

Review of veterinary practice in the ACT

Today, the ACT Government started a review into veterinary practice in the ACT. This includes a statutory review of the *Veterinary Practice Act 2018* to ensure the Act is meeting its objectives and to identify possible areas for improvement.

The *Veterinary Practice Act 2018* regulates veterinary services within the ACT to ensure:

- vet services are focused on the welfare and protection of animals
- vet practitioners provide services professionally and competently
- consumers are well informed about the competencies required of veterinarians
- premises at which vet services are provided are of an acceptable standard
- vet services in the ACT meet community standards as well as national and international requirements
- public health is protected.

The review will evaluate the suitability of the current rules and processes for registering vets and vet premises including how we recognise vets from other jurisdictions. It will also assess the appropriateness of current complaints handling processes and disciplinary proceedings as well as ensure the lists of restricted and unrestricted acts of veterinary science align with industry practice, training and codes of practice.

During the review Canberrans and key stakeholders are also being invited to consider a broad range of issues that impact veterinary practice in the ACT via an online discussion paper. One of the key issues the discussion paper raises is how we can all better support the mental health and wellbeing of veterinary staff, including by providing appropriate training, mentoring and support.

Other issues the Government is seeking feedback on include how we can better support vulnerable pet owners. Some of the options being explored include respite services, support during times of crisis, mobile vet services and subsidised vet care, desexing and boarding.

To learn more about the review and provide feedback, please visit <https://www.yoursayconversations.act.gov.au/veterinary-practice-review>

We would greatly appreciate your help in promoting this consultation within your networks and look forward to your feedback. Consultation closes 2 July 2024.