

FOR DISCUSSION

NSDIP Advisory Committee Annual Meeting 2021

Agenda Item 2.1

Last updated: **12 November 2021**

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NSDIP Coordinator Report - Tasmania

RECOMMENDATION

1. That the NSDIP Advisory Committee NOTE:
 - a. The Tasmanian State Report of activities involving NSDIP

BACKGROUND

2. The following is a summary of activities carried out in Tasmania aligned with the National Significant Disease Investigation Program (NSDIP)
3. In Tasmania, NSDIP is used as a laboratory charging reference code for all DPIPWE-supported investigations of significant disease that directly involve a private veterinary practitioner. The code also refers to investigations of disease in companion animals, aquatic animals and some wildlife cases which are not reimbursable through NSDIP, but which also provide broadly applicable enhanced surveillance data.
4. NSD investigations are a vital part of liaison with and engagement of private veterinarians. Support, including subsidy of laboratory testing and veterinary costs and the provision of epidemiological and pathological advice is valued by private veterinary colleagues, and increases the likelihood of an effective investigation. This program is a key plank of Tasmania's General Animal Disease Surveillance capability.

DISCUSSION

5. For the 2020-2021 year:

Total number of cases referenced as NSDIP	35
Livestock	26
Companion animal	7
Wildlife	2
Total case claimed from AHA in the 2020-21 year	15
Laboratory fees claimed from AHA (Cases)	15
Investigations in which a private veterinary subsidy was paid	12
Investigations involving necropsy	9
Number of practices involved	7
Livestock species:	
Bovine	9
Chickens	2
Ovine	2
Porcine	2

6. Syndromes investigated in livestock primarily related to sudden death or increased mortality, with other syndromes including abortion/stillbirth, nervous and respiratory signs with common endemic causes identified in most cases.

Support was provided (not NSDIP subsidised) to a number of canine and feline investigations which resulted in diagnoses of leptospirosis, *Mycobacterium avium*, and Tasmania's first record of *Ehrlichia canis* in a dog that had travelled from the Northern Territory

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

7. Support for disease investigations conducted by private practitioners where costs are ineligible for NSDIP funding is provided subject to assessed level of public good and availability of other sources of funding

CONSULTATION/COMMUNICATION

8. No consultation was required for this report.

NEXT STEPS/ACTIONS

9. No major changes are planned to the way NSDIP will function in Tasmania in 2021-22. No actions required.

FEEDBACK

Q1 My organisation's needs and expectations of the NSDIP are being met.				
Strongly agree	Agree	Undecided	Disagree	Strongly disagree
The funding provides an important mode for DPIPWE to directly support enhanced investigation of significant diseases by private practitioners in Tasmania				

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
Practitioners gain knowledge and skills by conducting investigations they may otherwise not be supported to do, with technical epidemiology and pathology support for the investigation through DPIPWE.				

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
The potential for financial support of an investigation increases the likelihood that syndromes suggestive of notifiable diseases will be fully investigated.				