

The object of this Bill is to amend the *Veterinary Practice Act 2003* (the **principal Act**) to enable veterinary practitioners registered in other States or Territories to practise in New South Wales without having to register separately in New South Wales.

The Bill gives effect to the National Recognition of Veterinary Registration model, which was endorsed by the Primary Industries Ministerial Council. Under the agreed model, other States and Territories will recognise veterinary practitioners registered in New South Wales.

Outline of provisions

Clause 1 sets out the name (also called the short title) of the proposed Act.

Clause 2 provides for the commencement of the proposed Act on the date of assent to the proposed Act.

Schedule 1 Amendment of Veterinary Practice Act 2003 No 87

Schedule 1 [2] inserts into the principal Act new provisions dealing with the recognition in New South Wales of veterinary practitioners registered in other States or Territories. A person who practises as a veterinary practitioner in New South Wales is taken to be registered as a veterinary practitioner under the principal Act (referred to as **deemed registration**) if:

- (a) the person's principal place of residence is another jurisdiction, and
- (b) the person is registered as a veterinary practitioner in that jurisdiction, and
- (c) the person is not registered as a veterinary practitioner in New South Wales.

A person who has deemed registration is taken to be a veterinary practitioner for the purposes of the principal Act and the laws of this State. Provisions in the principal Act relating to complaints and disciplinary action against veterinary practitioners will apply to a person who has deemed registration.

If a person has specialist registration in a branch of veterinary science in another jurisdiction, the person's deemed registration is taken to be specialist registration in that branch and if a person's registration as a veterinary practitioner in another jurisdiction is subject to a condition or a limitation, the person's deemed registration is taken to be subject to the same condition or limitation. The Veterinary Practitioners Board (the **Board**) may also waive, vary or impose a condition on a person's deemed registration in certain circumstances.

If a person's registration as a veterinary practitioner in another jurisdiction (including deemed registration however described) is suspended or cancelled, the person's deemed registration in New South Wales may, without further investigation or hearing, be suspended or cancelled by the Board (as the case requires) on the grounds on which the registration in that other jurisdiction was suspended or cancelled.

The Board may enter into arrangements with interstate registration authorities for the purposes of establishing a national register of veterinary practitioners and for other purposes related to the recognition of veterinary practitioners registered in other jurisdictions.

Schedule 1 [6] requires the Board to notify each interstate registration authority of any disciplinary action taken against a veterinary practitioner, including a veterinary practitioner who has deemed registration.

Schedule 1 [1], [3]–[5] and [7] are consequential amendments.

Schedule 1 [8] enables savings and transitional regulations to be made as a consequence of the proposed Act.