

Queensland NSDIP 2024/2025 PVP Training Proposal

Queensland Private Veterinary Practitioner Significant Disease Investigation Refresher Training



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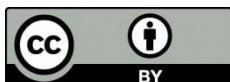
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Summary

The National Significant Disease Investigation (NSDI) program is managed by Animal Health Australia (AHA) to facilitate investigation of significant disease events by private veterinary practitioners (PVPs). The program includes funding for jurisdictions to deliver training to PVPs in disease investigation to increase their level of knowledge, skills and confidence to investigate and report on significant disease events.

With the support of NSDI program funding, Biosecurity Queensland (BQ) has successfully delivered four PVP refresher training workshops since September 2022. These workshops have been designed for veterinarians working in mixed and large animal practices to:

- enhance capability in conducting livestock significant disease investigations,
- increase awareness of emergency animal diseases,
- refresh knowledge on sample collection and laboratory submission protocols,
- enhance necropsy skills in ruminants and poultry,
- rehearse premises biosecure entry and exit procedures, and
- develop networks and relationships between government, industry, university and private veterinarians.

Workshops have been held every six months, with one held in North Queensland in collaboration with James Cook University and the other being held in the south with the support of the University of Queensland. This has provided an opportunity to include regionally relevant content, as well as minimise the travel time for busy participants.

The focus has been on notifiable emergency animal diseases (EADs), such as foot and mouth disease, lumpy skin disease, African swine fever and African horse sickness, as well as enhancing participants knowledge of zoonoses and improving their skills in conducting significant diseases investigations (SDIs).

Opportunities to enhance these workshops were identified from attendee and stakeholder feedback. This has led to a shift towards species-based presentations with increased content on endemic diseases as differentials for EADs. This will enhance the relevance of the workshops to attendees' usual daily work, while ensuring that awareness of emergency animal disease remains heightened.

Workshop feedback thus far has been overwhelmingly positive and BQ is committed to providing these workshops ongoing. We propose to continue with the format of two workshops per year, one in the north and one in the south and to maintain collaboration with the two Queensland veterinary schools and livestock industry veterinarians.

BQ is seeking approval from the NSDI program advisory committee to access program funds of up to \$28,000 to support BQ in delivering these workshops in 2024-25 to Queensland veterinarians.

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Overview

The training program is designed for Queensland registered private veterinary practitioners (PVPs) working in mixed and large animal practice to provide them with refresher training in the detection and diagnosis of significant, zoonotic and emergency animal diseases (EADs). The focus will be on significant disease investigation (SDI) of production animal species while ensuring increased awareness of priority zoonotic and emergency animal disease.

The workshop program ([Appendix 1](#)) is designed to cover several major topics including endemic and emergency animal diseases relevant to the livestock industry in Queensland, government veterinary laboratory diagnostic capability, disease investigation and sampling, workplace health and safety and biosecurity.

These workshops will be delivered over two days, in collaboration with Queensland's veterinary schools. Presentations, demonstrations and practical sessions will be delivered by Biosecurity Queensland (BQ) field veterinarians, pathologists and policy officers, university staff and external industry experts.

This workshop is intended to be delivered twice a year, one in the south and one in the north of Queensland, as part of BQ's ongoing commitment to improving Queensland's SDI capability and EAD preparedness. Strengthening networks between government and PVPs, while enhancing the skills and confidence of PVPs in conducting livestock disease investigations aligns with the NSDI program's objective to enhance Australia's overall surveillance capacity and bolster its capability to promptly detect EADs.

Goals and objectives

The main goal of the PVP SDI and EAD workshops is to enhance PVPs' expertise in the identification, investigation and reporting of significant endemic, zoonotic and emergency diseases. This is achieved through the following training objectives:

- a) Providing fit-for-purpose training on livestock disease investigation, including specific advice on sample collection and laboratory submission.
- b) Demonstration of and opportunity for participants to practice correct necropsy technique and specimen collection from livestock species.
- c) Delivery of up-to-date information on priority EADs, zoonoses and their endemic differential diagnoses.
- d) Discussion on the importance and purpose of the EAD Response Agreement (EADRA) and AUSVETPLAN documents, and creating a shared understanding of the role of government, industry and PVPs in an EAD response.
- e) Demonstrating biosecure premises entry and exit procedures and proper use of personal protective equipment (PPE), with opportunity for participants to rehearse.
- f) Opportunity for networking among government, university, industry and private veterinarians in Queensland.

A secondary goal of the training program is to continue to develop BQ's capability to deliver effective disease investigation and emergency animal disease training for all stakeholders.

Outcomes

A medium-term outcome of BQ's training program will be establishment of a cohort of private veterinarians in Queensland who are competent and confident in conducting significant disease investigations in livestock. These veterinarians will have an increased awareness of significant, zoonotic and emergency animal diseases, the ability to develop a list of differential diagnoses, including EADs where appropriate, and investigate them in a biosecure manner. Trained PVPs will have the knowledge and skills to correctly collect, package and submit appropriate samples for laboratory investigation.

Delivery of these workshops by BQ staff in collaboration with Queensland's two veterinary schools and highly experienced industry veterinarians will result in strong relationships and networks between private veterinarians, industry, university and government. The development of trusted relationships will facilitate timely reporting and collaborative investigation of suspect EAD or other significant animal disease events to government.

The overall goal of the National Significant Disease Investigation (NSDI) program is to enhance Australia's early animal disease detection and exclusion of EADs and to provide surveillance data for evidence of absence of diseases to assist market access. It is the expectation of BQ that the long-term outcome of ongoing delivery of PVP workshops will result in increased numbers of high-quality laboratory submissions, thereby ensuring Queensland is successful in contributing towards the NSDI program's national objective.

Methodology

The annual training program consists of two, 2-day face to face workshops for Queensland registered PVPs (max. 30 participants). Intended participants are PVPs working with livestock in mixed or large animal practice.

Marketing of the workshops to the target audience is achieved through an official invitation sent from the Queensland Chief Veterinary Officer. This invitation is distributed by email as per the proposed timeline using the following sources:

- individual veterinarians' contact email address as provided during Queensland Veterinary Surgeons Board (QVSB) registration
- QVSB registered veterinary premises contact email address
- BQ's Biosecurity Sciences Laboratory client (previous submitters) contact list

Additional promotion of the workshops occurs via the Australian Veterinary Association (AVA) Qld division monthly newsletter.

Accompanying the invitation and AVA newsletter article is a workshop flier ([Appendix 2](#)) providing relevant details of the workshop, including a link (QR code) for registration. The link directs interested PVPs to a Microsoft form requiring applicants to answer a series of questions designed to determine eligibility. All responses are reviewed, and applicants responded to directly to either confirm their application or seek further information, as necessary. PVPs who are not wholly suitable are offered to be placed on a waitlist pending availability of spaces.

The workshops are held at Queensland's two veterinary schools, the University of Queensland (Gatton) and James Cook University (Townsville). Workshop sites include classroom and field locations for each phase of the training.

The training will include:

- mandatory completion of pre-workshop training materials ([AHA EAD foundation course](#))
- presenter led, classroom-based learning with PowerPoint presentations, technical discussions and scenario exercises
- demonstrator led field-based skills development, including necropsy examinations of production animal species and biosecure entry and exit procedures
- a dinner for enhancing networking opportunities with relevant presentation/s from guest speakers, where possible

Timeline

These workshops are planned for August and March, annually. Key activities are scheduled to occur throughout the financial year according to the below timeline.

Activity	Deliverable	Milestone	Date
Funding approval	Project proposal document completed and submitted to NSDIP advisory committee and BQ management	Funding approval received	June 2024
Animal ethics approval	Animal ethics application completed and submitted to DAF AEC	Ethics approval granted	July 2024
Workshop venue bookings	Contact made with workshop – classroom and necropsy – site (JCU or UQ veterinary school) and dinner venue & deposits paid	Bookings confirmed for classroom, field location and dinner venue	June 2024 and January 2025
Workshop presenters and program finalisation	Identify and contact speakers for workshop; workshop agenda completed	Workshop program agenda and internal and external speakers confirmed	June 2024 and January 2025
Participant registration	Establish eligibility criteria and registration process; invitations delivered to Qld PVPs	Participant list finalised	June 2024 and January 2025 July 2024 and February 2025

Conduct workshop	Workshop #1 and #2 delivered	Training workshops completed and stakeholder feedback received.	August 2024 and March 2025
Workshop reporting	Workshop final report completed and submitted to CVO & EAD Director, BQ and NSDIP, AHA; invoice submitted to AHA	Program completion; final invoice payment received from AHA	June 2025

Stakeholders

The **private veterinary practitioner (PVP)** is responsible for:

- registering for the training workshop, in good faith
- logistics and costs associated with attendance, e.g. travel, accommodation, etc.
- being open to learning and actively engaging in discussions and practical activities
- providing honest feedback during the workshop and completing the training evaluation questionnaire
- sharing of learnings and training materials with other PVPs in their practice
- post-workshop application of relevant knowledge and skills, through:
 - recognising a significant animal disease event
 - contacting Biosecurity Queensland to notify of the significant disease event
 - conducting the disease investigation by assessing case history and examining sick and/or deceased animals
 - collecting and submitting suitable samples for diagnostic testing

Biosecurity Queensland (BQ) is responsible for:

- development of a training proposal document and submitting to the NSDI program advisory committee (via Queensland's NSDIP representative) and the CVO/Director, BQ for approval
- developing and delivering the training program and materials
- communicating and marketing of the workshops
- administering the training, including logistics and payments to third parties for use of professional services, venues, catering, etc.
- being open and responsive to stakeholder feedback
- completion of a written training report at the completion of the program and submitting this to the NSDI program advisory committee and the CVO/Director, BQ
- reconciliation of receipts and expenses and submission of an invoice to AHA, alongside the final report, for reimbursement

The **National Significant Disease Investigation program (NSDIP)** advisory committee is responsible for:

- reviewing BQ's PVP training proposal and final report
- approving use of NSDI program funds to support BQ's PVP training program
- payment of funds, up to the approved budget, to BQ following receipt of the final report and invoice
- providing feedback, where necessary

Budget

Activity or item	BQ funds		NSDIP funds
	in-kind	actuals	
Workshop preparation (in-kind) • Planning • Marketing/comms/invitations • AEC approval • Venue coordination • Event/catering coordination • Preparation of training material	\$20,000	\$0	\$0
Venue expenses • Seminar room hire • Necropsy facility hire • Animals for PM	\$0	\$0	\$10,000
Workshop consumables • Lab sampling equip • Necropsy equip & PPE • Exit/entry equip	\$0	\$0	\$2,000
Participant 'take-home' materials • Hard copy VLUG • EAD sampling kits/brochures • Printed notes	\$0	\$500	\$1,000
Workshop catering • morning/afternoon teas & lunches	\$0	\$0	\$5,000
Workshop dinner	\$0	\$1,500	\$3,000
Presenters' contribution (in-kind) • preparation & delivery of presentations • attendance at workshop	\$25,000	\$0	\$0
Presenter travel expenses • flights, accommodation, transfers	\$0	\$5,000	\$7,000
Presenter indirect expenses • QG costs, allowances, etc	\$0	\$1,000	\$0
TOTAL (all figures ex. GST)	\$45,000	\$8,000	\$28,000

Expected costs, both in-kind and actuals, to deliver the training program for the 24-25 financial year is estimated to total \$81,000. NSDI program funds of \$28,000, representing approximately 35% of the total cost, are being sought to support delivery of this training activity. Anticipated costs and their apportionment to BQ and/or NSDIP are presented in the table above.

Evaluation and reporting

Evaluation will be taken in two forms (formal & informal):

- Formal evaluation:
 - Participants – all participants will be given an evaluation form at the end of the workshop to provide feedback
 - Presenters – all presenters will be invited to a post-workshop meeting to review the workshop and provide feedback.
 - Biosecurity Science Laboratory submission data will be reviewed to assess the quality of participants submissions pre- and post- workshop
 - Participant willingness to participate in an EAD response will be evaluated pre- and post- workshop
 - Participants' willingness to join and participate in a dedicated Queensland private veterinarian and BQ significant disease investigation chat group will be appraised
- Informal evaluation:
 - Presenters and BQ staff attending the workshop will be asked to collect anecdotal feedback from participants during the two day workshop.

A final report will be prepared and presented to the Chief Veterinary Officer and the Director, Emergency Animal Disease Preparedness, BQ, and the NSDI program's advisory committee and AHA. Feedback will be considered and incorporated into future workshops as part of the BQ's ongoing commitment to actively engage with Queensland's PVPs to enhance Queensland's capacity and capability to conduct significant disease investigations as part of the NSDI Program.

Appendices

Appendix 1: Workshop program

Appendix 2: Workshop flyer

Appendix 1: Workshop program

Day 1

Time	Session	Organisation
7.45	Registration with tea and coffee	
8.00	Introduction and housekeeping	BQ
8.10	Welcome UQ/JCU School of Veterinary Science update	Vet school
8.30	Welcome Animal disease investigation; enhancing general surveillance, emergency animal diseases and the role of private veterinarians	CVO
8.50	Emergency animal disease outbreak response; Emergency Animals Disease Response Agreement (EADRA) and AUSVETPLAN	BQ, EAD Preparedness team
9.10	National animal biosecurity programs	BQ, Animal Biosecurity Policy
9.30	Significant, zoonotic and emergency animal disease diagnostic testing	BQ, Biosecurity Sciences Laboratory
10.00	Sample preservation, packaging and submission	BQ, Biosecurity Sciences Laboratory
10.30	Morning tea	
11.00	Endemic ruminant disease in Queensland as differential diagnoses for EADs (incl. FMD, LSD, PPR). Presenter to allow 15 minutes discussion.	Industry veterinarian
12.00	Endemic pig disease in Queensland as differential diagnoses for EADs (incl. ASF, FMD). Presenter to allow 15 minutes discussion.	Industry veterinarian
1.00	Lunch	
2.00	Endemic poultry disease in Queensland as differential diagnoses of EADs (incl. ND, HPAI). Presenter to allow 10 minutes discussion.	Industry veterinarian
2.45	Disease investigation group scenario exercise	BQ
3.45	Afternoon tea	
4.00	Forum discussion - Zoonotic diseases for veterinary practitioners in Queensland – anthrax, Brucella suis, Q fever, Hendra incl. variant, rabies, WHS, infection control and PPE presentation.	BQ
5.00	Close	
6.30 for 7.00	Dinner	Keynote speaker

Day 2

Time	Session	Presenter
7.45	Arrival and housekeeping	BQ
8.00	Entry/exit demonstration and practical	BQ, field veterinarian/ inspector
10.00	Morning tea	
10.30	Field necropsy examination and sample collection demonstration Field necropsy and sample collection practical	BQ/Vet school
12.30	Lunch	
1.30	Brain extraction demonstration Poultry necropsy examination and sample collection demonstration Brain extraction practical Poultry necropsy examination and sample collection practical	BQ/Vet school
3.30	Workshop evaluation and close with afternoon tea	BQ

Appendix 2: Workshop flyer

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Queensland Veterinarian Significant Disease Investigation Workshop

Overview

This workshop is for Queensland registered veterinarians and veterinary science students to provide refresher training in the detection and diagnosis of significant, zoonotic and emergency animal disease (EAD). The focus will be on significant disease investigation in livestock (cattle, sheep, goats, pigs and poultry) while ensuring increased awareness of priority zoonotic and emergency animal diseases.

Who should attend

Queensland registered veterinarians and veterinary students. Veterinarians from private practices that service livestock and likely to submit specimens to the Biosecurity Sciences Laboratory will be preferentially registered.

Learning outcomes

- Enhance your knowledge of significant zoonotic and emergency animal diseases.
- Further develop your skills to confidently undertake significant disease investigations in a biosecure manner.
- Develop your network with private, industry, university and government veterinarians including Queensland's Chief Veterinary Officer and veterinary science students.

Previous workshop feedback:

Will you recommend this workshop to your colleagues?

I think all vets should do this course frequently – We will send our vets every time one is on – Absolutely

CPD

8 hours structured face-to-face

6 hours structured hands-on practical

Date

8am Thurs 8 August 2024
to
4pm Fri 9 August 2024

Venues

Building 97, Veterinary and Biomedical Sciences, JCU, Douglas

Cost

Free

Enquiries

Danika Richardson
0499 792 595



Queensland Government

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Day 1 – 8 August 2024 – Building 97, JCU, Douglas

- 7.45 Registration
- 8.00 Introduction and housekeeping
- 8.10 Welcome to JCU and JCU Veterinary Science update
Prof John Cavalieri, Head of Veterinary Science
- 8.30 Welcome. Significant disease investigation; enhancing general surveillance and the role of private veterinarians
Dr Allison Crook, Queensland Chief Veterinary Officer
- 8.50 Emergency animal disease outbreak response – Emergency Animals Disease Response Agreement (EADRA) and AUSVETPLAN
- 9.10 National animal biosecurity programs
- 9.30 Significant, zoonotic and emergency animal diseases (EADs) diagnostic testing
- 10.00 Sample preservation, packaging and submission
- 10.30 Morning tea
- 11.00 Endemic ruminant disease in Queensland as a differential diagnoses for EADs (incl. FMD, LSD)
- 12.00 Endemic pig disease in Queensland as a differential diagnoses for EADs (incl. ASF)
- 13.00 Lunch
- 14.00 Endemic poultry disease in Queensland as a differential diagnoses of EADs (incl. ND, HPAI)
- 14.45 Disease investigation group scenario exercise
- 15.45 Afternoon tea
- 16.00 Forum discussion - Zoonotic diseases for veterinary practitioners in Queensland – anthrax, Brucella suis, Q fever, Hendra virus, rabies, WHS, infection control and PPE
- 17.00 Close

Day 1 – 8 August 2024 – Tom's Tavern, Townsville

- 18.30 Dinner with update from the Office of the Australian Chief Veterinary Officer

Day 2 – 9 August 2024 – Building 97, JCU, Douglas

- 7.45 Arrival and housekeeping
- 8.00 Biosecure entry/exit demonstration and practical
- 10.00 Morning tea
- 10.30 Field necropsy examination and sample collection demonstration
Field necropsy and sample collection practical
- 12.30 Lunch
- 13.30 Brain extraction demonstration
Poultry necropsy examination and sample collection demonstration
Brain extraction practical
Poultry necropsy examination and sample collection practical
- 15.30 Workshop evaluation and close with afternoon tea
- 16.00 Close

Registration and preparation

1. Complete the application form.



2. Complete the [EAD Foundation Course](#) and download your certificate.
3. Obtain your Q fever information. Your Q fever immunity status informs the amount of personal protective equipment required to participate in the necropsy component of the workshop.
4. Send an email to danika.richardson@daf.qld.gov.au with your Q fever information and EAD Foundation Course completion certificate.
5. Make your own travel and accommodation arrangements.
6. Please note, morning tea, lunch and afternoon tea both days and dinner Thursday night is included in this free workshop.
7. Watch:
[Biosecure premises: entry and personal decontamination](#)
[Biosecure premises: exit and personal decontamination](#)