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FOR INFORMATION

NSDIP Advisory Committee Annual Meeting 2023

Agenda Item 8.1

Last updated: **5 June 2023**

Prepared by E. Watkins

NSDIP – STATE COORDINATOR REPORT, TASMANIA

RECOMMENDATION

1. That the NSDIP Advisory Committee NOTE:
 - a. **The report on Tasmanian National Significant Disease Investigation Program (NSDIP) 2021-2022**

BACKGROUND

2. In Tasmania, NSDIP is used as a laboratory charging reference code for all NRE-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 provide broadly applicable enhanced surveillance data. Investigations undertaken by departmental staff are coded separately.
3. Investigations supported by the NSDIP are an essential part of engagement of private veterinary practitioners in significant disease investigations. Support including a subsidy of laboratory testing and veterinary costs, and provision of epidemiological and pathological advice is valued by practitioners, enhancing the relationship between private veterinarians and the department. This program is a vital part of Tasmania's General Animal Disease Surveillance capability.

DISCUSSION

4. Significant Disease Investigations undertaken in Tasmania in 2021-2022 are summarised below:

Species	Total Significant Disease Investigations	Received funding from NSDI program
avian	5	5
bovine	17	12
equine/equid	2	2
Ovine	6	4
porcine	3	2
Wildlife	1	1
Total	33	25

5. A total of 16 veterinary practices were supported through the program. 12 cases received a subsidy to the veterinarian as well as laboratory testing, while the remainder were supported for laboratory testing only.
6. Syndromes investigated included several ruminant cases with oral lesions, abortion or stillbirth in pigs or cattle, and increased mortality in multiple species. Timely exclusions for JEV in a case of abortion and stillbirth in commercial pigs, avian influenza in multiple cases of increased mortality in chickens, and African horse sickness in a zebra were notable events supported by the program.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

7. NSDIP funding provides important support to Tasmania's passive surveillance capacity. Support for disease investigations conducted by private practitioners where costs are ineligible for NSDIP funding is provided subject 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 implementation of NSDIP in Tasmania.

FEEDBACK

10.

Q1 My organisation's needs and expectations of the NSDIP are being met.				
Strongly agree	Agree	Undecided	Disagree	Strongly disagree
NSDIP provides an essential support to Tasmania's capacity to engage private veterinarians in investigation of significant disease events.				

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
Supported investigations, in liaison with departmental epidemiology and pathology support build private vet skills in investigation.				

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 subsidy and laboratory testing helps to get some investigations over the line that would otherwise not occur. However some private vets have provided feedback that the level of subsidy is not sufficient to fully cover costs – an additional/distinct fund that could do this might provide broader support to rural practitioner sustainability (not an objective of NSDIP, but very important to passive surveillance capacity)				

