

FOR INFORMATION/ DISCUSSION

NSDIP Advisory Committee Virtual Meeting Oct 2024

Agenda Item 21

Last updated: **15 October 2024***Prepared by A Erickson***NATIONAL SIGNIFICANT DISEASE INVESTIGATION PROGRAM (NSDIP) REPORT FOR
WESTERN AUSTRALIA 01-07-2023 TO 30-06-2024****RECOMMENDATION**

That the NSDIP Advisory Committee NOTE and ACCEPT the information contained in the Western Australia report

BACKGROUND

1. The Western Australian Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD) values a strong relationship with rural private veterinarians to assist with the reporting and investigation of significant livestock disease events to support early detection of a notifiable disease and provide evidence of absence of trade sensitive diseases. The NSDIP is a small contributing funding source for disease investigations in WA. DPIRD uses these funds to enhance the financial subsidies provided by DPIRD to private veterinary practitioners to investigate cases of significant disease and unusual behaviour in livestock.

DISCUSSION

1. In total 2023/24, 114 cases were accepted for a subsidised disease investigation, which was a decrease in the number of cases from last year. However, 37 veterinary businesses submitted cases, which is an increase on last year and reflects the knowledge of the scheme amongst private practitioners in this state. Selection for disease exclusion for reportable diseases is on a syndromic basis: there were 35 emergency disease exclusions, with some cases suitable for more than one emergency disease exclusion. NSDI subsidised 7% of these cases. The WA government subsidised all other cases.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

2. Subsidised significant disease investigations carried out by private veterinary practitioners incurred a total cost of \$256,856.08. In total veterinarians were paid \$36,740 for their disease investigations. The subsidised laboratory fees for these investigations totalled \$215,332.69.
The 2022 - 2025 NSDIP business plan allocates \$18,846 to the program in Western Australia for the 23-24 financial year. This amounts to around 7% of the total cost of the program in Western Australia.
WA DPIRD has acknowledged the increase charge rates by private veterinarians for conducting a post-mortem. On 1 July 2024 WA DPIRD increased the subsidy provided for an SDI case from \$300 (excl GST) to \$420 (Ex GST) and increased mileage subsidy to match the Aust Tax Office rates.

CONSULTATION/COMMUNICATION

3. DPIRD runs annual workshops for private practitioners focused on EAD awareness. NSDIP funds are not used for this training.
In addition, DPIRD field veterinary officers contact practitioners in their regions on an ongoing basis to update them and ensure they understand the program and what support DPIRD can provide.

NEXT STEPS/ACTIONS

4. None currently proposed

FEEDBACK

- 5.

Q1 My organisation's needs and expectations of the NSDIP are being met.				
Strongly agree	Agree	Undecided	Disagree	Strongly disagree
WA contributes a significant amount of additional money to the WA Significant Disease Investigation program. The NSDI subsidy supports approximately 7% of subsidised cases. The benefit of increasing passive surveillance through private vet involvement is acknowledged.				

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
NSDI funds do not contribute to private vet training and development in WA. WA runs workshops for private veterinarians annually focused on Emergency Animal Diseases awareness and veterinary investigation and sampling skills.				

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 NSDIP has helped to acknowledge the value of private vets in livestock disease surveillance, however it requires ongoing engagement with private vets by DPIRD staff to maintain this level of awareness.				