

To: Agriculture & Environment Committee
Parliament House
George Street
Brisbane QLD 4000

April 8, 2016

I am in full support of the Hendra Vaccine becoming compulsory for ALL horse owners.

As an owner of 3 horses, a mother of 3 children, a grandmother to 2 children and someone who works in the veterinary industry, I believe that it is my responsibility to vaccinate my horses. I chose to vaccinate not because I was forced into it but because I wished to protect my family, my friends, my work colleagues and my horses.

I am amazed at how the anti-vaccine people have had their voice heard so dramatically and yet the people who are doing the right thing to protect their family and friends are not heard. A loud voice is not necessarily always right.

All 3 of my horses have been vaccinated since the vaccine became available. All of which have had no reactions, one of these horses is a 30 year old warmblood. I have not known or heard of any horse that has legitimately died due to being vaccinated however I have heard of many cases of horses dying from Hendra Virus itself. It is unfortunate that the media and anti-vaccine groups are quick to blame the vaccine for the deaths of a horse that may very well have been harbouring a disease/illness prior to being vaccinated.

I have had written into my pony club that all horses MUST BE vaccinated for HEV prior before being accepted onto the property for an agistment spot. All of the agistees have accepted this and agreed this is best policy for our club.

I do believe that if there was some type of government subsidy given for the vaccines that a lot more people would be willing to vaccinate.

People are scared:

- They are scared of contracting Hendra Virus
- They are scared of the "so called" side effects of the Hendra Vaccine
- They are concerned about the overall cost involved with vaccinating
- They are scared that if they don't vaccinate their horse may not be treated
- Vets are scared of repercussions should they treat an unvaccinated horse and forget to put their PPE inside out or the wrong leg in first, or the owner fails to follow instructions.

In summary, I believe the vaccine works, I believe that people are scared, I believe the government should subsidise the vaccine as they did with EI.

I believe there are more people out there that are happy with the vaccine than those that are not. Unfortunately the unhappy ones have a louder voice.

[Redacted signature]

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