonotic disease risks emerging from the human animal-environmental interface, through the implementation of a true One Health approach. As part of this work, these funds allowed WHA to establish as an official World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH) Collaborating Centre for Wildlife Health Risk Management. The extension of the program will enable this work to continue whilst having an emphasis specific to HPAI preparedness.

Special Projects also enable the work of WHA. Through funding from the DAFF’s Environmental Biosecurity Project Fund for the [\*Development of a targeted surveillance data platform for the National Avian Influenza Wild Bird \(NAIWB\) Surveillance Program\*](#), WHA will receive \$150,000 over two years (2024-2026). In addition, WHA received funding to support [\*The Koala Health Project\*](#) over two years (2024-2026), funded by the Australian Government Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW).

|                 |                      | 2025        |
|-----------------|----------------------|-------------|
| Opening Balance |                      | \$5,367,575 |
| Income          | Funds received FY25  | \$7,325,307 |
|                 | Interest             | \$30,020    |
|                 |                      |             |
| Expenses        | FTE wage expenditure | \$1,812,059 |
|                 | Expenses             | \$1,234,540 |
| Closing Balance |                      | \$9,676,303 |

Funding through One Health Program and special projects supports 16.5 FTE Staff

# PHOTOGRAPHY CREDITS

|            |                                     |
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