

FOR INFORMATION

NSDIP Advisory Committee Annual Meeting 2020

Agenda Item 2.1

Last updated: **8 September 2020**Prepared by *ML Conway***NSDIP - STATE COORDINATION REPORT
TASMANIA****RECOMMENDATION**

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

BACKGROUND

2. The following provides a summary of the activities conducted in Tasmania aligned with the National Significant Disease Investigation Program (NSDIP).
3. In Tasmania, NSDIP is a charging reference used entirely for disease investigation support for private veterinary practices across all species including wildlife. Not all 'NSDIP' cases are therefore eligible for reimbursement from AHA, however all provide enhanced surveillance data.
4. Incentives are only paid in those cases eligible for reimbursement from AHA. This does not appear to be a deal breaker as the reduced or waiving of laboratory fees under the program is an incentive for producers to agree to a more in-depth investigation of the issue. A ROADE is still required in all cases either via the laboratory advice or separately to encourage best practice in clinical assessment as well as disease investigation. Similarly. Laboratory submissions are required to be of appropriate quality for the testing requested to attract the laboratory subsidy.
5. The provision of support in the form of waived laboratory fees and incentives for field investigations as well as professional advice under the guise of NSDIP continues to be regarded as an important component of the overall private veterinary practice engagement package especially for livestock species investigation that do not feature as regularly as we would like e.g. sheep.

DISCUSSION

6. For the 2019-20 year:

Total number of incidents referenced as NSDIP:	24
Total claimed:	17
Laboratory fees claimed from AHA – 100% of costs	13
>0<100% of costs	0
Investigations involving NSDIP necropsy*	5
Number of practices involved	9

Species

Avian	1
Cattle	8
Horses	1
Goats	1
Pigs	1
Sheep	5

**NSDIP necropsy: note most others did involve a necropsy but prior to NSDIP being activated.*

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- The type and level of Biosecurity Tasmania's support for disease investigations conducted primarily by private practitioners whose costs are not eligible for NSDIP funding is subject to available alternative funds.

CONSULTATION/COMMUNICATION

- Consultation was not required for this report.

NEXT STEPS/ACTIONS

- No change is envisaged during the 2018-19 year in the principles used to allocate support to cases.

FEEDBACK

- [Please respond to the questions below in assessing the performance of the NAHIP over the 2018–19 year, and use this as an opportunity to offer feedback and suggested changes for continual improvement.]*

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: Provides reasonable level of support for promoting thorough disease investigations to private veterinary practitioners (PVPs) consistent with other training available to them, and makes a small contribution towards encouraging livestock practice. With a noticeable decline in TSESP, NSDIP's importance to enhancing PVP engagement and improve surveillance data has increased, as has direct practice liaison. If the program did not exist we would endeavour to continue at the current level although it would be harder to argue across all biosecurity programs within the Division.				

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: As reported previously, NSDIP provides opportunities for those interested enough to make an effort and supports an interest that may not otherwise be seen as relevant by practice management. It is not a critical				

'recruiter' to livestock surveillance unfortunately as there too many other disincentives particularly if the practice is corporatized.

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: See 2. Tends to facilitate the conversation between PVP and client about reporting and investigation but most notifiable disease exclusions within NSDIP case are requested by the DPIPWE pathologist or NSDIP coordinator – not the PVP.				

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: Improved wording in the worksheet to reduce quarterly confusion would be appreciated, particularly accounting for different jurisdictions' interpretation of payments to vets.				