

15 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 Dr Kate Averay, and I am an equine veterinarian located at Redlands Veterinary Clinic, Queensland. As a 2015 graduate, this is my first year in veterinary practice. 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 and economic impacts of the Hendra vaccine.
- The development, trials and approval processes of the vaccine
- Who bears the risks of HeV infection and who incurs the costs and receives the benefits from each risk mitigation option.

So far this year I have administered Hendra virus vaccines to more than 60 horses. I have received no reports from any of these clients of adverse reactions to the vaccine.

I have no concerns regarding the safety, efficacy and reliability of the Hendra virus vaccine.

As a new graduate, my decision to take an equine position in Queensland was heavily influenced by the reassurance that a vaccine against Hendra virus was available. For veterinarians working in high Hendra-risk areas, the vaccine enables equine practice to continue without fear of being exposed to the or legally persecuted.

I believe vaccination is vital to reduce the risk of an outbreak of Hendra virus at equestrian events. Holding events with unvaccinated horses risks the health of not only the horse and rider combinations competing , but also the organisers, spectators, paramedics and veterinarians attending the event.

Yours sincerely,

Dr Kate Averay B.Sc, D.V.M
Redlands Veterinary Clinic

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