

The Australian Veterinary Association Limited

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New South Wales Division

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Tuesday, 23 June 2015

The Hon. Walt Secord, MLC
Parliament House
Macquarie Street
Sydney NSW 2000

Dear Hon Walt Secord,

The Australian Veterinary Association (AVA) is the national organisation representing veterinarians in Australia. Our 8500 members come from all fields within the veterinary profession.

The AVA is concerned that the proposed Health Practitioners Regulation (Adoption of National Law) Amendment (Unqualified Surgeons) Bill 2015 will have unacceptable, unintended consequences for the veterinary profession.

Veterinarians routinely perform surgical procedures on their veterinary patients. The words "surgery" and "surgeon" are commonly used within the veterinary profession. Veterinary practitioners are regulated under the Veterinary Practice Act 2003 (The Act). The word "surgery" is used throughout the Act, including clauses 11(3)(a) and 14(4)(a) which restrict the term "veterinary surgeon" to registered veterinary practitioners.

The words "veterinary surgery" and "veterinary surgeons" are commonly used within registered business names applied to veterinary practices; with 31 practices in NSW presently licenced under the Veterinary Practice Act 2003 containing the word "surgery" or "surgeon" in their titles.

The AVA requests the amendment of the proposed Bill to allow the use of the words "veterinary surgery" or "veterinary surgeon" by those registered as veterinary practitioners under the Veterinary Practice Act 2003.

Kind regards

Geoff Scarlett
President of the NSW Division
Australian Veterinary Association