
From: Debbie Neutze
Sent: Thursday, 7 September 2023 4:41 PM
To: Portfolio Committee 4
Subject: Re: Inquiry into the veterinary workforce shortage in New South Wales - Post hearing responses
- Tuesday 29 August

Post Hearing Response

Question on notice – Whether I agree, strongly agree, disagree or strongly disagree with the AVA’s recommendations.

Recommendation 1: The NSW Government commit to ongoing recognition and support of veterinarians to continue to build and maintain capacity for Emergency Animal Disease surveillance and response activities.

STRONGLY AGREE

Recommendation 2: The NSW Government consider the pressing concerns experienced by government veterinarians and conduct a comprehensive review and develop a proactive strategy to support the critical work of our government veterinarians, ensure the health of our livestock, and maintain our ability to respond effectively to biosecurity threats and animal welfare issues.

STRONGLY AGREE

Recommendation 3: The NSW Government commit funding to AVA’s wellness initiative, THRIVE to support veterinarians and veterinary staff to lead satisfying, prosperous and healthy careers.

STRONGLY AGREE

Recommendation 4: The NSW Government consider funding a public awareness campaign to address the rising rates of verbal and physical assault of veterinary teams and to educate the community on the impact of their actions. For example, similar to the NSW Ambulance ‘It’s Never Okay’ campaign.

AGREE

Recommendation 5: The NSW Government consider funding for the profession to provide work integrated learning (WIL) opportunities for overseas veterinarians wishing to work in NSW as well as funding to assist international NSW applicants undertake the Australian veterinary examination process without financial hardship.

AGREE

Recommendation 6: The NSW Government support changes to visa provisions including lifting of the age cap for permanent residency to be in line with the human medical field.

STRONGLY AGREE

Recommendation 7: The NSW Government provide resources to fund a think tank to develop an afterhours model that is sustainable for the profession and allows veterinary services to be delivered to the NSW community in both urban and rural areas 24/7.

STRONGLY AGREE

Recommendation 8: The NSW Government Veterinary professionals are extended the same opportunities as other professions that are being encouraged to move to regional, rural and remote areas.

STRONGLY AGREE

Recommendation 9: The AVA calls upon the NSW Government to explore solutions that support the veterinary sector in its role with stray animals, addressing the key issues outlined and promoting overall animal health, welfare, and public health.

STRONGLY AGREE

Recommendation 10: The NSW Government commits funding to develop and implement a framework that provides regulatory and appropriate financial support to the provision of veterinary services for lost, stray and homeless animals, injured wildlife and during emergency situations provided by all sectors of the profession (charities and the private veterinary sector).

STRONGLY AGREE

Recommendation 11: The NSW Government through funding encourages industry and the veterinary profession to collaborate and develop a framework or solution that will improve integration of veterinary services into animal production systems that is workable for all parties.

AGREE

Recommendation 12: The NSW Government support extending access to the national Translating and Interpreting Service for veterinarians.

STRONGLY AGREE

Recommendation 13: The NSW Government provide funding to resource the development of prioritisation and planning of the longer-term strategies that will have the most effective workforce outcomes for all stakeholders the veterinary profession serves and the profession itself.

STRONGLY AGREE

Recommendation 14: The NSW Government commit to legislative and regulatory reform to safeguard the role of the veterinary profession in the delivery of animal health and welfare, whilst making it adaptable to a constantly changing environment. This could be achieved by a review of the veterinary practice act and consider the interactions with other legislation including the prevention of cruelty to animals act.

STRONGLY AGREE

Recommendation 15: The NSW Government considers funding around educational fee relief to encourage early career veterinarians to work in rural NSW.

STRONGLY AGREE

Recommendation 16: The NSW Government includes veterinarians in existing mechanisms to sustain medical and paramedical workers in rural areas of NSW.

STRONGLY AGREE

Kind regards

Dr Debbie Neutze
Veterinary Industry Consultant

