

**Submission
No 31**

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

Organisation: Hunter Equine Centre

Date Received: 28 June 2023



To Whom It May Concern,

Re: Inquiry into the Veterinary Workforce Shortages in New South Wales

We are a 12-vet equine hospital in Scone, NSW – the main breeding area in NSW, employing 30 staff and servicing some of the large breeding farms in the area. We would like to report on the veterinary workforce shortage in New South Wales, and in particular the rural and equine sector. Over the last 5-years we have seen dramatic reductions in job advertisement, with absolutely no Australian veterinarians applying.

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This is leading to serious challenges in maintaining a sustainable veterinary workforce, including recruitment and retention rates. Salaries are increasing dramatically and it is becoming impossible to run profitable practices. This leads to issues in the welfare of animals and economics of commercial breeding operations.

The rates of burn-out is extremely high, in-part due to gaps of skilled help in the work force, and mental health challenges are widespread in the veterinary profession. The after-hours and emergency component of the job is a large contributing factor to these issues.

It is difficult to utilise skilled and enthusiastic overseas trained veterinarians when their degree is not recognised by our Board and leniency in this area would provide desperately needed assistance to the workplace and animals.

We appreciate further consideration of the above matters and look forward making progress on the critical workforce shortages.

Please do not hesitate to contact me for more information.

Many thanks in advance.

Sincerely,

Dr. Bridget Bester BVMS CertEM (StudMed)

PLEASE ENSURE THAT THIS REPORT IS FORWARDED TO THE HORSE'S OWNER AND THE PERSON RESPONSIBLE FOR THE FUTURE CARE OF THE HORSE, AS WELL AS TO THE INSURER, IF APPLICABLE.
