

27 March 2015

Mr Shane Rattenbury
Minister for Territory and Municipal Services
GPO Box 1020
Canberra ACT 2601

Dear Minister Rattenbury,

Re: Draft ACT Veterinary Practitioners Act

I am writing regarding the development of a new stand-alone Veterinary Practitioners Act in the Australian Capital Territory. I understand that a draft is currently being prepared by your Department, and I request that a copy be made available to the Australian Veterinary Association (AVA) so that we may provide input and advice prior to its finalisation.

The AVA is the national organisation representing veterinarians in Australia. Our 8500 members come from all fields within the veterinary profession. Clinical practitioners work with companion animals and horses, with animals used for food and fibre production, such as cattle, sheep, poultry, and fish, and with exotic animals and wildlife. Government veterinarians work with our animal health, public health and quarantine systems while other members work in industry for pharmaceutical and other commercial enterprises. We have members who work in research and teaching in a range of scientific disciplines. Veterinary students are also members of the Association.

The veterinary profession has a clear interest in effective veterinary regulation which seeks to achieve national consistency, ensure optimal animal welfare outcomes and protect animal owners. To this end, the AVA has developed a set of key principles for veterinary practice and registration legislation in Australia, and these have been made available to your Department by the ACT Veterinary Surgeons' Board during the drafting process

We would be grateful for an opportunity to comment on the draft legislation before it is tabled and would be happy to meet with members of your Department to facilitate this process. The AVA will also be pleased to provide further comment during the consultation process for the development of any associated subordinate legislation.

Yours sincerely

Dr Julia Nicholls

President, Australian Veterinary Association