

VSANZ media release

1 September 2022

Independent Review of Veterinary Education in Australasia

Veterinary Schools of Australia and New Zealand (VSANZ) has commissioned an independent expert review of the veterinary science education capability of Australia and New Zealand.

VSANZ comprises the eight veterinary schools of Australia and New Zealand, who work together to advance veterinary education and research in the region.

“There has been much discussion globally in recent years about future directions for veterinary education and the accreditation system that safeguards it”, said Chair of VSANZ, Professor Nigel Perkins.

“Last year, VSANZ undertook to commission a comprehensive review of veterinary education in Australia and New Zealand. I am pleased to announce that this review has now commenced.”

According to Professor Perkins, the global veterinary profession faces enormous challenges meeting the growing needs of farmers, pet owners and governments to safeguard biosecurity, animal welfare and population health.

“These well-documented challenges have been building for many years, but COVID-19 has brought them into focus and added urgency to calls for major strategic change to the way Australia and New Zealand approach veterinary education, research, regulation and service delivery”, he said.

The review will examine:

1. The key skills, knowledge and attributes that veterinarians will need in the next decade;
2. The key challenges and opportunities faced by veterinary schools in Australia and New Zealand, options for structural reform to make schools financially sustainable, and the opportunity to develop a new kind of professional Australian and/or New Zealand veterinary qualification with modularisation/specialisation options; and
3. The strength of research performance of Australasian veterinary schools and the nexus between a school’s research capability and its capacity to educate veterinarians suited to the modern workforce.

The full Terms of Reference for the review are available on the VSANZ website at <https://vsanz.org/review-of-veterinary-education/>.

The review is being conducted by an expert panel comprising:

Dr Helen Scott-Orr AM PSM (Chair) – former Chief Veterinary Officer of NSW, Hon. Associate Professor University of Sydney and Australian Inspector-General of Biosecurity;

Professor Grant Guilford – former Head of the Institute of Veterinary, Animal and Biomedical Sciences, Massey University and Vice-Chancellor of Victoria University of Wellington, current Chair of the New Zealand Veterinary Association; and

Professor Susan Rhind – Principal Fellow of the Higher Education Academy, Chair of Veterinary Medical Education and Director of Veterinary Teaching at the Royal (Dick) School of Veterinary Studies, University of Edinburgh.

“I am very pleased with the calibre of the individuals who have agreed to assist with the review, and I am confident they will deliver a robust report presenting genuine ideas for reform of veterinary education”, Professor Perkins said.

Chair of the Review, Dr Helen Scott-Orr said, “a discussion paper has been drafted by the review panel and will now be distributed to relevant stakeholders”.

“The discussion paper aims to canvass stakeholder ideas on if and how veterinary education needs to change to meet the foreseen demands of the next decade and beyond.”

Submissions to the review are required by close of business on **Friday, 28 October 2022** and should be emailed to veteducationreview@vsanz.org.

Further details about the review, including the Discussion Document, can be found at <https://vsanz.org/review-of-veterinary-education> or by contacting the review secretariat at veteducationreview@vsanz.org.

It is hoped that the review will be completed by end-2022.

All enquiries: Bernard Rupasinghe, Review Secretariat, 0408 234 344, veteducationreview@vsanz.org.