

COUNTRY'S NAME	AUSTRALIA
Production traits	Milk, fat and protein
Breeds	Holstein, Jersey, Australian Friesian Sahiwal, Simmental, Illawarra, Ayrshire, Dairy Shorthorn, Guernsey, Brown Swiss and Australian Red Breeds
Trait definition and unit of measurement	Milk(l), fat and protein (kg, %)
Criteria for inclusion & extension of records	To get EBV sire must be identified (88% of records are sire identified). Age at calving > 18 months. Use is made of test day information up to 305 days for all lactations, both complete and in progress.
Time period for data inclusion	Calvings since 1975
Sire categories	All sires (AI (including imported bulls)=23%, NS=77%)
Number of lactations included in the evaluation	All. Weightings: First = 0.85 ⁰ , second = 0.85 ¹ , third = 0.85 ² , etc.
Environmental effects: Pre-adjustment	Test day yields are corrected for age and stage of lactation
Base for age pre-adjustment	Adjusted to mature age (5 years), last updated 1990
Method (model) of genetic evaluation	ST – R – BLUP – AM
Environmental effects in the genetic evaluation model	Fixed: Herd-year-season (2 seasons), age groups 2,3,4,5 and +5 years, crossbred v purebred Random: PE
Use of genetic groups	Year of birth, overseas vs local and male vs female
Genetic parameters in the evaluation	h^2 : yield = 0.25, t = 0.50 h^2 : % = 0.45, t = 0.60
System validation	Range checks, time trend
Expression of genetic evaluations	Breeding value in units of measurement
Genetic (reference) base	Fixed, average BV of AI sires weighted by numbers of daughters on file up to 1981/82
Next base change	2000 (cows born in 1995)
Criteria for official publication of evaluations	63% reliability with daughters in 15 herds for Holstein and Jersey, 40% in 5 herds for other breeds.
Number of evaluations / publications per year	3 (Feb, May, August)
Use in production / total merit index	ASI – Australian Selection Index 3 x protein + fat – 0.03 x milk
Anticipated changes in the near future	
Key reference on methodology applied	Jones, L.P. 1985. Proc 5 th Conf. Aust. Assoc. Anim. Breed Genetics: 242 Jones, L.P. 1991. Proc 9 th Conf. Aust. Assoc. Anim. Breed Genetics: 9
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