

The *Salmonella* Mbandaka outbreak - an Australian overview

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Salmonella Mbandaka was first isolated in May 1948 in Mbandaka (formerly Coquilhatville), Zaire. The first human isolate in Australia was recorded in 1978 from Victoria¹.

Apart from the 54 isolations of *S. Mbandaka* reported in the article above, a further 49 positive isolations have been recorded elsewhere in Australia this year (13 cases for New South Wales, 7 for the Northern Territory, 22 for Queensland and 7 for Western Australia). Of these, 43 cases have onset dates within the time scale of the current outbreak. More than half of the cases have been in children under five years of age.

In Western Australia, a link to peanut butter consumption has been established in three cases (two children and one adult) by the isolation of *S. Mbandaka* from peanut butter samples recovered from their homes. At this stage, no definite links have been established between the cases in other States and Territories and the current outbreak.

1. National Salmonella Surveillance Scheme (NSSS) human fourth quarter report 1995. Issue no. 3/96 Melbourne: Microbiological Diagnostic Unit, University of Melbourne.