



## Fellowship applications invited

Churchill Fellowships offer a diverse range of people from all walks of life an opportunity to travel overseas for four to eight weeks to explore a topic or issue that they are passionate about. We encourage applications from all sectors of the community and in any field or topic of interest.



### Winston Churchill Trust

Learn globally, inspire locally.

No prescribed qualifications are required in order to apply for a Churchill Fellowship, and the topic of your proposed project is limitless, provided a willingness to share your findings with the Australian community is evident. Applicants are empowered to design their own projects to explore international best practice and innovation that can be applied in Australia. 2022 Churchill Fellowship Applications will open Tuesday 1 February and close Thursday 28 April. For more information including application details, click [here](#).

## An important reminder about Avian Influenza from Dr Mark Schipp, Australia's Chief Veterinary Officer

Dear colleagues

I am emailing to draw your attention to the worsening global avian influenza (AI) situation, with more outbreaks abroad likely. The OIE has called for countries to increase AI surveillance and enhance biosecurity measures, as summarised in the attached snapshot.

**It is critical that we remain vigilant with strong on-farm biosecurity and monitoring, and ensure that business continuity plans are up to date.**

While the risk of international introductions of HPAI to Australia has previously been assessed as low, we are concerned that [the current widespread and frequent detection of reassortant HPAI viruses in the northern hemisphere could mean an increased level of risk to Australia](#).



Additional advice from our epidemiologists is that the current lineage of virus causing outbreaks overseas is also present in poultry in Asia, and while it has never been found in Australia, work has shown that [Australian shorebirds can be exposed to the virus on migration in Asia](#). However, there is currently no evidence that these migratory birds are still carrying infectious viruses when they arrive in Australia.

We will continue to work with the jurisdictions and wild bird surveillance program stakeholders to ensure our surveillance and preparedness arrangements are appropriately matched to the evolving risks. We will also continue to monitor the situation closely and advise you of any notable developments.

I strongly encourage you to reflect on the situation and undertake activities to ensure preparedness.

**Mark Schipp** Chief Veterinary Officer

### Ruffled feathers: is the power imbalance in Australia's chicken industry making shortages worse?

Farmers believe a more diverse poultry industry could help ease supply chain issues - and reduce cost pressures on chicken growers



[read Guardian article here](#)



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ANIMAL PRODUCTION SCIENCE

REVIEW  
<https://doi.org/10.1071/AN21222>

### An industry survey on litter management and re-use practices of Australian meat chicken growers

C.-M. Pepper<sup>A\*</sup> and M. W. Dunlop<sup>A</sup>

In December last year Claire-Marie Pepper and Mark Dunlop of Queensland's Department of Agriculture and Fisheries published the results of their AgriFutures-funded litter management survey of Australian growers. Eighty four respondents gave their thoughts on bedding material, litter re-use, turning, ventilation and more. Researchers will be able to use these survey results to gain an insight into practices, perceptions, constraints, and challenges relating to the Australian chicken meat industry and ensure that future research relating to litter management reflects local conditions and practices. See the paper [here](#).