

### **Inquiry into the Veterinary Workforce Shortage in NSW**

Answer to the honorable Greg Donnelly to provide feedback on the AVA 16 recommendations to the committee.

Recommendation 3. VetPartners fully support this recommendation given the challenges we face with wellness and sustainability. It is a strong program that has practical merit and initiatives that is well supported . As a large employer of veterinary professionals fully support, provide input to and want to see develop further.

Recommendation 4. VetPartners fully support . Client abuse and violence is unfortunately an increasing issue for us with over 25 % of all our client complaints associated with either verbal or physical abuse towards our team members .

Recommendation 5. Vetpartners fully support. We hear directly at international trade shows that the cost of the entrance exam is a barrier to consideration of working in Australia.

Recommendation 6. VetPartners fully supports and mentions this in their submission. We need experience and leadership at all levels to improve retention.

Recommendation 7. VetPartners fully supports and is willing to contribute to the establishment and involvement of this think tank.

Recommendation 8. VetPartners fully supports this recommendation to complement incentives we already offer to attract rural employees.

Recommendation 9 and 10. VetPartners supports this recommendation. We believe this is an area that the public and private sector can collaborate for better welfare and control of stray animal populations which have many costs to manage but many benefits if managed well.

Recommendation 13. Given the importance to society of animal welfare and ethics, biosecurity, one health and commercial importance of veterinary services to private sector industry, it makes sense to invest and strategically plan together for a healthy future of the profession.

Recommendation 14. VetPartners support this recommendation. The veterinary act needs to be updated to be relevant not just for the current environment and needs of society but the emerging needs.

Recommendation 15. Vetpartners support this recommendation and would add that the NSW government should consider scholarships for rural students in return for practicing in rural NSW locations post-graduation for a certain period.

Regards

**Dr Brett Hodgkin**

**Chief Veterinary Officer VetPartners**