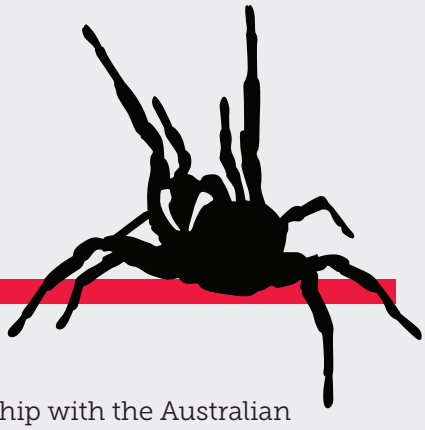
bioCSL™

FACT SHEET



bioCSL has a proud 90 year history of serving the Australian community by supplying important products for the treatment of bites and stings from snakes, spiders and marine creatures.

bioCSL manufactures the world's only antivenoms for Australian venomous creatures, for human use.

bioCSL's antivenoms are produced through a long-standing partnership with the Australian Government, ensuring the continual supply of these unique and complex medicines.

While annual fatalities in Australia from venomous bites and stings are low, in Australia each year there are approximately 3,800 hospital admissions, with 15 per cent involving venomous snakes.[1]

1916 Establishment

The Commonwealth Serum Laboratories (CSL) is established to supply Australia with vaccines and other biological products.

1919 "Spanish 'Flu" Epidemic

When the epidemic reaches Australia in January 1919, CSL's staff numbers are temporarily tripled as the organisation produces 3 million doses of vaccine in an attempt to combat the disease.

1920 Products

The CSL product range now includes 5 therapeutic sera, 24 vaccines, 4 tuberculins, diptheria toxin-antitoxin and a range of diagnostic agents. In the early 1920s, insulin was discovered as a treatment for diabetes and within months, CSL is one of the few laboratories in the world producing insulin.

1930 Antivenom

bioCSL releases Tiger snake antivenom. bioCSL goes on to produce antivenoms against Australian venomous snakes, spiders and marine creatures and helps transform the management of snakebite in Australia.

1979 Pressure Bandaging & Immobilisation Technique

Dr. Struan Sutherland and bioCSL colleagues develop the Pressure Bandaging & Immobilisation (PBI) Technique. Today this technique is still applied for Australian snake, funnel web spider and blue-ringed octopus bites, and cone snail stings.

bioCSL was also involved in development of the world's first and only Snake Venom Detection Kit (SVDK). The first version of the Snake Venom Detection Kit is introduced into clinical use in 1979.

1930 **Tiger Snake** Antivenom first available

1955 **Taipan** Antivenom first available

1956 **Brown Snake** Antivenom first available

1958 **Death Adder** Antivenom first available

1959 **Black Snake** Antivenom first available

1961 **Sea Snake** Antivenom first available

1961 **Red Back Spider** Antivenom first available

1962 **Polyvalent Snake** Antivenom first available

1962 **Stonefish** Antivenom first available

1970 **Box Jellyfish** Antivenom first available

1981 **Funnel Web Spider** Antivenom first available

Call 000 to seek urgent medical advice or assistance.

Reference: 1. Australian Institute of Health and Welfare: Bradley C 2008. Venomous bites and stings in Australia to 2005. Injury research and statistics series number 40. Cat no. INJCAT 110. Adelaide: AIHW. Available from http://www.nisu.flinders.edu.au/pubs/reports/2008/injcat110.pdf (date accessed 25 November 2013)

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