

Submission to the review of the *Statutory Declarations Regulations 1993*

Your details

Name/organisation <i>(if you are providing a submission on behalf of an organisation, please provide the name of a contact person)</i>	Australian Veterinary Association Ltd Contact: Deborah Neutze AVA Policy Manager
Contact details <i>(one or all of the following: postal address, email address or phone number)</i>	Unit 40, 6 Herbert Street, St Leonards 2065 debbie.neutze@ava.com.au 02 9431 5000

Publication of submissions

The Attorney-General's preference is for submissions to be submitted via email to statdec.review@ag.gov.au. The following formats are preferred:

- Microsoft Word
- PDF
- Rich Text Formal (RTF)

Please limit individual file size to less than 5MB.

Confidentiality

Submissions received will be published on the Statutory Declarations Review webpage, except where requests have been made to keep them confidential or where they relate to particular cases or personal information.

Would you prefer this submission to remain confidential? NO

Your submission

Please note that your submission may address the questions in the call for submissions or a letter you received. Submissions should be no more than two pages long.

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

We recommend that registered **veterinary surgeons should continue to be included as authorised witnesses** in the occupations listed in Schedule 2 the Statutory Declarations Regulations.

The reasons that veterinarians should continue to be included as authorised witnesses are:

- Most towns in Australia have a local veterinarian who is a trusted member of the community. There are presently around 11,500 registered veterinarians distributed widely throughout Australia, including in rural and remote areas.
- Veterinarians are a professional group of individuals who adhere to ethical standards. Veterinary professional codes of conduct define and demand high standards of behaviour in respect to the services provided to the public.
- State and territory veterinary boards enforce these codes of professional conduct.