

Submission  
No 68

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

**Name:** Name suppressed

**Date Received:** 9 July 2023

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Partially  
Confidential

My personal view is that the current state of play is the inevitable result of previous positions & decisions made by the legislative & industry.

I did not begin with this perspective but have come to it painfully over the course of 22 years in small animal private practice across 4 jurisdictions (South Africa, Vic, NSW & QLD):

The career path simply does not make sense, unless one is deeply invested in caring for animals & has a strong medical care ethic - thus the industry is reliant upon the exploitation of its core members...

The remuneration offered does not stack up against other options available to the personnel who qualify to study veterinary medicine - from academic scores required for entry, years studied to qualify, expected hours worked (especially in the first 5-10 years), stress endured (consider here just the stress of daily negotiating the disconnect between the public's expectations around outcomes from the clinician & their (owner's) input (be it exercising due care & common sense, financial realities, basic responsibility to their pet (property) - I suggest that if many parents made the sort of errors that my clientele make on a weekly basis, they would risk having criminal charges pressed against them).

& yet vets are expected to fix these lapses in judgment, reasonable care & basic common sense & then risk abuse for charging (often a few hundred dollars).

This is compounded by many vets boards policing of members whilst not protecting those same members - I cite here the number of breeders & other lay people performing veterinary functions without strict sanction from vet boards & call "bs" when told that vet-boards don't have jurisdiction over non-members.

Why then would anyone work as a veterinarian???

I know why I go to work every day & it certainly isn't financial reward or the expectation I will be thanked or treated with courtesy by the public.

just my 2c worth.