

FOR INFORMATION

NSDIP Advisory Committee Virtual Meeting Nov 2025

Agenda Item 1.1

Last updated: **17 November 2025**

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NSDIP COORDINATOR REPORT 2024-25 – NORTHERN TERRITORY

RECOMMENDATION

1. That the NSDIP Advisory Committee NOTE:
 - a. The Northern Territory's report for NSDIP 2024-25

BACKGROUND

2. The NT utilises NSDIP funding to support private veterinary practitioners undertaking in-scope disease investigations in livestock and wildlife species.
3. Practitioners servicing livestock species in small holder and hobby situations are currently the main target for NSDIP subsidies. Private veterinarians servicing commercial cattle enterprises preferentially access NABSnet subsidies for significant disease investigations or skin disease investigations in cattle where lumpy skin disease is not reasonably suspected.
4. The NTG subsidises laboratory costs for nationally notifiable disease testing in all terrestrial species at the Berrimah Veterinary Laboratory. In some cases, additional laboratory costs may be subsidised at the duty pathologist's discretion.

DISCUSSION

5. A total of 15 disease investigations received a NSDIP subsidy in the 2024-25 program year.
6. The species breakdown was chicken (4), goat (4), horse (3), camel (2) and other avian (2).
7. The most common presenting syndrome was respiratory disease (4), followed by weakness (2), nervous signs (2), nasal discharge (2), found dead (2), lameness (2) and diarrhoea (1).
8. No nationally notifiable diseases were detected, however, infection with the NT notifiable *Burkholderia pseudomallei* (melioidosis) was confirmed in three goats and one camel submission.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

9. The NT was allocated \$19505 (ex. GST) for the 2024-25 program year as per the NSDIP Business Plan 2022-25, version 2.0.
10. A total of \$10448.40 (ex. GST) was allocated in subsidies, equating to 54% of available funds.
11. No funding was requested for training proposals in this program year, which has unfortunately resulted in a significant underutilisation of allocated funds (\$9056.60 ex. GST).
12. The investigation subsidy payable to the private veterinarian is currently a standard \$300 (ex. GST) and is currently under internal review.

CONSULTATION/COMMUNICATION

13. The NT coordinator consults internally with the veterinary laboratory and business manager contacts on an ongoing basis to improve administration of the program.

14. Private veterinary practitioners are contacted by email at the end of each quarter if they have made submissions through BVL identified to be eligible for a NSDIP subsidy. Incoming communication is minimal, with approximately three phone calls enquiring about case eligibility received over the 2024-25 program year.

NEXT STEPS/ACTIONS

15. NT endeavours to submit a proposal for private veterinarian training to be held in Darwin in the second half of the 2025-26 financial year, with the current plan to focus on biosecurity and disease investigations in backyard poultry.

FEEDBACK

16.

Q1 My organisation's needs and expectations of the NSDIP are being met.				
Strongly agree	Agree	Undecided	Disagree	Strongly disagree
The NSDIP provides the necessary resources to achieve objectives against the business plan.				

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
While training under NSDIP has not been provided by NT for several years, the program does provide the opportunity in the form of potential funding to cover some of the related costs.				

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
Engagement with private veterinarians regarding NSDIP remains low and it is accepted that greater promotion of the program within the NT is necessary. However, there is one example over the 2024-25 program year where an investigation in poultry with respiratory signs was able to progress beyond excluding notifiable diseases. In this case, NSDIP funding covered an avian respiratory disease molecular panel and histopathology which, combined, led to a specific endemic diagnosis that would not have otherwise been pursued if further testing was fee-for-service.				