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## **Managing the risk of Rabies incursion in Papua New Guinea and Northern Australia.**

### **Development of culturally appropriate rabies communications messaging materials.**

The Northern Australian coastline is extensive and most of the coastal areas are populated by people living in remote Indigenous communities. It is therefore highly likely that any potential biosecurity risks could be identified by Indigenous people living in coastal communities. It is critical that local Indigenous people have the knowledge to understand and identify biosecurity risks and know the process to report any suspect situations so that management strategies can be implemented quickly and effectively. With respect to this project, it is important that coastal Indigenous community members clearly understand how to:

- Reduce the risk of rabies incursion;
- Identify animals that may be infected by rabies;
- Treat wounds if bitten by an animal potentially infected;
- Report to, and assist authorities in managing the incursion.

The University of Sydney Project Team have developed some initial messaging tools:

1. Narrative – Daniel’s puppy.
2. Cartoon series.

These messaging tools have been tested at a meeting with Yirrkala Rangers (narrative) on the 5<sup>th</sup> June and with Rangers, CDEP Workers and general community members at Gapuwiyak on the 6<sup>th</sup> June. The consultation being done in the Kimberley Region in October is providing additional information that will be used to develop culturally appropriate communications material and recommendations on effective messaging for the Department of Agriculture and Water Resources.

Marianne St Clair, a researcher from the Northern Institute will be visiting Broome and Derby from the 9<sup>th</sup> October – 13<sup>th</sup> October to consult with a range of stakeholders regarding this project and some other projects being planned/done by the Northern Institute (please see Summary of projects).

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