

National Allergy Strategy in Australia

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The National Allergy Strategy was launched in 2015 by the Australasian Society of Clinical Immunology and Allergy (ASCIA) and Allergy & Anaphylaxis Australia, the peak medical and patient support organisations in Australia. While ASCIA and A&AA are the lead organisations, more than 60 other key stakeholder organisations were consulted to identify gaps in the management of allergic diseases in Australia.

The increase in prevalence of allergic conditions, including eczema, allergic rhinitis, and allergy to food, insects and drugs, has resulted in decreased access to appropriate care and reduced quality of care. Timely access to appropriate care is critical for optimal health outcomes. The increasing complexity of allergic diseases such as food allergy leaves many consumers, health professionals and industry (e.g. food industry and food service) struggling with appropriate ongoing management.

In 2016, three key areas were acknowledged as requiring urgent intervention including drug allergy management; resources for the food service sector; and resources for teens and young adults. Resources developed for these projects will be available free of charge from the National Allergy Strategy website in mid-2017.

In 2017, the National Allergy Strategy also engaged with key stakeholders to determine optimal strategies to disseminate the ASCIA guidelines for infant feeding and allergy prevention.