



Veterinary Surgeons Board of Queensland

Primary Industries Building
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Our Reference:

Address Correspondence to:

The Registrar
Veterinary Surgeons Board of Qld
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16 July 2013

The Honourable Ian Rickuss MP
Member for Lockyer
Chair
Agriculture, Resources and Environment Committee
Parliament House
George Street
Brisbane Qld 4000

Dear Mr Rickuss

The Agriculture and Forestry Legislation Amendment Bill 2013

Thank you for the opportunity for the Veterinary Surgeons Board of Queensland (the Board) to make a submission in relation to the *Agriculture and Forestry Legislation Amendment Bill 2013* (the Bill).

Background information

In accordance with Part 3, Section 16 of the *Veterinary Surgeons Act 1936* (the Act), the Board collects detailed information from veterinarians for the purpose of registration. This detail includes a postal address, an email address, a business address, a contact telephone number and a mobile telephone number.

Currently the Board provides this detail to Biosecurity Queensland for the purpose of emergency disease response and preparedness. Registrants are notified on application for registration that their details will be provided to the Department for this purpose (sample of application form attached).

Currently 2923 veterinarians are registered to practice in Queensland. This number includes 257 (8.8%) registrants with secondary registration (i.e. primary registration in another jurisdiction) and 92 (3.1%) registrants who are currently practising overseas.

Currently 89.5% of the registrants have provided their email address and 74% have provided a mobile contact number. This information can be provided to Biosecurity Queensland on request within minutes. However it is Board policy to also provide this information to Biosecurity Queensland after each Board meeting, where the list is updated with new registrants who were ratified by the Board and the list is updated, taking into account any registrants being removed from the Register of Veterinary Surgeons and Specialists. The purpose of this is to ensure Biosecurity Queensland have the most up to date list available and ready for use at any given time.

The Board currently provides Biosecurity Queensland with registrants' email addresses as this is the detail that is routinely requested by Biosecurity Queensland in the event of an emergency disease outbreak. A list of registrant's mobile phone numbers can also be provided within minutes to ensure that Biosecurity Queensland has access to both.

While it is true that currently this information can only be obtained by requesting it from the Registrar, there is little change to the information available between Board meetings so the Department is always in possession of the most up-to-date email list for immediate use. As mentioned above, a list of mobile telephone numbers can also be provided after Board meetings to enhance the Department's emergency response capability however this information has not been requested by the Department.

The Board therefore does not agree that access to this information continues to be limited.

Clauses 79 - 91

The Board supports the clauses related to the National Recognition of Veterinary Registration (NRVR) i.e. 79 to 91 of the Bill.

Clause 92

The Board continues to have concerns with this clause as it incorporates a penalty provision (despite the assurance that the decision to prosecute was discretionary based on policy) and requires the potential diversion of statutory fees for purposes other than those that accord with the purpose of the Act.

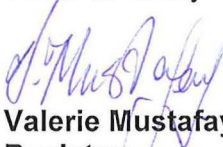
The Board also wishes to highlight that if the National Recognition of Veterinary Registration (NRVR) provisions are legislated then a significant proportion of veterinarians "deemed" to be registered (i.e. with primary registration in another State or Territory) and working in Queensland will not be immediately contactable as they will not be compelled under this clause to provide their emergency contact details.

Clause 93

In addition to the previously discussed measures taken to ensure Biosecurity Queensland has access to registrant's details, the Board has requested the Department apply enhancements to the Register of Veterinary Surgeons and Specialists' database to allow for third party access to information, specifically for Biosecurity Queensland to access those details required for emergency response and preparedness.

The Board believes that once Biosecurity Queensland receives this information from the Board, it is incumbent upon them to ensure the information is managed appropriately including the sharing of this information to other Government agencies for the purpose of emergency disease alerts and preparedness.

Yours sincerely



Valerie Mustafay

Registrar
Veterinary Surgeons Board of Queensland

**Application for Registration
as a Veterinary Surgeon**

Applicant Details (Please Print)

Family Name: Given Names: Date of Birth: .. / .. / ..

Residential Address: Suburb/Town:

State/Country: Postcode:

Mobile Number: Email:

Details of qualifications held in veterinary science:

Degree, Diploma or Certificate	School, College or University	Date Obtained
..... / .. / ..
..... / .. / ..

Are you currently enrolled or registered as a veterinary surgeon outside Queensland? yes no
If yes, please give details.

Have you ever been removed from any register of veterinary surgeons either at your own request or otherwise? yes no
If yes, please give details.

Registration Details

* Registration Category: Primary Secondary

Registration required from: .. / .. / ..

Business Name and Address (for Publication):

Nominate Postal Address (from required date of registration):

Residential address above Business address above Other:

Information Privacy Notice (Information Privacy Act 2009) The Veterinary Surgeons Board of Queensland is collecting the information on this form to enter in the Register of Veterinary Surgeons (and Specialists where applicable). The information is authorised by section 16 of the Veterinary Surgeons Act 1936. This information will only be accessed by authorised officers within the Board. Some information may be given to State and Commonwealth government agencies for the purpose of animal health emergency response and preparedness. Your information will not be disclosed to any other parties unless authorised or required by law.

Declaration

I declare that: - (a) I am the person named in this application;
(b) the particulars set out in this application are true and correct; and
(c) there are no matters of unprofessional conduct or criminal proceedings outstanding against me.

Signature of Applicant

Witness

Signed before me at on .. / .. / .. Signature

Occupation Address

* Primary Registration – Majority of practice and reside in Qld * Secondary Registration – Majority of practice and reside in another state/territory

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Received: \$ Date: .. / .. / ..

Initials:

Notes:

Cert No Issued: