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FEDERAL BUDGET 2016: ACIPC WELCOMES INVESTMENT IN FIGHT AGAINST ANTIMICROBIAL RESISTANCE

Australia's peak infection control body has welcomed the Federal Government's \$9.4m investment in responding to the growing problem of antimicrobial resistance.

The Australasian College for Infection Prevention and Control (ACIPC) says the measures announced in the budget will go a long way toward improving the response to what is a real and immediate threat to the nation's health.

ACIPC President, Professor Ramon Shaban, said resistance to antibiotics was increasing year on year.

"The community's ability to resist superbugs is rapidly decreasing and use and over-prescription of antibiotics is at the heart of the problem.

"This investment over four years will help keep Australia at the forefront of work to prevent and respond to antimicrobial resistance," he said.

The Federal Government's budget announcement will see \$9.4m invested in a range of initiatives including funding the National Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) and Antimicrobial Usage Surveillance System; improving antimicrobial awareness in general practice; developing a website to disseminate information for consumers and professionals; and supporting the work of the Australian Strategic and Technical Advisory Group on AMR.

Last night's budget announcement comes on the back of a study¹ published in last week's *Journal of the American Medical Association* which suggested nearly one third of antibiotics prescribed by US doctors were unnecessary.

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For media enquires, contact Professor Shaban on 0478312668.

About ACIPC

This statement is authorized by the ACIPC Board of Directors. ACIPC is the peak body for Infection Prevention and Control in the Australasian region. The College supports infection prevention and control professionals by providing them with support, networking, knowledge and up to date information relevant to their area of practice. www.acipc.org.au

¹ Fleming-Dutra, K et al 2016, 'Prevalence of Inappropriate Antibiotic Prescriptions Among US Ambulatory Care Visits, 2010-2011' *Journal of the American Medical Association*, Vol. 315, No. 17.