



## **Corporate Plan**

### **History**

In 1986 the NSW Parliament enacted the Veterinary Surgeons Act 1986 in response to a need for comprehensive regulation of the practice of Veterinary Science and maintenance of professional standards by registered veterinarians. The Act repealed the Veterinary Surgeons Act 1923.

The Act ensures that only graduates from approved Universities or those having equivalent qualifications are entitled to be registered to practise Veterinary Science in NSW. It is a prerequisite for registration that an applicant be of good fame and character and acknowledges in writing the standard of conduct to be observed by registered Veterinary Surgeons. The maintenance of standards of professional behaviour is reinforced by disciplinary provisions

The Act has detailed provisions relating to the licensing of premises used for the practice of Veterinary Science and it prescribes standards for such premises.

### **Charter**

The Board of Veterinary Surgeons of New South Wales is constituted under Section 4 of the Veterinary Surgeons Act 1986 and the Board is responsible for the keeping of the Roll of Veterinary Surgeons registered to practise in New South Wales and for the licensing of Veterinary Hospitals. The Board also has responsibility for the regulation of the conduct of veterinary surgeons and compliance with the standards of practice of veterinary science.

### **Aims**

The Board aims to act in the interests of the welfare of animals and the public interest in ensuring that the practice of veterinary science in NSW is performed only by registered veterinary surgeons in suitable licensed premises. The Board aims to consult with other State Veterinary Boards and the Australasian Veterinary Boards Council Inc. (AVBC) and organisations representing the interests of members of the veterinary profession and users of veterinary services with a view to achieving the purposes of the Veterinary Surgeons Act 1986.

## Values

The Board identifies the values fundamental to the proper performance of its role as including:

- Ethical behaviour - being trustworthy reliable and honest in all dealings
- Innovation - being creative, open to change and continually pursuing best practice solutions
- Service orientation - maintaining a focus of our work on client satisfaction
- Working together - mutual co-operation in all areas of the operations of the Board
- Equity - making just, fair and reasonable decisions
- Respect - treating others with consideration and earning their respect in turn

## Core Services

The Board provides services aimed at achieving compliance with legislation and Government guidelines affecting the operations of the Board, including:

- The Veterinary Surgeons Act 1986
- Administrative Decisions Tribunal Act 1997
- State Records Act 1998
- Freedom of Information Act 1989
- Privacy and Personal Information Protection Act 1998
- Evidence Act 1995
- Public Finance and Audit Act 1983
- Public Authorities (Financial Arrangements) Act 1987
- NSW Treasurer's Guidelines
- NSW Ombudsman's Guidelines
- Annual Reports (Statutory Bodies) Act 1984
- Mutual Recognition (New South Wales) Act 1992
- Occupational Health and Safety Act 2000
- Workers Compensation Acts 1987, 2000 & 2001

The activities and services provided by the Board include:

- Maintenance of the Register of Veterinary Surgeons
- Meetings of the Board
- General Business of the Board
- Licensing of Veterinary Hospitals
- Inspection of Veterinary Hospitals
- Investigation of complaints including administration of the Veterinary Surgeons Investigating

- Conduct of the disciplinary process
- Provide advice and direction to the veterinary profession with a view to maintaining high standards in veterinary services.

## **Accountability**

The Board acknowledges its responsibility to the Parliament through the Minister for Agriculture and is accountable to the Minister for Agriculture, the Veterinary profession and users of the Veterinary services in NSW for its actions.

The Veterinary Surgeons Investigating Committee (VSIC) is accountable to the public and the Veterinary profession in the discharge of its functions in a fair, just and timely manner.

## **Key Result Areas**

### **Relationships**

- To be recognized as an expert statutory corporation responsible for the regulation of the Veterinary profession in NSW and the maintenance of acceptable standards of Veterinary practice
- To act on behalf of the Minister, the Veterinary profession and users of the Veterinary services in promoting this level of expertise
- To liaise and co-operate with the AVBC and other State and Territory Boards on matters of mutual and global interest in the practice of Veterinary Science.

### **Policy Development**

- To advise and assist the Minister to develop a balanced policy for the regulation of the practice of Veterinary Science
- To create Board policies within the legislative framework for the assistance and guidance of the Veterinary profession
- To encourage a policy development process that proactively monitors changes in the practice of Veterinary Science and the expectations of Veterinary Surgeons and users of Veterinary services.

### **Customer Service**

- To maintain a very high level of service delivery based on current accurate and reliable information
- To ensure that all staff are appropriately trained and have resources available to enable them to provide that level of service
- To provide a very high level of support for members of the Board and the VSIC
- To maintain complete and accurate records of all the activities of the Board
- To develop standard operating procedures to provide consistency of operations and record-keeping.

## **Compliance Management**

- To ensure that the Board and its staff comply with all relevant legislation and guidelines
- To ensure compliance with the expectations of the Minister in the discharge of the functions and responsibilities of the Board
- To increase awareness and understanding by registered Veterinary Surgeons of the legislation affecting the performance of acts of Veterinary Science and maintenance of standards of Veterinary practice
- To ensure that the Board complies with audit and reporting requirements of relevant legislation including Records Management.

## **Financial Responsibility**

- To manage the finances and assets of the Board according to law
- To preserve and maintain a sound financial basis for the performance of the Board's functions and responsibilities.

## **Structure of the Organisation**

- A Chart showing the Administrative Structure of the Board is attached



## Administrative Structure of the Board and the Veterinary Surgeons Investigating Committee

