

Submission
No 41

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

Name: Name suppressed

Date Received: 30 June 2023

Partially
Confidential

I am a practicing rural veterinarian graduating from a rural veterinary university course with 12 years clinic practice experience at numerous rural veterinary clinics.

Rural veterinarians

The burnout is real. Just this month one of our most esteemed senior veterinarians of the clinic has decided to exit the industry due to the high demand, and I quote "her dislike in coming to work as a veterinarian". Just yesterday I was consoling a veterinarian who was on the verge of tears due to the demand that the industry (and clients) withhold her to.

I'm not sure of the answer, but I believe the nature of the work (emergency component) does not allow for a viable, enjoyable life. Client/public education on the limitations of veterinary industry maybe helpful in this situation. I hypothesise that the public compares the veterinary industry to the human health industry where doctors clock off, go home and if there are any emergencies the major hospitals of the region absorb them. A lot of clients we service expect veterinarians to be waiting at the clinic for their call, like an emergency clinic/hospital, in rural situations this is not the case.

On a similar note, public education on the costs of human health procedures, consultations, blood tests, imaging etc who allow them to be expecting of the cost of the veterinary industry. Public backlash on invoicing costs is one of the many damaging effects on veterinarian mental healthssssssssssss as a whole.

This inability to stop extended work hours in rural clinics does not allow for the return of mothers to the industry, or puts more pressure on those left in the clinic after a mother is required to leave to pick up their kids from childcare/school.