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14 September 2006

Dear Veterinary Colleague

**Re: National Recognition of Veterinary Registration**

We are writing to seek your comment on the proposal that veterinary surgeons be permitted to practise in all states and territories in Australia on the basis of registration in one state or territory.

In recent times, employment mobility of the veterinary profession in Australia has increased. As well, electronic communication means that there is greater opportunity for veterinarians and veterinary specialists to work across state or territory boundaries. During animal health emergencies there may be a need to rapidly deploy veterinary skills around Australia.

Because of this, over the last two years Australia has worked to develop a model to ensure that the work undertaken by veterinarians is not constrained or limited by registration requirements. A precedent for this exists in other professions' registration arrangements within Australia.

The model proposed by the majority of states and territories and the AVA is for veterinary surgeons to register in the state or territory in which they live or work and, while registered in that state or territory, to be able to practise in any state or territory in Australia. When carrying out work in any state they would be subject to the laws of that state and not solely to the law of the state in which they are registered.

As part of broad stakeholder consultation, we are writing to seek your input to the proposal. We urge you to contribute by providing suggestions, raising concerns, and indicating support or otherwise for national registration and for the proposed model or for another model.

Details of the proposal, including a Regulation Impact Statement, are available on the AVA website, [www.ava.com.au](http://www.ava.com.au), the AVBC website [www.avbc.asn.au](http://www.avbc.asn.au) and on the website of the Australian Government Department of Agriculture Forestry and Fisheries, [www.daff.gov.au/natregvets](http://www.daff.gov.au/natregvets).

Comment can be provided:

- By email to **natregvets@daff.gov.au**
- By fax to **02 6272 3454**
- In writing to **National Recognition of Veterinary Registration  
Office of the Chief Veterinary Officer  
Australian Government Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry  
GPO Box 858  
Canberra ACT 2601**

Submissions will not be acknowledged on receipt, and will be assumed to be non-confidential unless advised otherwise by the submitter.

Telephone enquiries can be made on (02) 6272 4879.

We urge you to consider this important issue that affects all in the veterinary profession, and to provide your comment by 13 October 2006. Input from veterinarians will influence the progress and detail of this longstanding matter.

Yours sincerely

President, AVA

Acting Chair, AVBC