

FOR INFORMATION

NSDIP Advisory Committee Annual Meeting 2020

Agenda Item 2.1

Last updated: **4 September 2020**

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**NSDIP – STATE COORDINATION REPORT
SOUTH AUSTRALIA****RECOMMENDATION**

1. That the NSDIP Advisory Committee **NOTE:**
 - a. The current status of the National Significant Disease Investigation Program (NSDIP) in South Australia.

BACKGROUND

2. South Australia utilises the funding from the National Significant Disease Investigation Program (NSDIP) to enhance surveillance capacity within the state. This is achieved through providing subsidies to private veterinarians to carry out disease investigations, and for associated laboratory fees, in livestock with clinical signs consistent with a notifiable disease.

DISCUSSION

3. The objectives of NSDIP are well-described, and the program meets the needs of enhancing disease surveillance in South Australia. Due to challenges in administering the program in South Australia regarding timely submission of paperwork from private veterinarians, changes were made to the administration of NSDIP in SA in 2019-20. These changes included the development of an online claim submission process for private veterinarians, and requirement for only the invoice to be submitted to trigger payment of a claim. A case report and producer invoice are now not mandatory, if the laboratory submission form is correctly filled in and a government veterinarian has approved the subsidy at the time the disease investigation occurred. The communication materials surrounding the subsidies available in South Australia for disease investigations have also been redeveloped, to avoid confusion between state and national programs. This appears to have encouraged further promotion and uptake of significant disease investigation subsidies. Whilst the reconciliation of invoices and cases is still a manual process, the administrative changes to the program have allowed for a somewhat less resource-intensive process.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

4. The changes described above have allowed for more timely reconciliation of invoices and program status, and therefore expenses for claiming through Animal Health Australia, such that this was able to occur at the end of each 6-month period, with the final invoice prior to the end of the financial year.

CONSULTATION/COMMUNICATION

5. Not applicable.

NEXT STEPS/ACTIONS

6. No specific action required at this stage.

FEEDBACK

7. Feedback on the performance of NSDIP over the 2019-20 financial year is as indicated below.

Q1 My organisation's needs and expectations of the NSDIP are being met.				
Strongly agree	Agree	Undecided	Disagree	Strongly disagree
Please explain your answer, including any suggested changes:				
NSDIP enhances the disease surveillance capacity of animal health in South Australia to support disease investigations carried out by private veterinarians.				

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
Please explain your answer, including any suggested changes:				
NSDIP allows private veterinarians in South Australia opportunities to more thoroughly investigate cases that may otherwise not have been fully investigated, due to lack of funding. It also increases the opportunity for engagement of private veterinarians with government veterinary services.				

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
Please explain your answer, including any suggested changes:				
NSDIP enhances disease surveillance in South Australia because it allows for investigation of cases reported to PIRSA, beyond our existing capacity. As described, above, NSDIP allows private veterinarians in South Australia opportunities to more thoroughly investigate cases that may otherwise have not been fully investigated, due to lack of available funding. The changes made to the program in SA in the 2019-20 financial year, as described in this report, thus far appear to have encouraged additional veterinarians to take up the opportunity for the provision of a subsidy for disease investigations.				

Q4 Animal Health Australia is managing the National Significant Disease Investigation Program effectively/satisfactorily.				
Strongly agree	Agree	Undecided	Disagree	Strongly disagree
Please explain your answer, including any suggested changes:				
South Australia is satisfied with the current management of NSDIP.				