

**Submission to the Qld Parliament's Hendra virus Vaccine Inquiry.**

**Equestrian Coordinator**

**Stuartholme School**



**Toowong, Q 4066**

**27<sup>th</sup> April 2016**

To the Chairman, the Hon GA Butcher MP, and the committee members and Environment Committee

Dear Sirs,

Stuartholme School has had a competitive Equestrian team for 26 years and has been heavily involved in all Equestrian disciplines within the Interschool association to which we are affiliated.

We encourage participation from all interested riders from year 7 to 12, inclusive of boarders and riders with a disability. The sport inherently promotes self-discipline, loyalty, independence, team cohesion, time management and empathy and the well-being of each horse is central to the individual's enjoyment, learning, horsemanship and understanding of all things Equestrian. It is a very highly regarded sport within the school's co-curricula organisation.

On behalf of the school, as the coordinator of Equestrian and also a long standing teacher of Physical Education at Stuartholme, I recognise that the health and safety of the riders from every aspect is paramount. I accept without question that all our riders must be protected from all possible adverse instances that are associated with this demanding sport.

With the knowledge that Zoetis has developed an accepted vaccine which can not only protect and save a horse from excruciating pain and possible death, but also, the rider/owner from contracting the disease it would be very remiss not to recognise the benefits of the vaccine. Our current school stance is that to be a member of the team and attend training camps all the team's horses are to be vaccinated as per the current regulations. The provision of a Horse Health Declaration form is also mandatory for all camps and competitions. This protects our riders, parents, associated coaches, judges and Veterinarians from possible infection which gives them the confidence that they are safe when they are working with our horses. It also allows the team to train / compete at any venue or ground and safe in the knowledge that they cannot be quarantined.

Strangles and Tetanus are both insidious illnesses which have through annual injections been lessened if not eradicated. The introduction of the Hendra Vaccine can only support and ratify the general and accepted bio security obligations ensuring that our young riders are safe and correctly cared for within our extensive duty of care.

We are grateful for the Hendra virus vaccine and hope that it can be further developed.

Anna Starosta

Equestrian Coordinator

Stuartholme School