

12 April 2024

## Participant Information Statement

### *Understanding passive livestock disease surveillance practices in NSW*

#### **Project team:**

Prof Marta Hernandez-Jover - Professor Veterinary Epidemiology and Public Health. School of Agricultural, Environmental and Veterinary Sciences. Charles, Sturt University, Wagga Wagga, NSW  
E: [mhernandez-jover@csu.edu.au](mailto:mhernandez-jover@csu.edu.au)

Dr Nicole Schembri – Animal Biosecurity Senior Policy and Project Officer, Biosecurity and Food Safety, NSW DPI.  
E: [nic.schembri@dpi.nsw.gov.au](mailto:nic.schembri@dpi.nsw.gov.au)

Dr Jennifer Manyweathers – Senior Lecturer in Ruminant Health and Epidemiology. School of Agricultural, Environmental and Veterinary Sciences. Charles, Sturt University, Wagga Wagga, NSW  
E: [jmanyweathers@csu.edu.au](mailto:jmanyweathers@csu.edu.au)

Ms Lynne Hayes – Resercah Assistant. School of Agricultural, Environmental and Veterinary Sciences. Charles, Sturt University, Wagga Wagga, NSW  
E: [lhayes@csu.edu.au](mailto:lhayes@csu.edu.au)

You are invited to participate in a research study that aims to understand current passive livestock disease surveillance practices, the application of syndromic surveillance and evaluate the effectiveness of recent emergency animal disease (EAD) training and education activities for private and government veterinarians and para-veterinarians in NSW.

Please note that to participate in the research you must be over 18 years old and be a practising veterinarian in NSW.

The study is being conducted by the researchers listed at the top of this document from Charles Sturt University and the NSW Department of Primary Industries.

This study has been approved by the Charles Sturt University Human Research Committee, Approval Number: H24075

Before you decide whether or not you wish to participate in this study, it is important for you to understand why the research is being done and what it will involve. Please take the time to read the following information carefully.

## **What is the purpose of this study?**

This study is the first stage in a project that aims to understand current knowledge, attitudes, and practices (KAP) of District Veterinarians (DVs) and private veterinary practitioners (PVPs) about emergency animal diseases (EADs), syndromic diagnostics and barriers to requesting EAD exclusion testing.

This information will be used to co-design interventions and field resources to overcome barriers to exclusion testing and support DVs and PVPs to request EAD exclusion testing in clinically appropriate cases.

## **Why have I been invited to participate in this study?**

All private and government veterinarians who practice in NSW and see livestock animals, either as production animals or pets, are invited to participate in the study.

## **What does this study involve?**

Participation will involve the completion of an anonymous online survey. It is expected that the survey will take approximately 20 minutes to complete.

## **Are there any risks and benefits to me in taking part in this study?**

Participation in this study should involve no physical or mental discomfort.

However, if as a result of participating in this research you feel you need help or to talk to someone, support is available from the Centre for Rural and Remote Mental Health 1800 011 511.

## **How is this study being paid for?**

This study is funded by the NSW Department of Primary Industries.

## **Will taking part in this study cost me anything, and will I be paid?**

Other than your time, there are no costs associated with participating in this research, nor are there payments.

The survey makes mention of a number of resources developed to support in field investigations – if you would like copies of these, please contact Nicole Schembri ([nic.schembri@dpi.nsw.gov.au](mailto:nic.schembri@dpi.nsw.gov.au)) to have these sent to your preferred address.

## **Participation, withdrawal, and confidentiality**

Participation in this project is voluntary and consent can be withdrawn at any time.

No personal data will be collected, and as such, it will not be possible to identify and remove individual data once it is submitted. Participants will be unable to withdraw from the survey after it has been completed.

All data will be stored securely on NSW Department of Primary Industry's password protected record management system where it is subject to removal and archiving after 5 years.

### **What will happen to the information that I give you?**

The outcomes will be published in a report with the findings used to inform future programs to better support NSW veterinarians with ongoing and targeted training and education. The outcomes may also be published in an appropriate scientific journal and/or presented at relevant conferences.

### **What should I do if I want to discuss this study further before I decide?**

If you would like further information about the study, please contact Nicole Schembri via email on [nic.schembri@dpi.nsw.gov.au](mailto:nic.schembri@dpi.nsw.gov.au)

### **Who should I contact if I have concerns about the conduct of this study?**

The Charles Sturt University Human Research Ethics Committee has approved this project. If you have any complaints or reservations about the ethical conduct of this project, please contact:

Any issues you raise will be treated in confidence and investigated fully and you will be informed of the outcome.

### **What do I need to do next?**

Please read through the following Consent Statements and if you would like to continue, proceed to the survey questions.

- I agree to participate in the above research project and give my consent freely.
- I understand that the project will be conducted as described in the Participant Information Sheet, a copy of which I have retained.
- I am over the age of 18.
- I understand that participation involves completing an online survey
- I understand I can withdraw from the project at any time and do not have to give any reason for withdrawing.
- I understand that no personal information will be collected by the researchers
- I have had the opportunity to have questions answered to my satisfaction.

**We will assume consent if you have submitted responses.**