Transport of Biological Material on the ANU Campus

The national and international transport of infectious and genetically manipulated (GM) biological materials is regulated under various Acts and documents. Transport locally between labs and buildings on the ANU campus however may be less well controlled.

This guideline applies to any transport of biological material on campus between buildings, or between laboratories where a public area must be traversed to reach the destination.

Biological material in this case refers to

- Potentially infectious or GM cultures of microorganisms
- Human specimens such as blood samples that could potentially contain infectious or GM agents
- Waste containing any of the above material

Transport of any biological material on the ANU campus should take place using a closed, unbreakable outer container that will not open and release its contents if dropped.

Please note - a Styrofoam esky does NOT meet this requirement.

Cultures or specimens should be in a sealed primary container. If the primary container contains liquid (such as a culture in a falcon tube) it should be wrapped in absorbent material sufficient to absorb any leak and then placed in a sealed secondary container (eg a ziplock bag) inside the unbreakable outer container. The secondary container may contain multiple samples.
Petri-dishes should be sealed with parafilm tape or similar.

After sealing the secondary container, decontaminate the outside using a suitable chemical disinfectant. Gloves are then removed and the secondary container is placed inside the unbreakable outer container (eg a plastic box). Gloves and a lab coat should not be used during transport through public areas of the ANU campus.

Examples of suitable outer containers