

NSDIP ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

THURSDAY 20 NOVEMBER 2025 | Videoconference

Start: 11:00 | Close: 13:00 (AEDT)

MEETING OBJECTIVES:

- Discuss the 2024-25 coordinator reports and AHA status report.
- Receive and discuss any urgent program matters.

2 = paper V = verbal P = presentation

PARTICIPANTS

Mikhaila Nye (AHA-Chair)	Selina Ossedryver (Qld)
Peter Dagg (AHA -	Diana Miller (SA) Jennifer Voss (Tas.)
Sheaaz Sakur (AHA-Record)	Julia Sarandopoulos (Vic.)
Emily Sellens (DAFF)	Anna Erickson (WA)
Aruni Chapman (DAFF- <i>observer</i>)	Keren Cox-Witton (WHA)
Dominique Marendy (NSW)	Guy Weerasinghe (NAQS – <i>observer</i>)
Matilda Morgan (NSW – <i>observer</i>)	Liz Gemes (AVA – <i>observer</i>)

Apologies: Stacey Carnogoy (NT), Bomber Lancaster (ALFA – Industry Forum Representative)

Welcome and introductions (M. Nye):

- The Chair gave an acknowledgement of country and welcomed participants to the NSDIP Advisory Committee (AC) meeting.

1. 2024-25 update

1.1 2024-25 Coordinator Reports

NSW (D. Marendy)

- Spoke to the report which will be circulated to the AC out of session.
- Noted funding carried over from 2022–23 was used to create a chicken postmortem video to guide private vet practitioners (PVPs) in sampling. The video is published on the [NSW webpage](#)
- Report accepted by AC.

NT (S. Carnogoy)

- Chair noted NT is an apology for the meeting. The NT report was taken as written with any comments to be provided to S. Carnogoy out of session.

Qld (S. Ossedryver)

- Spoke to the report provided.
- During 2024–25, Qld ran their biannual PVP workshop with 55 attendees. Over the past three years, two workshops have been delivered per year in collaboration with James Cook University (JCU) and the University of Queensland (UQ).
- Qld noted that with attendance reaching capacity at workshops and with location and timing constraints, workshops will be temporarily paused. A JCU report on PVP training is being written and will inform future workshop planning.
- Based on feedback that busy vets cannot commit three days for travel for a two-day workshop, a multimodal training pilot is being developed. A proposal will be circulated to the Committee for consideration.
- Following AVA feedback, courier costs have been incorporated into laboratory expenses with approval granted by the Committee in the May meeting. A pilot commenced in February, currently covering four priority emergency animal diseases (wildlife excluded for now, but scope may expand). The transport subsidy notice that is being advertised has been included in the

coordinator report. No uptake has been recorded since February, so additional reminders have been issued.

- Report accepted by AC.

SA (D. Miller)

- Spoke to the report provided.
- Funds were allocated for laboratory costs and veterinary subsidies, covering approximately 13–14 cases.
- Noted that the rising laboratory prices may lead to a reduction in the number of cases supported.
- Report accepted by AC.

Tas (J. Voss)

- Spoke to the report provided.
- NSDIP contributes to most PVP activities in Tasmania for livestock.
- Poultry investigations are largely funded through a separate departmental program aimed at strengthening HPAI surveillance capacity in Tasmania.
- In October, an LSD exclusion involved a cow with cutaneous mast cell tumours—an unusual finding. Queensland and WA noted that LSD exclusions are often linked to insect hypersensitivity.
- Report accepted by AC

Vic (J. Sarandopoulos)

- Spoke to the report provided.
- Noted Vic have two parallel SDI programs with one funded by NSDIP and the other by the Victorian Government.
- Most investigations focused on cattle, alongside poultry cases, which was expected given two HPAI outbreaks during the financial year. Outcomes were predominantly endemic diseases.
- Report accepted by AC

WA (A. Erickson)

- Spoke to the report provided.
- Noted that poultry cases have been separated and are not being claimed through NSDIP due to HPAI events and the use of cases for training pathology interns.
- The subsidy for veterinary postmortems has been increased to \$420 following feedback from practitioners.
- For 2025–26, funding will support annual veterinary practitioner workshops, with smaller regionally based workshops held in alternate years. The 2025–26 workshop will be held next week in Perth and will include a training video created by pathologists on brain removal techniques.
- Report accepted by AC

WHA (K. Cox-Witton)

- Spoke to the report provided.
- Correction noted in the report: \$5,000 vet subsidy should read \$500.
- Laboratory costs remain high, averaging \$1,000 per case. In cases where costs exceed allocated NSDIP budget limits, WHA contributes additional funds from internal disease investigation budgets.
- 95% of the allocated budget was utilised, with funding making a significant impact.
- Sentinel clinic program:
 - Currently managing 10 clinics.
 - A 12-month trial with AMRRIC (non-profit supporting animal health in remote communities) will begin next year.
- Following a scoping study on expanding the Sentinel Clinic Surveillance Program to include private general practice veterinary clinics handling wildlife cases, WHA is developing a pilot project plan (pending funding) and maintaining engagement with interested vets through initiatives such as a presentation at the 2026 AVA conference and an upcoming AVA news article.

- Query about funding amounts: Funding split between disease investigations and sentinel clinic expenses was pre-determined by the program committee in the past.
- Qld queried the proportion of investigations outside the sentinel clinic network. WHA response indicated a good proportion of non-sentinel partners, with slightly more from sentinel clinics, but will need to check; to include in next year's reports.

Conclusion:

The Committee accepted the coordinator reports as written. The Chair asked for any training proposals for 2025-26 to be provided out of session for Committee endorsement.

Action item/s

1. WA to share the training video link for circulation to the Committee and inclusion on the AHA website.
2. AHA to distribute the NSW report and the training video along with the draft minutes to the AC.

1.2 2024-25 Status Report (M. Nye)

- M. Nye spoke to the report provided.
- Expenditure was within budget, with costs close to the allocated \$300,794 and total spend at \$294,947. Some state and territory delivery amounts remain affected by prior and current accruals, so actual costs may vary.
- Noted data standards were updated during the year to improve data quality.
- The National Syndrome List is under revision by the SCAHLS review group; QLD noted responses are being compiled, and updates will be provided shortly.
- NSDIP evaluation has commenced to inform the next business plan. Survey responses have been received, and AHA will prepare an evaluation report incorporating survey feedback and annual coordinator reports for circulation early next year.
- A new chart (Figure 7) has been added to show trends in syndromes and investigations over time.
- QLD suggested changes to Table 3:
 - Order diseases by magnitude (most frequent at the top).
 - Add an extra column to show both exclusions and detections rather than exclusions only.

Conclusion:

The Committee accepted the report as written.

Action item

3. AHA to display totals based on the number of exclusions and include the corresponding outcomes (positive or negative) in the next status report.

2. Other Business

2.1 NSDIP Evaluation Survey

- Survey circulated to AC members in August; consolidated responses received in September from all jurisdictions (except ACT), WHA, and DAFF.
- **Objective 1**
 - Status: Majority agreed it is being met.
 - Strengths: Complements state SDI programs; positive impact on wildlife investigations.
 - Challenges: Limited visibility in some states; unclear training impact; PVP engagement could be improved; resource constraints.
 - Suggestions:
 - Interactive data interface for trends.
 - Define "quality" and "quantity" in objectives.
 - Expand species scope (pets, aquatics, One Health cases).
- **Objective 2**
 - Status: Majority agreed it is being met.
 - Strengths: Practical link between vets and government/WHA.

- Challenges: Resource shortages (PVPs, district vets, training); funding gaps; admin burden; historic trust issues.
- Suggestions:
 - Emphasise mentorship over promotion.
 - Ease restrictions on gov vet attendance.
 - Clarify wildlife investigations via WHA.
 - Add national-level monitoring and evaluation.
 - Improve PVP and district vet awareness.
- **Objective 3:**
 - Status: Majority agreed; one dissent.
 - Strengths: Jurisdictional flexibility; national funding approach.
 - Challenges: Broader workforce and engagement issues require systemic change; unclear focus; lack of measures; inconsistent definition of “significant disease outbreak.”
 - Suggestions:
 - Clarify objective scope (communication, engagement, funding).
 - Define measures and targets.
 - Standardise definition of a “significant disease outbreak.”
- **Outcomes**
 - Objectives largely achieved for 2022–25; expected for 2025–28.
 - Program complements SDI but faces awareness, uptake, and training effectiveness challenges.
 - Budget under-utilised; investigations declining.
 - Key Barriers:
 - Workforce shortages.
 - Training gaps.
 - Program exclusions (pets, unclear definitions).
 - Resource and financial constraints.
 - Low awareness.
- **Comments**
 - Rollout inconsistent; species inclusion varies.
 - Lack of final diagnosis limits national insights.
 - NSDIP doesn’t create PVP resources; collaboration opportunities exist.
 - Training mostly refreshers; mentorship gaps remain.
 - Systemic barriers beyond NSDIP scope.
 - Awareness improved via AHSQ/AHiA linkages.
 - Success measurement difficult due to program overlap.
- **Funding**
 - Mixed views on adequacy; restrictions limit uptake.
 - Rising lab costs and indirect funding reduce impact.
 - Significant increases needed for subsidies/training.
 - Jurisdictions often supplement NSDIP funds.
- **Sustainability**
 - Generally sustainable; strong appreciation for funding and coordination.
 - Depends on state contributions and adequate resourcing.
 - Flexibility in use of funds has improved; need to show national value.
 - Expansion (e.g., aquatics) possible.
 - Ongoing promotion critical.
- **Next steps**
 - Finalise the review of survey feedback
 - Incorporate feedback received through coordinator reports
 - Undertake analysis of financial uptake
 - Develop draft evaluation report for committee feedback – out of session, or can pull together meeting if needed
 - Finalise, and discuss next steps at May 2026 meeting

Discussion:

- QLD
 - Raised concerns about expanding the scope to include small animals and aquatics, noting NSDIP is a core program funded by livestock agencies as such the expansion considered inappropriate.
 - Clarified that for Qld programs are not limited to NNDIs only—significant events include large morbidity/mortality or emerging disease concerns, which are eligible under NSDIP.
- WA
 - States have additional SDI funding; interested in how cases are selected for NSDIP funding—WA selects cases with clear reportable disease rule-outs.
 - Noted potential data skew based on varying case selection criteria across jurisdictions.
- DAFF
 - Emphasised need for well-defined and clearly communicated objectives that reflect program administration. Flexibility is advantageous and should be highlighted as an objective.
 - Current objectives imply national consistency, but application varies across jurisdictions, creating confusion about program value.
 - Suggested reviewing intent of the program and whether to enforce national consistency while allowing flexibility.
 - Queried whether training is improving outcomes. Qld noted lack of resources to objectively measure training impact beyond networking benefits.
 - Asked if national measures could assess improvements in investigation quality or lab submissions over time.
- SA
 - Uploads only data funded by NSDIP into NAHIS and funds the entire case under NSDIP.
 - QLD noted they allocate partial funds per case to cover multiple investigations rather than full funding per case.
 - WA suggested clearer guidance on claiming processes as was unaware partial claims were allowed, which could increase NAHIS uploads.

Conclusion

The Chair thanked the Committee for their input on the evaluation survey and noted that additional wording will be included in the Business Plan to explain how the program is utilised across jurisdictions, providing a clearer national perspective and supporting handovers. The next step will be to review the evaluation report, expected early next year, gather feedback, and hold a broader discussion at the May meeting.

Meeting Close

- Thanked attendees for their valuable input in the meeting.
- Meeting closed 12:26.
- Date of next in person meeting was proposed for mid-to-late May 2026

NSDIP ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING NOVEMBER 2025**ACTION REGISTER**

#	ACTION	WHO	BY	STATUS
1	WA to share the training video link for circulation to the Committee and inclusion on the AHA website.	WA & AHA	FEB 26	
2	AHA to distribute the NSW report and the training video along with the draft minutes to the AC.	AHA & NSW	DEC 25	COMPLETE
3	AHA to display totals based on the number of exclusions and include the corresponding outcomes (positive or negative) in the next status report.	AHA	NOV 26	