

Submission  
No 24

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

**Name:** Mrs Taryn Tiko

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## Support for an Inquiry into the Veterinary Shortage in New South Wales

Dear Sir/Madame,

I hope this letter finds you in good health and high spirits. I am writing to express my strong support for the proposed inquiry into the veterinary shortage in New South Wales and its detrimental effects on both our communities and the welfare of animals. As a concerned citizen and an advocate for animal welfare, I firmly believe that urgent action is needed to address this pressing issue.

The shortage of qualified veterinarians in New South Wales has become increasingly alarming and has reached a critical level. This scarcity is not only impacting the accessibility and quality of veterinary services but also affecting the overall well-being of animals and their owners within our communities. The consequences of this shortage are far-reaching and demand immediate attention and intervention.

First and foremost, the scarcity of veterinarians in our region is leading to inadequate access to essential veterinary care. Pet owners are finding it increasingly difficult to secure timely appointments for routine check-ups, vaccinations, and preventive treatments. Moreover, in emergency situations, the shortage of available veterinarians can be life-threatening for animals that require immediate medical attention. This situation not only causes unnecessary suffering but also places an additional burden on pet owners who are left with limited options for seeking proper care for their beloved companions. As a volunteer for a wildlife rescue organisation, I can say that the current vet shortage is overburdening the few veterinary clinics available across the entire state!

Furthermore, the shortage of veterinarians in rural and regional areas of New South Wales has particularly severe consequences. These areas often face significant challenges in attracting and retaining qualified veterinary professionals due to the lack of infrastructure, limited professional opportunities, and geographic isolation. As a result, many communities are left without accessible veterinary services, and farmers, livestock owners, and animal rescue organizations struggle to provide adequate healthcare to their animals. This disparity in access to veterinary care creates an unjust situation where certain communities are disproportionately affected and disadvantaged.

Additionally, the veterinary shortage adversely impacts the animal welfare landscape in New South Wales. Without an adequate number of veterinarians, it becomes difficult to enforce and regulate animal welfare laws effectively. Insufficient resources and personnel can impede the identification and prevention of animal cruelty, neglect, and abuse cases. Moreover, the lack of available veterinary services may discourage people from seeking proper care for their animals, leading to untreated illnesses, neglected health conditions, and the overall deterioration of animal welfare standards.

Given the urgency and severity of the situation, I firmly believe that a thorough inquiry into the veterinary shortage in New South Wales is necessary. The inquiry should aim to assess the root causes of the shortage, identify barriers that deter veterinarians from practicing in our region, and propose effective strategies to address the issue. It should consider factors such as training capacity, recruitment and retention strategies, incentives for practicing in rural and regional areas, and the promotion of veterinary education programs within our communities.

I kindly request that you advocate for the establishment of an inquiry and use your influence to garner the support of the New South Wales Government. The inquiry will not only shed light on the challenges faced by veterinarians but also provide valuable insights and recommendations to ensure the provision of high-quality veterinary services throughout the state. By taking prompt action, we can work together to alleviate the veterinary shortage, improve animal welfare, and support the well-being of our communities.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. I trust that you will give due consideration to my concerns and support the proposal for an inquiry into the veterinary shortage in New South Wales. I am confident that your dedication to public service will lead to positive outcomes for both animals and the communities they inhabit.

Yours sincerely,

Taryn Tiko