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Veterinary Practitioners
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4 August 2021

Dr Andrew Whale
Sheep, Camelid & Goat Veterinarians special interest group
Australian Veterinary Association
By email to: freya.herschel@ava.com.au, cc: andrew.whale@apiam.com.au

Dear Andrew

RE: Urgent call for sheep management medications to be made more accessible to the industry

The correspondence received from you on behalf of the Australian Veterinary Association's Sheep Camelid & Goat Veterinarians special interest group (SCGV SIG) was tabled at the most recent meeting of the Veterinary Practitioners Registration Board of Victoria (VPRBV, the Board) on 15 July 2021. Given that this was after the executive of the AVA's SCGV SIG had met, the Board was not in a position to participate in that meeting.

VPRBV draws the attention of SCGV SIG members to the latest version of the VPRBV's guidelines for appropriate standards of veterinary practice and veterinary facilities, which will be relevant to the proposal you have put forward. This version of the VPRBV's Guidelines came into effect on 1 May 2021. It should be considered as an entire document, but I would highlight Guidelines 1, 2, 4, 7, 11, 13, 14, 20 and 23 as being particularly applicable to the issues raised by the SCGV SIG in its letter and email submissions to the Board.

Your members also need to act within the frameworks provided by other legislation, including the *Drugs Poisons & Controlled Substances Act 1981* and Regulations (2017), the *Agricultural and Veterinary Chemicals Act 1992* and Regulations (2017), and the *Prevention of Cruelty to Animal Act 1986*; as contravening any other legislation may be considered unprofessional conduct under the *Veterinary Practice Act 1997* (VPA). Relevant legislation is referenced throughout the latest version of the VPRBV's Guidelines.

Please note that the VPRBV's Guidelines and the Board's powers under the VPA apply only to veterinary practitioners who provide services to clients in Victoria. The Board does not have jurisdiction in other States and Territories, so the information provided in this letter does not extend to provision of services in other parts of Australia.

I trust that this letter provides further guidance to the AVA's SCGV SIG members as to how they may provide services in keeping with the expectations in the VPRBV's Guidelines and the requirements of the *Veterinary Practice Act 1997*.

Yours sincerely

David Colson
Deputy President
Veterinary Practitioners Registration Board of Victoria

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