

Responding to Question on Notice

The Hon. PETER PRIMROSE: I am going to ask the same question to every witness today, and that is, the Australian Veterinary Association, in their submission, has given us 16 recommendations. I am just asking if you could please take those on notice. Any that you strongly agree with or strongly disagree with, could you just let us know? I would be interested in your views on their 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. :

My Response: on behalf of Vets for Pets I agree with this recommendation and support it.

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.

My Response: I 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.

My Response: I agree. However, we got to look at the root causes that cause a mental health issues or wellness issues of veterinarians. This recommendation is considered a reactive approach rather than proactive.

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.

My response: strongly agree. It is evident that majority of public members are very much unaware of shortage of vets in NSW.

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.

My response: Strongly agree. In addition, increase the number of exams per year, or consider a fast-paced certification process. Allow overseas vets to practice legally at clinics via placement programs, where those placements can be considered as points to pass the exam.

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.

My Response: 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.

My Response: is not applicable in our case, will leave it to those who operates or provided services at urban and rural areas. However, I am not against the recommendation.

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.

My response: 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.

My response: strongly agree, more regulations need to be enforced. Veterinarian should have the power to enforce those regulations as well. Control of back yard breeders is highly recommended too.

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).

MY Response: would highly support this recommendation.

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.

Recommendation 12:

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

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.

My Response: Though we understand the importance of government participation to boost the veterinary industry, unfortunately, majority of the recommendations are all based on government funding. However, what are responsibilities of AVA to enhance, develop and support veterinarian?

If government fund is not existed or won't be approved, then we are back to point ZERO.

As far as the recommendation itself, I agree and would support it.

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.

My Response: totally agree.

Recommendation 15:

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

My response: very positive recommendation and I agree with it.

Recommendation 16:

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

My response: I agree.

Kind Regards
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Vets for Pets