

Supplementary
Submission
No 17a

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

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Summary

Problems arose following changes to the use of animals in teaching of veterinary science to students in 1980s.

These problems exacerbated by promotion of fly-in fly out in remote areas of Australia.

In 1990s veterinary profession decided to model themselves on the medical profession which massively increased to costs of delivery of veterinary services.

Changes to teaching of knowledge at veterinary schools decreased skill sets in veterinary graduates adding to the decrease in profitability of veterinary practice.

Decreased profitability, increased costs and lack of skills increased veterinary wellness issues when clients unhappy about size of invoices.

Decreased use of veterinary services leads to increased animal welfare issues and lessening in disease surveillance on farms in remote and regional regions.

There is a reluctance for the veterinary profession to accept lay people have professional knowledge and are capable of handling routine tasks releasing the vets to do more complicated procedures.

Current legislation restricts lay professionals from practicing their crafts as they are restricted in the use of pharmaceuticals necessary to perform their skills. Unable to access regulation by restrictive legislation.