

Attachment A

Proposal to increase EAD awareness and build capacity of private veterinarians (adapted from AHC45_OOS21)

Policy Objectives

1. Build capacity of PVs to undertake significant disease investigations.
2. Improve awareness of emergency animal diseases among PVs.
3. Improve networking and communication among PVs.
4. Support private veterinarians in rural and regional areas.

Components

1. Deliver a national EAD awareness training and networking event to eligible PVs.
2. Establish a community of practice among PVs and facilitate communication through quarterly meetings and the provision of communication materials.
3. Evaluate the outcomes of the initiative after a 12-month period.

Component 1: Deliver a national EAD awareness training and networking event to eligible PVs.

Description

The Commonwealth offers to sponsor up to 40 PVs to attend a one-off national seminar/training event. Eligibility criteria may include (subject to refinement):

- From rural/regional areas.
- Currently undertake livestock significant disease investigations or have an interest in doing so.
- Can commit to the initiative for a 12-month period including evaluation activities.
- In-person attendance at a one-off seminar/workshop and networking event in 2024.

Benefits

- The ACDP EAD Symposium could be an existing platform for delivery of this training.
- There is potential for an additional networking event and masterclass funded by the Commonwealth for PV participants.
- AHA have offered to provide a pre-workshop webinar on information on how to access and utilise the NSDIP and EAD Hotline and promote existing online courses including the AHA EAD Foundation Course.
- Jurisdictional representatives could provide an overview of surveillance programs in their state/territory, and a contact point for private veterinarians.
- Support may be sought from jurisdictional governments, local veterinary boards, the AVA, and university veterinary schools to promote the initiative to practices/vets.

Component 2: Establish a community of practice among PVs.

Description

- Engage a consultant/third party provider to facilitate communication through quarterly meetings and to provide quarterly newsletters with surveillance news and to maintain a communication channel between the PVs.
- Quarterly meetings to maintain contact between PVs and discuss cases, provide feedback, or offer additional training online.

Component 3: Evaluate the outcomes of the initiative.

- Pre- and post-participation surveys.
- Monitor number of SDIs conducted over 12-month period and compare with previous and subsequent years.
- Test awareness of existing subsidy programs.
- A third-party provider may be contracted to undertake evaluation activities.

