



Guidelines for the PSNAP Surveillance Residential Program

Introduction to the Surveillance Residential Program

The PSNAP Surveillance Residential Program has been established to enhance the national capability and capacity to detect plant pests by developing the skills of individuals. Those working in plant health surveillance will gain essential skills and knowledge through experiences they would not otherwise have access to in their own organisation. The program allows participants to share their ideas and experience, leading to greater collaboration and building existing networks.

The program forms an integral component of the professional development framework for the Plant Surveillance Network Australasia-Pacific (PSNAP).

Overview

Surveillance Residentials allow plant health surveillance professionals to spend time in another workplace or location, or to participate in relevant activities that improve the national capability to detect plant pests.

Potential examples include:

- Attending a relevant workshop or training event to fill a known gap in national plant health surveillance
- Learning new techniques and gaining exposure to different surveillance activities by participating in a program, where the techniques or practices are currently implemented
- Improving field triage skills by working with an expert for the target pest(s)
- Improving sampling and transport methods to enhance diagnostic outcomes by spending time with an expert for the target pest(s) and/or spending time in a diagnostic laboratory
- Participating in a surveillance program to allow policy/office-based members to gain field experience and greater understanding of surveillance logistics
- Arranging for an expert to visit your workplace to train staff in a specific skill or share information not currently held within the group

These are just a few examples. Applicants are encouraged to think outside the box when designing their Surveillance Residential Project.

Projects should show benefit to the PSNAP and address a known plant health surveillance gap or improve the capability to detect one of the following.

1. A National Priority Plant Pest (NPPP). List available at agriculture.gov.au/pests-diseases-weeds/plant/national-priority-plant-pests-2019
2. A pest on the 'Plant diseases and their Pathogens' section of the Priority list of exotic environmental pests and diseases. Information available at agriculture.gov.au/biosecurity/environmental/priority-list
3. A High Priority Pest of plant industries. These are listed in Biosecurity Plans for industries and available on the PHA website under the relevant industry page planthealthaustralia.com.au/industries/.
4. An emerging plant pest.

The length of a Surveillance Residential will depend on the project activities and the specified outcomes. It is anticipated that residentials will be approximately 5-14 days long. After the project is carried out, recipients must meet reporting requirements, present their project at an Annual Surveillance Workshop and train a minimum of two people from their home organisation on the skills learned.

Applicants are encouraged to consider applications for intrastate residentials in their own jurisdictions as well as interstate residentials.

Eligibility

PSNAP members¹ currently employed in an organisation relevant the plant health surveillance in Australia or New Zealand are eligible for the program.

Applications

Surveillance Residential Project applications should clearly address each field in the application form, including endorsement from the applicant's line manager and the manager of the host organisation. The application form is available to download from the members section of the PSNAP website (plantsurveillance.network.net.au/events/). Completed forms should be submitted to the PSNAP Coordinator (PSNAP@phau.com.au).

Assessment of applications

All applications will be assessed by the Plant Surveillance Network Working Group, under the Subcommittee on National Plant Health Surveillance (SNPHS), based on the following criteria.

The project demonstrates:

1. Benefits to national plant health surveillance and the PSNAP, through building surveillance capability and/or capacity
2. Benefits to the applicants' organisation and the host organisation
3. Clear and valuable outcomes and outputs
4. Means to disseminate outcomes and outputs to the applicant's organisation and the PSNAP
5. An alternative plan in the event of travel restrictions
6. Value for money.

Successful applicants will be provided further information and reporting templates when notified of the application outcome by email.

Guide to budgets

Surveillance Residentials are anticipated to be in the range of \$3,000 to \$10,000. Applicants may propose budgets outside this range if value for money can be demonstrated. The program encourages a collaborative approach between participating agencies. Surveillance Residentials can cover the costs of travel, accommodation, bench fees (if applicable) and some consumables. In kind support from participating organisations is expected, and can include wages, registration fees (for associated conferences and workshops) and some consumables.

Acknowledgement of funding

Funding for this program is provided by the Australian Government Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment under the Plant Biosecurity and Response Reform programme.

Contact

Contact the PSNAP Coordinator at PSNAP@phau.com.au or (02) 6215 7700 for further information or assistance with the application. Alternatively, you may wish to talk to your local SNPHS member, the list of members can be found at the bottom of this page plantsurveillance.network.net.au/about/ or by contacting the SNPHS secretariat (snphs@agriculture.gov.au).

¹ To join the PSNAP visit plantsurveillance.network.net.au/join/