



2025 FEDERAL ELECTION PRIORITIES



The Australian Veterinary Association (AVA) is the peak body representing the veterinary profession in Australia.

Veterinarians are highly regarded, trusted community members.

The AVA has provided a united voice for the veterinary profession for over 100 years and is committed to championing and empowering the veterinary profession to thrive.

INDUSTRY SNAPSHOT



Assisting
16 million
Australian
pet owners



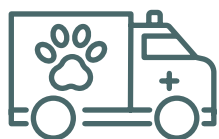
Supporting food
security for
26 million
Australians



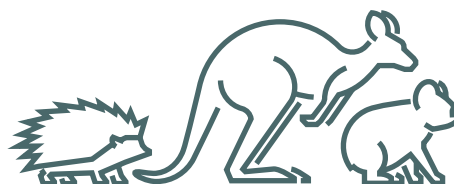
**Securing
428,000 jobs**
in Australian
livestock
industries¹



**Servicing
communities**
across Australia



**Emergency
care** for hundreds
of thousands of wild
animals every year



**Helping
protect**
Australia's
iconic species

¹ Meat and Livestock Australia State of the Industry Report 2022



TOP PRIORITIES



The Australian Veterinary Association (AVA) has identified five urgent priorities to safeguard animal health and welfare, biosecurity, public safety, and the wellbeing of the Australian veterinary workforce.

The following priorities call for policies, investment, and funding to secure a sustainable and resilient veterinary sector:

- 1. ROBUST WORKFORCE**
- 2. MENTAL HEALTH FOR VETS**
- 3. PUBLIC GOOD FUNDING**
- 4. VETS FOR TOMORROW**
- 5. ANIMAL HEALTH AND WELFARE**

Veterinary services help secure Australia's animal health and livestock supply chain, protecting hundreds of thousands of jobs nationwide and easing cost of living pressures through a safe and reliable food supply.

Vets also protect the mental health and wellbeing of Australia's pet owning population, ensuring a strong human animal bond.



1

ROBUST WORKFORCE

INVESTMENT

- > **\$5.76 million per year for a Commitment to Rural Practice Scheme forgiving HECS-HELP debt.**
- > Inclusion of veterinary sector into existing whole of government rural subsidy schemes.
- > Investment to develop a National Veterinary Workforce Strategy.

WHY

Rural and Regional areas need veterinary support to survive and attract their broader workforce.

- > A HECS-HELP forgiveness scheme will get new veterinarians to regional areas.
- > Rural support schemes (like childcare) will help keep the veterinarians there as their families grow.
- > Match visa requirements for veterinarians to those in human medicine including lifting the cap for permanent residency and amending working holiday visa requirements for single employers.



2

MENTAL HEALTH FOR VETS

INVESTMENT

- > **\$2.1 million per year for 4 years to fund veterinary mental health and wellness initiatives.**

WHY

- > Australia needs resilient vets to support the community, livestock, and food production.
- > Veterinarians are at high risk of poor mental health and have little to no access to industry-specific programs and assistance.



3

PUBLIC GOOD FUNDING

INVESTMENT

- > **\$7.5 million per year for 4 years for a pilot program providing treatment for wildlife from private vets.**
- > Expand the Sentinel Surveillance Program to all private vet clinics that treat wildlife.
- > Create a national animal disaster fund to pay private vets caring for animals during natural disasters.
- > Fund a strategy and pilot program to support people experiencing vulnerabilities, requiring respite care or urgent health care for their animals.

WHY

- > Vets provide vital public services despite little government funding, placing financial and resourcing strain on private veterinary services for the community.
- > Vets provide biosecurity surveillance, care for animals during natural disasters and treatment of injured wildlife, often without payment.



4

VETS FOR TOMORROW

INVESTMENT

- > **\$9.5 million per year to include veterinary students in the Commonwealth Prac Payment scheme.**
- > Increase funding rate per veterinary Equivalent Full-Time Student Load (EFTSL) by at least 30 per cent to cover more of the cost of training a vet.

WHY

- > It takes at least 5–7 years to train a new vet.
- > This, along with strain on the education sector, makes it difficult to adjust the number of new vets being trained to meet essential community needs across biosecurity, food safety and animal health and welfare.





5

ANIMAL HEALTH AND WELFARE

INVESTMENT

- > **\$5 million per year for a national veterinary antibiotic usage and resistance surveillance system.**
- > Fund an incentive scheme for livestock producers to engage vets to improve animal health and welfare and biosecurity.
- > Continue renewing the Australian Animal Welfare Strategy.

WHY

- > Australia's world-leading standards underpin the success of our livestock industries and the food security of our nation.
- > Animal related industries require a social licence to operate.
- > The acceptance and approval of these industries by the community is contingent on the premise that animal health and welfare is maintained to high standards.
- > Veterinarians are essential in ensuring high standards of animal health and welfare.



VETERINARY IMPACT

Pet care expenditure⁵

\$33.2bn



Dogs **\$20.5bn**

Cats **\$9.1bn**



Revenue of Australian
Veterinary industry³

\$5.6bn

Veterinary Businesses
(Practices) in Australia¹

3,651

The Veterinary
sector employs:

29,008 people⁴

15,816 vets

with total wages \$2bn⁶

The gross value of fisheries
and aquaculture¹²



\$4bn



Livestock disposals and
livestock products¹¹

\$32.2bn

\$13.9bn (43.2%)
for cattle and calves

\$4.1bn (12.7%)
for sheep and lambs

\$3.6bn (11.2%)
for poultry

\$1.5bn (4.7%)
for pigs

\$3.0bn (9.3%)
for wool

\$6.1bn (18.9%)
for milk

The gross revenue
of racing
(horse and greyhound)¹³

\$4.6bn



1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 12, 13 IBISWorld 2024

5 Animal Medicines Australia 2022

11 Australian Bureau of Statistics 2022-2023

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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