

19th April 2016

The Agriculture and Environment Committee Hendra Vaccine Inquiry
C/- Mr Rob Hansen
Parliament House
Brisbane Queensland 4000
Phone: 07 3553 6660

By email: robert.hansen@parliament.qld.gov.au

Dear Mr Hansen,

RE: Veterinarian Submission to Hendra virus Vaccine Inquiry

My name is Felicity Boughen, and I am a veterinary nurse and a horse owner located at WestVETS Animal Hospitals, Queensland. I have been in veterinary practice for 9 years. I wish to address the following Terms of Reference in the Qld Parliament's Hendra virus Vaccine Inquiry:

- The incidence and impact of adverse reactions by horses following vaccination and the reporting of adverse reactions

I have vaccinated my own horses with Equivac HeV and they have suffered no adverse reaction to the vaccine following the administration of multiple doses. As a veterinary nurse in a busy nine vet practice I communicate on a daily basis with equine clients. The vets in our practice have administered more than seven thousand doses of the vaccine and I received no complaints or concerns about serious adverse reactions. The majority of our clients who vaccinate do so because they acknowledge the serious risk associated with Hendra virus and the difficulty in mitigating this risk without the aid of vaccination.

I am aware of social media sites such as the 'Say no to Hendra' Facebook page I follow the communication on this page and would like to bring to your attention that the administrators of this page fail to provide balanced educated information about the vaccination. Claims of serious adverse reaction are overstated without evidence. Negative posts are actively encouraged however, posts in favour of vaccination are often removed by the administrators or the person that posting in favour is often ridiculed for such statements. The number of people actively posting on this page are limited to just a handful that repeatedly post and they often post derogatory information about veterinarians.

As a veterinary nurse I experience the concerns of Hendra Virus and its cascading effects to all of the staff here. We regularly treat sick & unwell horses with the potential of being exposed to a fatal virus that is preventable via vaccination. The introduction of the vaccine has assisted our practice in providing us to feel both safe & self-assured that we are protected against such a deadly virus. I understand that the vaccine does not negate the requirement for PPE & to maintain other biosecurity practices to our practices standard.

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]
Felicity Boughen – Managing Nurse
WestVETS Animal Hospitals

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