

21 April 2016

The Agriculture and Environment Committee Hendra Vaccine Inquiry
Parliament House
Brisbane
Queensland 4000
By email: aec@parliament.qld.gov.au

Dear AEC Committee Members,

RE: Submission to the Qld Parliament's Hendra virus Vaccine Inquiry



My name is Brendan Briefies, and I am a veterinarian working at the Clermont Veterinary Surgery. I work in a mixed practice where we deal with horses on a day to day basis. My family also own a horse stud near Mackay. Dealing with horses on a day to day basis there is an added element of stress while animals are seen that are unvaccinated for Hendra virus.

The recent prosecution of a Vet in QLD I feel were very harsh. Based on this prosecution it makes it difficult to see an animal that possibly could have Hendra, which is any sick unvaccinated animal, and leave the horse in the owners care, because we as veterinarians are responsible for that horse in our care. We can warn owners and make them aware of the risks, but we cannot control what they do. It makes it very hard to see these animals and leave when Workplace Health and QLD prosecute so harshly.

The impact of Workplace Health and Safety, especially considering the recent prosecution of veterinarians when treating a horse with Hendra is a worrying factor. Preventing this being an issue is to further promote use of the vaccine. Until 100% of horses are vaccinated the virus cannot be eradicated and we as veterinarians and horse owners will be at a risk.

The animals that I have vaccinated with Hendra virus vaccine have not shown any major adverse effects, and talking to owners that vaccinate, they do not have a problem with horses after vaccinating. My family who own a horse stud vaccinate their horses and I have seen firsthand there are no major adverse effects with vaccination in these horses. The idea of vaccination not only protects the horse, it also protects owners and their small children, as well as veterinarians, making the mixed or equine practice so much less stressful.

Yours sincerely,


Dr Brendan Briefies BVSc
Clermont Veterinary Surgery,  Clermont QLD 4721
