

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Agriculture and Environment Committee](#)
Subject: Hendra virus (HeV) EquiVacc® vaccine and its use by veterinary surgeons in Queensland-Submission
Date: Friday, 8 April 2016 7:51:23 AM

Hi There

I am writing to give my point of view on the controversy surrounding the Hendra Virus.

My wife is an Equine veterinarian living and working in Cairns, North Queensland. This region has been seen as a 'hot spot' for Hendra virus as I understand. Initially it was a stress to know that my wife was working in the equine vet industry and could be possibly be exposed to this virus during her daily work. As the vaccine finally was made available, that stress was relieved knowing there was a solution to the potential risk of contracting Hendra.

All of my wife's clients have been more than happy to get their horses vaccinated, I put this down to my wife having a great understanding of the vaccine as well as being a good communicator and being able to demonstrate the benefits to her clients.

As time went on, there became more and more nasty stories and personal attacks getting around on facebook. A lot of these appeared to be from people that were from either NSW or Victoria, where the risk of Hendra virus is a lot less. People that seemed to have more time on their hands than sense.

Some of these personal attacks resulted in a picture of my wife doing a dental on a horse being used in a post and it was taken out of context. My wife had become the target of attacks when she had nothing to do with the situation.

This issue has made it very difficult for my wife to concentrate on just being a Vet and doing her job properly. The constant stress of false stories relating to the effectiveness and potential 'side affects' of the vaccine have been depressing. I believe the foundation of the issue is that people do not want to be paying for another vaccine. If this vaccine was free for example, we wouldn't be hearing all of the negative stories of which we have been hearing. My wife has vaccinated hundreds of horses, and I would like it to be on the record that she has had no issues within her clientele.

Regards,

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