

**INQUIRY INTO VETERINARY WORKFORCE SHORTAGE
IN NEW SOUTH WALES**

Name: Name suppressed

Date Received: 17 June 2023

Partially
Confidential

Dear parliament

I am writing as a sole practice equine veterinarian.

Currently I love my job and find it very fulfilling.

I am writing with the concern of future deregulation of certain practices.

Currently I see a lot of horses that have suffered at the hands of "lay dentists", who are often illegally acquiring and using sedation also. They are not held to a standard such as we are with the veterinary board, and I am often seeing these cases after these dentists have attended & either not performed the service properly or have caused harm. I am very concerned that if parliament chooses to allow more lay people to conduct certain services such as these, it will be very detrimental to the welfare of animals.

Not only this, but my business as a veterinarian will suffer. These "routine" jobs are the reason we are able to perform the emergency work. If I was not performing routine work I would choose to close my practice as it would not be worthwhile to me just to perform emergency work. This is something we offer to our clients as a benefit to using us.

I think any decision to deregulate the veterinary industry would lead the industry into further chaos, with less vets enjoying their jobs and wanting to enter the workforce, and more animals suffering with substandard care with people that are not held to the same standards from the veterinary board. I fail to see how it would be fair in any instance if this were to happen, and I don't believe that it would take any pressure off busy vets. Emergencies after hours is the area we are struggling with.

I feel in our area we are able to manage this with practices working side by side, and I think this cooperative approach, with more subsidies for rural veterinarians (and to get new grads rural) is the ultimate solution.

Thank you for your time in reading this