

NSDIP ADVISORY COMMITTEE – ANNUAL MEETING 2021

RECORD OF MEETING

Thursday 25 November 2021 | Videoconference

In attendance: Emily Sears (AHA – Chair), Mikhaila Nye (AHA – record), Janene Kingston (Australian Government), Claire Harrison (New South Wales), Elizabeth Stedman (Northern Territory), Janine Barrett (Queensland), Jane Owens (South Australia), Emma Watkins (Tasmania), Julia Sarandopoulos (Victoria), Courtenay Bombara (Western Australia), Keren Cox-Witton (Wildlife Health Australia), Melanie Latter (Australian Veterinary Association, *observer*)

Apologies: Verity Price (Australian Lot Feeders Association, *Industry Forum representative*)

Objectives of meeting

1. Brief committee members on program deliverables, achievements, issues and expenditure.
2. Receive and discuss urgent program matters.
3. Discuss the NSDIP Business Plan for 2019 – 2022.

Arrival, outline and zoom housekeeping (E Sears)

- The Chair welcomed participants to the meeting, and introduced the new representatives Emma Watkins (Tasmania), Julia Sarandopoulos (Victoria), and Courtenay Bombara (Western Australia).
- The Chair noted apologies and outlined the aims of NSDIP and the objectives for this meeting.
- The Chair noted the agenda and requested any changes. No changes or additions were requested.

1. 2020-21 in review

1.1 Update on 2020 action items (M Nye)

- Spoke to the action register and noted the status of all action items.
- Action Item #7: [AHA] Assess potential options for national training webinars, is on hold. AHA is currently reviewing its eLearning content and plan more broadly at present.
- Action Item #10: [R Vallis] Share (with the Commonwealth NAHIP representative) the request for greater clarity and direction of priority diseases for surveillance from the ACVO, has lapsed. Follow up occurred with DAWE staff (Nov 2020; Feb 2021; Sep 2021). Further clarity was unavailable at this time.
- Other action items completed.

Conclusion

- All action items accepted as per the report.

1.2 Program Status Report (E Sears)

- Spoke to the paper provided.
- Reminded the committee that the scope of eligible significant disease events under the NSDIP is significant morbidity and mortality events in livestock or wildlife.
- Qld requested the addition of a graph for each jurisdiction to show trends over the past few years with the potential to include comments describing how each jurisdiction uses the NSDIP.
- WHA raised that there looks to be an investigation missing and asked if the status report could be circulated to review the figures prior to the meeting. The Chair responded that an amended version could be finalised following the annual meeting and recirculated to members.

Conclusion

- Program status report conditionally accepted, noting some amendments to the data to be included. AHA to update the report and circulate to the committee OOS.

Action

- i. AHA to revise the project status report in consultation with WHA and re-circulate to the committee.

2. Reports**2.1 Coordinator Reports (2020-21)****New South Wales (C Harrison)**

- Spoke to the paper provided, noting the strong interest and engagement from private veterinarians with the Animal Biosecurity Emergency Animal Disease webinar program.
- Highlighted the necropsy and sampling techniques video proposal for 2021-22. Discussion on other necropsy videos, with NT noting that Northern Australia Biosecurity Surveillance Network (NABSnet) have a post-mortem training video. Other jurisdictions noted there would be value in sharing the final resources with the committee and linking to this from the main NSDIP webpage.
- Noted that interest in the NSW training webinars is mainly reserved for private veterinarians in NSW and have a NSW focus. If other jurisdictions are interested, they can contact C Harrison.

Conclusion

- Report accepted, and the 2021-22 necropsy and sampling techniques video proposal approved.

Action

- ii. C Harrison to check the access requirements for the necropsy training video, and AHA to confirm a suitable forum to share it externally.
- iii. E Stedman to send NABSnet post-mortem video to C Harrison.

Northern Territory (E Stedman)

- Spoke to the paper provided, noting the report on the animal disease investigation training provided in 2020-21. The NSDIP funding was a significant enabler for this training event.
- NT will be circulating a training proposal for 2021-22 OOS.

Conclusion

- Report accepted. No actions.

Queensland (J Barrett)

- The Qld coordinator report will be circulated to the committee after the meeting.
- Noted that the 2019-20 training proposal from Queensland has been pulled forward again to occur during 2021-22.
- Even though the NSDIP funding only makes up a small component of the overall Queensland passive surveillance program, Queensland benefits from the training component of the NSDIP.
- All NSDIP funded investigation in Qld have an NND excluded. Queried what other states report.
- Questioned the removal of the evaluation question around AHA's management of the program. AHA clarified that the evaluation questions have been updated to address the priorities in the new AHA strategic plan. AHA welcomes any feedback regarding management of the program.

Conclusion

- Verbal update noted.

Action

- iv. J Barrett to send the Qld coordinator report for 2020-21 to AHA to circulate to the committee OOS.

South Australia (J Owens)

- Spoke to the paper provided, outlining the application and administration of the program within SA.

Conclusion

- Report accepted. No actions.

Tasmania (E Watkins)

- Spoke to the paper provided.
- Noted that Tasmania is experiencing a shortage of private veterinarians so programs such as the NSDIP which support them are important. The changes to increase the base level of funding has been of value.
- Tas noted the complexities in predicting the use of NSDIP funding, sometimes experiencing low levels of investigations until the end of the financial year where a large case may come through.
- The NSDIP funding of investigations allows for other state level funding to be dedicated to training of private vets.

Conclusion

- Report accepted. No actions.

Victoria (J Sarandopoulos)

- Spoke to the paper provided.
- Noted that Victoria provides animal disease investigation (ADI) training to private veterinarian through other mechanisms.

Conclusion

- Report accepted.

Western Australia (C Bombara)

- Spoke to the paper provided.
- Noted that cases for inclusion under NSDIP have an NND excluded and typically involve those with larger numbers of affected animals.
- Noted that DPIRD have funded the supply of sampling kits (including SDI forms) for private vets to use in the field. This was well received by vets and could be an opportunity for other jurisdictions to also provide.
- Raised the need for increasing funding to support remote submissions in south WA, as the travel subsidies often don't cover the costs of travel to remote areas.

Conclusion

- Report accepted. No actions.

Wildlife Health Australia Report (K Cox-Witton)

- Spoke to the paper provided.
- Outlined that WHA is funding fewer investigations, but at a greater amount each year due to increasing lab costs.
- Qld proposed additional funding be provided to WHA, highlighting the important role wildlife investigations play in early detection of unusual and emergency diseases, and the risk of infectious diseases spilling over from wildlife into livestock and other domestic animals. Increased funding for investigations into unusual wildlife disease incidents would provide insight into future diseases of concern.
- Discussion on difficulties in getting vets to submit case reports.

Conclusion

- Report accepted.

Action

- v. AHA to liaise with WHA regarding reporting and invoicing for vets, and minimum information requirements for reporting.

3. Australian Government report (J Kingston)

- Spoke to the paper provided, noting that consultation around the development of a Southern Australia Biosecurity Surveillance Network (SABSnet) is scheduled for early 2022.
- Outlined that in addition to exploring the SABSnet, that the NABSnet would be continued.

Conclusion

- Report accepted. No actions.

4. Business Plan 2019-22 (E Sears)

- Advised that the current Business Plan is due for renewal next year for 2022-25.
- Updates to the business plan scope:
 - Livestock should be defined throughout.
 - Table 3, ID 1: "Criteria of significance include events clinically consistent with national notifiable diseases **of significance to livestock or wildlife (regardless of case species)** or suspected to be a new or emerging disease (increasing incidence/expanding geographic or host range)." Include a footnote with examples of those that count and those that don't.
 - Table 3, ID 2: Eligibility dependent on field work undertaken by non-government veterinary practitioners and resulting in laboratory diagnostic work - the lab investigation doesn't have to be a government lab, but it should be noted that this is preferred where feasible.
- Review of the risk register. No changes or additions to the risk register were provided.

Conclusion

- Updates to the Business Plan accepted. AHA to further update the business plan and circulate to the committee for comment OOS in the first half of 2022.

Action

- vi. AHA to implement updates to the NSDIP Business Plan for 2023-25 and circulate to the committee by mid-2022 for comment.

5. Other business

- The chair brought a request to the committee for NAQS to join as an observer on the NSDIP Advisory Committee. All members present were supportive of the request.
- The next NSDIP meeting for 2021-22 will tentatively be held in September 2022. AHA will poll for a date in early 2022.

Conclusion

The committee supported NAQS joining the Advisory Committee as an observer.

Action

- vii. AHA to formally invite NAQS as an observer on the NSDIP Advisory Committee.

Meeting close: 1:33pm

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#	ACTION	WHO	BY	STATUS
i.	Revise the project status report in consultation with WHA and re-circulate to the committee.	AHA	Jan 2022	
ii.	Check the access requirements for the necropsy training video, and AHA to confirm a suitable forum to share it externally.	C Harrison & AHA	Feb 2022	
iii.	Send NABSnet post-mortem video to C Harrison.	E Stedman	Dec 2021	Complete
iv.	Send the Qld coordinator report for 2020-21 to AHA to circulate to the committee OOS.	J Barrett	Dec 2021	
v.	Liaise regarding reporting and invoicing for vets, and minimum information requirements for reporting.	AHA & WHA	Feb 2022	
vi.	Implement updates to the NSDIP Business Plan for 2023-25 and circulate to the committee by mid-2022 for comment.	AHA	May 2022	
vii.	Formally invite NAQS as an observer on the NSDIP Advisory Committee.	AHA	Dec 2021	Complete