

FOR INFORMATION

NSDIP Advisory Committee Teleconference Meeting 2023

Agenda Item 1

Last updated: **23 August 2023**Prepared by *J Mollinger & S Ossedryver*

NSDIP COORDINATOR REPORT 2022-23 - QUEENSLAND

RECOMMENDATION

1. That the NSDIP Advisory Committee **NOTE:**
 - a. The activities undertaken, and use of funds provided, against the National Significant Disease Investigation Program (NSDIP) during the 2022-23 financial year in Queensland (Qld).
 - b. Queensland undertook two private veterinary practitioner (PVP) workshops in September 2022 and June 2023 with reports submitted to AHA (Attachment A and B).
 - c. As of September 2022, NSDIP coordinator responsibilities have been assigned to Selina Ossedryver.

BACKGROUND

2. The Queensland government subsidises the cost of laboratory testing of all disease incidents in commercial production animal species, with non-government veterinary practitioners (and in-turn, producers) incurring no laboratory fees to investigate clinical disease in these species. NSDIP funding contributes towards a small portion of the cost of this testing.
3. Laboratory investigations of significant disease incidents in Qld wildlife are also subsidised by the Queensland government. This is supported by NSDIP funding. Administration of NSDIP for eligible wildlife submissions is provided by Wildlife Health Australia (WHA).
4. Selina Ossedryver was appointed to the NSDIP coordinator role in September 2022 and is currently undertaking a review of NSDIP activities in Queensland, including delivery of two PVP workshops per year.

DISCUSSION

5. Application of the NSDIP in Qld for the 2022-23 financial year supported the state's animal disease surveillance capacity via financial contribution to the comprehensive suite of laboratory testing for eligible significant disease incidents submitted by non-government veterinary practitioners from across the state.
6. During 2022-23, Queensland's jurisdictional laboratory, Biosecurity Sciences Laboratory conducted testing for 1847 disease investigations in production animal species, of which 1718 (93%) were submitted by non-government veterinary practitioners (Figure 1). Submissions from cattle (1345) comprised the majority of these, with fewer submissions for investigation of disease incidents in pigs (149), sheep (87), goats (84), and poultry (53).

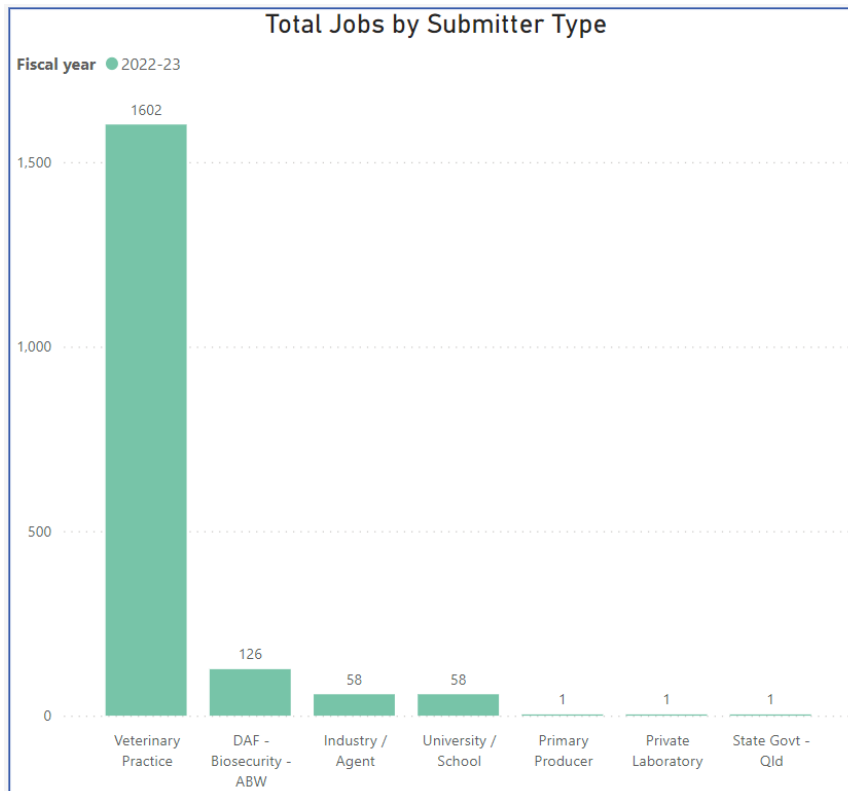


Figure 1 – Total number of production animal species disease investigations by submitter type

7. Of the 1718 production animal submissions received from non-government veterinarians, 53 were claimed against NSDIP funding. The count of NSDIP jobs by animal species and the number for which one or more notifiable disease was excluded (42% of jobs) are presented below (Figure 2). There were further eligible cases which were funded solely by the Queensland government and not represented here.

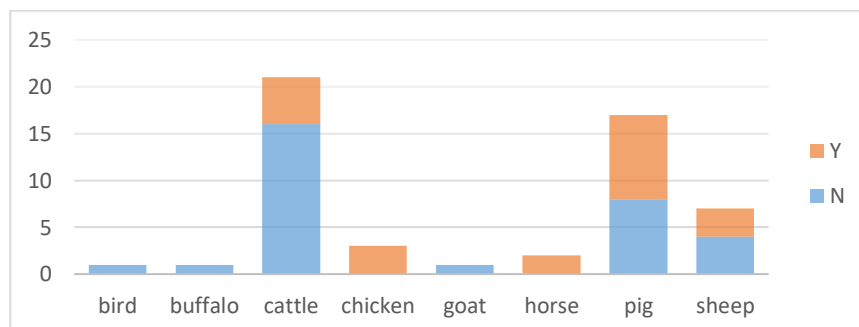


Figure 2 – Number of claimed NSDIP jobs by animal species and proportion with notifiable disease exclusions testing (orange)

8. During 2022-23, five significant disease investigations in wildlife were eligible under the NSDIP. Please refer to WHA's report for further details. Queensland thanks WHA for their continued support of this program for events in Queensland wildlife.
9. Queensland undertook two private veterinary practitioner (PVP) workshops in September 2022 and June 2023 with reports submitted to AHA (Attachment A and B) summarising the activities and learnings.
10. Phase 1 of an ICT reporting enhancement project on improvements in extracting surveillance data including NSDIP investigations data from our Laboratory Information Management System (LIMS) occurred in 2022-23. This work is in preparation to moving NAHIP reporting to AUSPestCheck as well as improving laboratory data retrieval during responses.

11. Review of the application of the NSDIP in Queensland is ongoing and includes development of updated eligibility criteria for submissions to be considered 'significant' disease events for the purpose of reporting as NSDI investigations in NAHIS and claiming against the NSDIP funding.
12. Examining disease investigation submissions to determine eligibility for NSDIP was delayed due to competing priorities. Uploading of Q3 and Q4 2022-23 NSDIP data to NAHIS will be completed as soon as practicable. NSDIP funding will not be claimed for these cases.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

13. As per the 2019-22 NSDIP Business Plan, Queensland's funding allocation for 2022-23 was \$49,029. An amount of \$26,600 (ex GST) was claimed against total laboratory testing expenditure (\$40,920.91 ex GST) for the 53 NSDI submissions. An additional \$14,320.91 (ex GST) was claimed for PVP training (ex GST) for 2022-23.

NEXT STEPS/ACTIONS

14. Drafting, review and refinement of the proposal on the future application of the NSDIP in Queensland is continuing.
15. Two more PVP training events will take place in the 2023-24 financial year as already approved by the NSDIP committee. Costs for this training will be claimed against Qld's 2023-24 funding budget with the remainder of the available funds to go towards laboratory costs of eligible submissions.
16. Phase 2 of the ICT project to enhance national surveillance reporting will take place in the 2023-24 financial year to help the transition to AUSPestCheck. Further enhancements to NSDIP data capture and reporting will be examined as part of this project.

FEEDBACK

17. Queensland provides the following responses to the questions below to assess the performance of the NSDIP over the 2022-23 year and to offer feedback and suggested changes for continual improvement:

Q1 My organisation's needs and expectations of the NSDIP are being met.				
Strongly agree	Agree	Undecided	Disagree	Strongly disagree
Please explain your answer, including any suggested changes: NSDIP contributes towards the delivery of a fully subsidised animal disease surveillance system, with funding going towards those disease investigations deemed 'significant'. It is noted that while the goals of the program are clearly articulated in the NSDIP Business Plan, there is sufficient room for the jurisdictions to deliver the program in a flexible manner.				

Q2 The National Significant Disease Investigation Program has provided opportunities to private veterinarians for gaining the necessary knowledge and skills to investigate and report on disease events.				
Strongly agree	Agree	Undecided	Disagree	Strongly disagree
Please explain your answer, including any suggested changes: The availability of funds to support PVP training activities provides meaningful opportunities to build relationships between government and private veterinarians and to develop the skills of veterinarians to improve the quality of disease investigations submissions.				

Q3	The National Significant Disease Investigation Program has helped to improve the level of notifiable disease investigations through effective engagement with private veterinarians and assisting in funding investigations that may not have progressed otherwise.			
Strongly agree	Agree	Undecided	Disagree	Strongly disagree
Please explain your answer, including any suggested changes: The Queensland government fully subsidises the cost of laboratory testing of all disease incidents in commercial production animal species, with non-government veterinary practitioners (and in-turn, producers) incurring no laboratory fees to investigate clinical disease in these species. As the program is currently applied in Qld, limited NSDIP funding contributes towards the cost of this laboratory testing, and it does not further incentivise the producer or private veterinarian to undertake such investigations. The use of the NSDIP funding to provide training for PVPs is currently under consideration. Queensland has committed to a two-year pilot program to deliver these training events and a review of this activity to improve the level of notifiable investigations in Queensland will follow. Queensland is currently considering the criteria on which to assess this. It should be noted that the availability of funding support for significant disease investigations in wildlife does result in submissions for laboratory testing and an increased range of laboratory testing that may otherwise not occur.				

Q4	Animal Health Australia is managing the National Significant Disease Investigation Program effectively/satisfactorily.			
Strongly agree	Agree	Undecided	Disagree	Strongly disagree
Please explain your answer, including any suggested changes:				