

Submission
No 211

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

Name: Mr Wal Broun
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Partially
Confidential

Sometimes an animal needs immediate veterinary attention ie a calving cow. If that is not available, the animal is at risk of being put down in order to prevent suffering. This is has happened in our business. It is a waste and causes emotional distress and financial loss. Lack of available vet services has also had the following impacts on our business:

- Some feedlots (where we send 80% of our cattle) require females to be pregnancy tested by a vet prior to entry into their facility. Long vet wait times have meant we haven't been able to sell female cattle when we need to. Market has gone down and we have missed the opportunity to sell in a timely manner.
- Cattle waiting for vet services have deteriorated in condition while waiting for the vet. Children and others on-farm are negatively impacted mentally.
- Vet can't complete the job in one visit due to lack of time resulting in increased travel costs and wasted time on-farm in yarding cattle twice or three times.
- Younger vets are put under heavy pressure in relation to their experience
- Artificial breeding specialists are almost unprocurable to do artificial insemination and manage embryo transfer programs that are essential in improving the genetic base of the herd
- Seeing vets so stressed while doing their best is not good for anyone.

Surely incentives for young people from rural backgrounds to complete a vet science degree would be the way to go. Reduce or eliminate their HECS debt if they spend 5 years post graduation practicing in regional, remote or very remote location. Give them relocation incentives or a gov't subsidy to do this.

I know there are reduced ATARS available at some universities for regional students to do vet science but this needs to be extended. There are many young people from regional backgrounds who won't get an ATAR of 85-99 who would make a great vet and love to do vet science at uni. Make it possible for them as they are the most likely to stay in regional NSW.

I hope this small submission has provided you with some further incite into what we are facing in regional NSW due to the vet shortage. Please call if you require further info.

Regards,

Wal Broun