

Table 6. Virology and serology laboratory reports by contributing laboratories for the reporting period 8 to 21 May 1997

State of Territory	Laboratory	Reports
New South Wales	Institute of Clinical Pathology & Medical Research, Westmead	31
	The New Children's Hospital, Westmead	35
	Royal Prince Alfred Hospital, Camperdown	9
	South West Area Pathology Service, Liverpool	86
Queensland	State Health Laboratory, Brisbane	139
South Australia	Institute of Medical and Veterinary Science, Adelaide	133
Tasmania	Northern Tasmanian Pathology Service, Launceston	6
Victoria	Microbiological Diagnostic Unit, University of Melbourne	2
	Monash Medical Centre, Melbourne	28
	Royal Children's Hospital, Melbourne	144
	Victorian Infectious Diseases Reference Laboratory, Fairfield	79
Western Australia	Royal Perth Hospital	16
TOTAL		708

Overseas briefs

Source: World Health Organization (WHO)

Anthrax, Ghana

An outbreak of human anthrax has been reported from a village in Bolgatanga District in the Upper East Region. The outbreak began in mid-April when district health services identified 26 active cases and 14 deaths.

The outbreak was rapidly brought under control and appears to have been related to the consumption of carcasses of cattle which had died of a sudden illness. A total of 185 cases occurred, of whom 26 died. Widespread health education has been important in the control of the outbreak. The District Veterinary Service has organised mass immunisation of cattle. The slaughter and sale of cattle in the area is temporarily banned.

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Contributions covering any aspects of communicable diseases are invited. Instructions to authors can be found in *CDI* 1997;21:9.

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