

**Submission
No 19**

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

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The current state of veterinary care, both in terms of pressure on veterinary services and the cost involved must be reviewed and some changes must be made.

While Vets have a very high rate of suicide due to the pressure of the job and its demands, customers struggle with veterinary care for their pets. And it is the animals who suffer the all around consequences.

Costs and the difficulties in finding Vets impact all around:

Pet owners cannot afford to pay for veterinary care for their beloved companions, in this cost-of living-crisis. This can sadly result with both owners and animals suffering unnecessarily. .

As far as availability, across regional NSW people can wait weeks or even months to see a vet.

Small and large rescue groups who struggle to access and pay for veterinary care, especially right now with the increasing number of homeless animals, especially cats, and kittens.

Wildlife rescuers and carers who face the unique challenge to find vets who are experienced in treating injured native animals.

Council pounds who have been particularly affected by the vet shortage, finding it difficult to secure veterinarians to care for sick and injured animals, as well as de-sex and microchip animals for rehoming.

It is unquestionable that some changes to the system must be made to relieve pressure from Vets, to increase training of Vets, to reduce costs and to provide a reliable and affordable Veticare cover system.

I sincerely hope that this inquiry will bring about positive changes for all.

An increasing number of