

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Agriculture and Environment Committee](#)  
**Subject:** Submission in Regards to Hendra Virus (HeV) EquiVacc Vaccine  
**Date:** Thursday, 21 April 2016 2:56:54 PM

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To the Members of the Parliamentary Committees,

Submissions to the Queensland Government in relation to the Hendra Virus (HeV) EquiVacc  
I am a qualified Stock Inspector. I have worked with and in the Department of Primary Industry and in a well known horse Veterinary Hospital, where one of my primary tasks was performing horse autopsies (prior to Hendra). I now own and run a large cattle station with my husband and three boys in North Queensland. We have numerous working horses and horse breeding stock. We also compete in several horse disciplines.

I would like to make a submission in relation to the Hendra Virus. Initially I would like to point out some facts relating to a Zoonotic disease and the preventions of Zoonotic Diseases.

Q Fever is also a zoonotic disease – infected animals sheds the bacteria into the environment in urine, milk, blood and faeces where it is transmitted to humans (the same way Hendra is transferred)

Hendra as we know is another zoonotic disease – infected horse pass the virus through nasal discharge blood and saliva or urine where it is transmitted to humans.

In 2003 – 2004 there were (tragically) 4 deaths recorded in the underlying cause of death was coded as Q Fever

Since 1994 when Hendra was first recorded there has been tragically 4 human lives lost. In 2001 - 2006 the government sponsored a National Q Fever Management Program and vaccine for Q Fever was administered to humans. This vaccine is still available and constantly use in at risk industries and available to the public through their doctor.

(I am not suggesting the Government sponsor a Hendra (human) vaccination program)

What I am suggesting is that we should be aiming to produce a vaccine for humans. I for one would feel compelled to vaccinate our children and ourselves against this virus.

We did not try and vaccinate the cattle for Q Fever and the government pushed for the vaccine to be produced due to lack of production (unlike the probable critical loss of life, possible from Hendra).

Secondly in relation to the persons at risk of Hendra.

There is a belief that Veterinarians are the primary person at risk in relation to Hendra Virus, however the first two victims to loss their live to Hendra where a horse trainer and a Mackay Farmer.

The horse industry has numerous person who come in contact with horses and could be potentially at risk of infection:

Horse trainers (in all disciplines racing, trotting, eventing, dressage, jumping, cutting, reining, campdrafting, pony club, endurance, western pleasure, rodeo contractors ect )

Jockeys

Horse Rider

Horse Owners

Veterinarians and veterinary assistants

Farriers

Equine dentists  
Strappers  
Feed delivery merchants  
Punters at the races  
Horse Breeders  
Stud Workers  
Stablehands  
Circus owners, trainer and people going to see the Animals  
Riding School  
Graziers  
Ringers/Jackaroos  
Stock inspectors

Not to mention the recreational horse movement which involves thousands of people with backyard horses.

WorkPlace Health & Safety have prosecuted Vets in relation to PPE. However any people in contact with a horse is at risk of contracting the virus. There are thousands for employees in a horse related employment, thus at risk every day. Many of these persons would not be able to recognize the early symptoms of Hendra. As it may present, as a horse, that it just lethargic.

We need a vaccine available for humans. I want to know that my horse loving children can come in contact with any horse, any where and be safe and that I am safe when I go to help a down horse in the paddock or anywhere.

When is this vaccine going to be available and safe for human? At the moment we are treating the wrong mammal. We should be aiming to protect the human against contracting the virus, just like we do for Q-Fever and other Zoonotic diseases.

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Reference:

<http://www.health.gov.au/internet/publications/publishing.nsf/Content/cda-cdi31suppl.htm~cda-cdi31suppl-3.htm~cda-cdi31suppl-3l.htm>

<http://www.immunise.health.gov.au/internet/immunise/publishing.nsf/Content/Handbook10-home~handbook10part4~handbook10-4-15>