



Partnership Program

The **Partnership Program** is a unique system that forms an alliance between Australian leaders in pig health and production to promote the dissemination of information, adoption of new technologies and risk management in the prevention and control of pig diseases.

The entities involved include Chris Richards & Associates, progressive Australian pig producers and suppliers of pig health products to the Australian pig industry.

The **Partnership Program** has developed through consultation with a number of clients of Chris Richards & Associates who have outlined their desire to have a structured veterinary consultancy service that is complemented by having access to the new technologies and developments in all areas of pig health and production.

The goals of the **Partnership Program** are as follows:

- To manage the risk of pig diseases by having scheduled surveillance of disease on pig farms
- To have regular reviews of vaccination and medication practices with an aim to reduce cost of production and optimise productivity
- To allow producers to more accurately budget veterinary and production consulting expenses.
- Ability to interact with Australian and International expertise in health, production, nutrition and employee management.
- To be aware of new technologies from around the world pig industry.
- To ensure compliance for producers and veterinarians with registration and legal requirements associated with supply and use of veterinary pharmaceuticals and biologicals.
- To be able to interact both socially and academically with fellow pig producers and industry.

The services and activities provided as part of the **Partnership Program** have been derived based upon the requirements and ability to meet the goals for different sized entities. The following pages outline the program for different farm sizes and locations.

The **Partnership Program** consists of the following services:

- **Veterinary/Production On-farm visits**
The veterinary and production visit is essential to identify potential and current pathogens, implement preventative and control programs for disease and to revise existing health programs and production performance. It also allows an implementation and assessment of new technologies, and an opportunity to perform staff training in health and production areas.
- **Slaughter checks/Abattoir Monitoring**
Monitoring of pigs at the abattoir is essential for the surveillance of pig pathogens and to review medication and vaccination programs. The data observed by a veterinarian can be related directly back to practices on farm and issues to discuss at veterinary visits.

- **Phone Consultation**
 Immediate action when health or production problems occur is essential in minimising losses. Chris Richards & Associates have three veterinarians and a technical services manager to ensure a rapid response to your problems. In some cases, new technologies such as SquizBiz can be used to assist in remote consulting. Other advice on industry issues can also be obtained at any time.
- **Provision and updating of scripts**
 The provision of feed medication prescriptions are required by all producers to meet legal requirements and to satisfy quality systems implemented on farm and at feed mills. Scripts provided are set out to also give an estimate of feed usage by various groups of animals, detail drug inclusion levels and withholding periods. They can be reviewed and changed as required. Additional information in regard to medication costs per pig can also be calculated using this system to ensure monitoring of costs.
- **APIQP Facilitation & Internal Auditing**
 The Australian Pig Industry Quality Program is essential to manage the food safety and quality risks associated with pig production. Chris Richards & Associates can facilitate the development of your Quality System to achieve registration in APIQ Program. The area of Internal Auditing to verify the system can also be performed as part of a veterinary farm visit.
- **APIQP Auditing**
 Annual auditing of the APIQ Program is required to maintain certification and registration. This can be performed as part of a veterinary visit. This service further compliments the veterinary services ensuring compliance with medication programs and treatment regimes.
- **Provision and Updating of Treatment Guides/Approved Medication Lists**
 The Treatment Guide or Approved Medication List is essential to ensure that medication and vaccination programs are followed and that sick pigs are treated appropriately. It is also required as part of the APIQ Program. The Treatment Guide has been designed to be adapted for individual farms, where different diseases or conditions are present and different terminology used. This procedural manual can be used for staff training and can be updated as required.
- **Web Site Access**
 The Chris Richards & Associates Web Site has been designed as a media where our clients can access information on new technologies, technical papers on diseases and conditions, industry issues and events, and be able to access forms required for management of their piggery such as Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS's) and QA records. The web site has a Members Only Section where members of the **Partnership Program** will have access to other tools and information that will assist in optimising production on pig farms.

- **Ancillary Services/Consulting at Reduced Rate**
Chris Richards & Associates enjoy reduced rates on ancillary services which complement the **Partnership Program**, including semen evaluation of boars, pregnancy testing, herd production data recording. Consulting requirements for irregular disease problems, production planning, or disease eradication programs are also provided to **Partnership Program** members at an additional reduced rate.
- **Seminar Programs**
Chris Richards & Associates with support from its suppliers host seminar days to assist in the facilitation of new technologies and to make clients aware of potential disease and production issues. The topics that are discussed in workshops and seminars are based upon feedback and surveying of clients.
- **Partnership Program Conference**
The annual Chris Richards & Associates Conference is held in March each year over 2-3 days. The program consists of speakers from Australia and overseas and covers topical issues in the areas of pig health, production, nutrition and employee management. The generous sponsorship by pig health product suppliers allows members of the **Partnership Program** to attend the seminar and social program with accommodation and meal expenses met during the conference program.
- **Newsletter**
Chris Richards & Associates produce a monthly newsletter that contains information on current pig industry issues, disease control strategies, industry events, product information and a some comical relief. The newsletter can also be viewed by clients on the Web Site.
- **Social Events**
Social interaction between pig producers and other industry people is important for the exchange of ideas and to provide some stress relief away from the piggery. Chris Richards & Associates conduct a number of social activities for clients to facilitate this process, including Bendigo Cup Day, Conferences and Seminar days.

Other Services that are offered by Chris Richards & Associates that can be added to the Partnership Program include:

- Semen evaluation of boars or boar studs
- Auditing of boar studs
- Real Time Ultrasound Pregnancy Testing
- Herd Recording (MIPS, PigCHAMP, PigWIN)
- APL Training packages (ProHand)
- Pig Pulse Training & Evaluations of Production Data