

Veterinary Board of Tasmania

Annual Report
2012-2013



The Annual Report of the Veterinary Board of Tasmania submitted in accordance with section 6 of the *Veterinary Surgeons Act 1987*.

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Veterinary Board of Tasmania

Annual Report 2012-13

Preamble

The *Veterinary Surgeons Act 1987* provides for the registration of veterinary surgeons, the regulation of the practice of veterinary surgery and incidental matters.

The Veterinary Board of Tasmania consists of five members appointed by the Minister for Primary Industries and Water. One member is nominated by the Minister, another is a registered veterinary surgeon employed in the Department Of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment (DPIPWE) and nominated by the Secretary. The remaining three members are appointed from a panel of five registered veterinary surgeons nominated by the Australian Veterinary Association (Tasmanian Division) (AVA Tas).

Primary functions of the Board are:-

- to maintain and review standards for registration of veterinary surgeons, veterinary specialists, and veterinary service companies;
- to ensure that registered veterinary surgeons and registered veterinary specialists provide veterinary services in a competent manner;
- to arrange, where it thinks necessary and in such manner as it thinks appropriate, for the examination of persons seeking to become registered;
- to arrange, where it thinks necessary, for the inspection of veterinary establishments; and
- to hear and determine any inquiry under Part VI (Disciplinary Proceedings) of the Act.

The Board may also approve qualifications for persons seeking to become registered (s5A); and, by notice, may declare veterinary service standards (s5B).

The Board

Between 1 July 2012 and 1 November 2012 the Board members were:

Dr Neil Leighton (Chair)	AVA Tas nominee
Dr Neale Ward (Deputy Chair)	AVA Tas nominee
Dr Malcolm Waterston	AVA Tas nominee
Dr Kevin Ellard	Nominee of the Secretary DPIPWE
Ms Jo Bradley	Nominee of the Minister

The members' terms of office expired in November 2012. The following members were appointed for a 3 year term commencing on 2 November 2012:

Dr Neil Leighton (Chair)	AVA Tas nominee
Dr Neale Ward (Deputy Chair)	AVA Tas nominee
Dr Tessa Frazer-Oakley	AVA Tas nominee
Dr Kevin Ellard	Nominee of the Secretary DPIPWE
Ms Jo Bradley	Nominee of the Minister

Meetings

During the year the Board met on the following occasions:

Meeting Number	Date	Meeting Type	Location	No. members
94	26 July 2012	General	Launceston	5
95	27 Sept. 2012	General	Launceston	5
96	29 Nov. 2012	General	Launceston	5
97	20 March 2013	General	Hobart	5
98	16 May 2013	General	Launceston	5

Meet the Board – Meet the Profession meetings

The new Board held “Meet the Board – Meet the Profession Meetings” for veterinary surgeons in Hobart on 20 March 2013 and in Launceston on 16 May 2013. A third meeting will be held in the north western region later in 2013.

A range of topics were discussed at the meetings, including the recent amendments to the *Veterinary Surgeons Act and Regulations*, implications of national recognition of veterinary registration, continuing education, practice inspections and the Veterinary Standards.

Registrar

The Board is provided with a contracted secretariat service which includes the services of the registrar appointed by the Board.

The *Veterinary Surgeons Act 1987* and *Veterinary Surgeons Regulations 2012*

The *Veterinary Surgeons Act 1987* was amended by the *Veterinary Surgeons Amendment Act 2011* as from 12 December 2012. The *Veterinary Surgeons Regulations 2004* were revoked and replaced by the *Veterinary Surgeons Regulations 2012* on the same day.

The changes to the Act have significant implications for the operation and functions of the Board.

The changes to the Act and Regulations include:

- applying national recognition of veterinary registration in Tasmania;
- providing that the Board may approve fees under the Act;
- changing the due date for the annual renewal fee;
- changes to the definition of 'veterinary services';
- expanding the list of services that are not veterinary services;
- providing that the Board may declare veterinary service standards, including rules of conduct;
- allowing overseas trained vets who are studying for their National Veterinary Examination and researchers at licensed institutions to provide veterinary services in certain circumstances; and
- applying legal obligations to veterinary services partnerships (similar to those applying to veterinary services companies).

1. National Recognition of Veterinary Registration (NRVR)

Tasmania has joined New South Wales and Victoria with national recognition of veterinary registration (NRVR).

1.1 Tasmanian vets visiting NSW and Victoria

Tasmanian registered veterinary surgeons who hold primary registration in Tasmania and maintain their residency and registration in Tasmania but travel to work in New South Wales and Victoria on a part-time or locum basis do not require secondary registration in those two states.

1.2 Interstate vets visiting Tasmania for locum/short term placements

Similarly, visiting interstate registered veterinary surgeons and veterinary specialists who undertake short term visits or locum placements in Tasmania are no longer required to hold secondary or short term specific purpose registration for their practice in Tasmania. Their interstate registration is automatically 'recognised' for the purpose of practising in Tasmania. However, any conditions, limitations or restrictions placed on an interstate registration will also apply in Tasmania.

This means that the Board will not be involved in checking their registration details and in fact will not be aware that they are working in Tasmania. However these visiting vets will be subject to the Tasmanian Board's disciplinary processes if a complaint is received about their actions, and irrespective of their State or Territory of registration, they must comply with the obligations, requirements and conditions as set out in Tasmanian legislation.

In past years, approximately 30 interstate vets renewed their secondary registration annually, and another 30 held secondary registration for one off locum type placements. A small number occasionally applied for short term specific purpose registration for special events such as the Tom Quilty Endurance Ride. The effect of

NRVR means that these vets no longer need to hold registration in Tasmania, which also means a resulting loss of income for the Board.

1.3 Temporary, non-practising or honorary registrations

Tasmania does NOT recognise interstate temporary, non-practising or honorary registrations.

1.4 New Zealand vets

NRVR does not extend to New Zealand registered vets, unless they also hold primary registration in another Australian State or Territory. As has previously been the case, visiting vets from New Zealand will need to apply for primary registration in Tasmania if they wish to work here, even for a short period.

1.5 When does an interstate vet need to apply for registration in Tasmania?

Once an interstate registered vet takes up permanent residence in Tasmania, they are required to apply for registration with the Veterinary Board of Tasmania. In practical terms, if an interstate registered vet moves to a permanent or ongoing position in Tasmania, they may commence working immediately in Tasmania under NRVR, but must lodge their application for registration as soon as practicable.

2. Approved fees

The Board is now responsible for its expenses 'incurred in the administration of the Act' and has the authority to approve the fees under the Act. Previously, the relevant fees were prescribed by regulation. The (now revoked) *Veterinary Surgeons Regulations 2004* prescribed the fees as fee units which meant they increased by CPI annually.

The Board approved the annual registration (renewal) fee for 2013 of \$350 and the fee for new registrants continues to be pro-rata of the annual fee depending on when the application made, together with a fixed application fee of \$110. The list of approved fees is set out in full at page 16 of this Report.

Section 57 of the Act was also amended to provide that fees are payable to the Board and are not required to be paid into the Consolidated Fund. Further, to provide for scrutiny of the Board's approval of the fees, s57(4) provides that the relevant provisions of s47 of the *Acts Interpretation Act 1931* apply to an approval by the Board of fees payable under the Act.

This means that the approved fees are to be published in the *Tasmanian Government Gazette* and tabled in both Houses of Parliament.

The relevant fees for new registrations, annual renewals, exemptions and specialist registration were approved by the Board on 29 November 2012 and notice of the approval was published in the *Gazette* on 5 December 2012. The approved fees were tabled in the House of Assembly on 5 March 2013 and in the Legislative Council on 15 March 2013.

The Board also charges administrative fees for a Letter of Good Standing (\$44), a copy of the Register (\$110) and a late fee for late renewals (\$55).

3. Annual registration fees due 31 December

The Act previously provided that the annual registration fee was not due until 1 March. The Act now provides that the annual fee must be paid before 1 January. For the 2013 registration renewal, an extension was granted to 31 January 2013 but for future years, the due date is 31 December.

4. Definition of 'veterinary services'

The new definition in the Act provides:

veterinary services means services that form part of the practice of veterinary surgery, and includes, but is not limited to including, the following services:

- (a) the examination of, or attendance on, any animal for the purposes of diagnosing the physiological or pathological condition of the animal, including testing or imaging for diagnostic purposes;
- (b) giving advice based on a diagnosis referred to in paragraph (a), including prescribing treatment, drugs, medications or medical appliances;
- (c) performing medical or physical treatment of animals;
- (d) performing surgical procedures on animals;
- (e) administering an anaesthetic to any animal;
- (f) conducting pregnancy testing of any animal;
- (g) carrying out, by manual operation or use of instrumental appliances, any procedure on an animal for artificial breeding purposes –

but does not include any prescribed services*;

5. Non-veterinary 'prescribed' services* –regulation 4

The new 2012 Regulations prescribe a number of services that may be carried out by persons who are not veterinary surgeons. The previous list has been expanded. Some are practical, such as foot trimming and ear tagging while others clarify the limitations placed on non-vets who undertake quasi-veterinary functions. For example, the regulation makes it clear that while the "filing or rasping of horse teeth without the use of power tools" may be performed by a non-vet, any equine dentistry that involves the use of power tools must only be performed by a veterinary surgeon.

The following is the full list of services not included in the definition of veterinary services (**bold** indicates an addition or change to the previous list):

- (a) tail docking of lambs that are 6 months old or less;
- (b) mulesing of lambs that are 6 months old or less;
- (c) deworming that does not involve oesophageal intubation (stomach tube);
- (d) castration of oxen, sheep or goats that are 6 months old or less;
- (e) castration of pigs that are **2 months** old or less;
- (f) sexing chickens;
- (g) debeaking chickens;
- (h) removal of horn, horn core and associated skin in **goats**, or oxen or sheep, that are 6 months old or less;

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- (i) removal of horn or antler buds from any species before the formation of horn or pedicels (antler bases);
 - (j) removal or partial removal of antlers or horns from any species, provided that no vascular or other living tissue is removed with the antler or horn;
 - (k) filing or rasping of horse teeth without the use of power tools;**
 - (l) shoeing of horses;**
 - (m) non-invasive massage;**
 - (n) collection of faecal samples;
 - (o) collection of milk samples;
 - (p) collection of blood samples at the direction of a registered veterinary surgeon;
 - (q) administration of veterinary medicines, **in accordance with the label approved under the Agvet Code of Tasmania** in relation to that medicine, by subcutaneous or intramuscular injection, oral administration (except oesophageal intubation) or application to any external body surface;
 - (r) anaesthetising and sedating of –**
 - (i) fish of the class Osteichthyes; or**
 - (ii) sharks, rays, lampreys or other cartilaginous fish of the classes Chondrichthyes and Agnatha;**
 - (s) giving of advice on the nutrition and management of animals;
 - (t) foot trimming;
 - (u) ear tagging, ear marking or ear tattooing of any species;**
 - (v) branding of any species;**
 - (w) examination for pregnancy by the external application of ultrasound scanning in any species;
 - (x) artificial insemination, provided that the semen is introduced via the vagina and cervical canal.

6. Veterinary Service Standards

The new section 5B of the Act provides that the Board may declare veterinary service standards which may specify the standards of service, and may specify the rules of conduct of a veterinary surgeon.

The Act is further amended to provide that a vet is guilty of misconduct in a professional respect if he or she contravenes or fails to comply with any provision of a veterinary service standard. The Board will be working on updating the existing standards and declaring the revised and new standards in the next year.

7. Exemption from the operation of section 11 – regulation 5

It is an offence under section 11 of the Act for a non-vet to practise veterinary surgery or provide a veterinary service. The Act contains some exemptions – for example, a veterinary student working under instruction from, and in the presence of, a vet. It also allows for ‘prescribed’ cases. Regulation 5 prescribes two categories of persons who are exempted from the offence provision of s11.

7.1 National Veterinary Exam candidates

An overseas trained vet studying for his or her National Veterinary Exam (NVE) is allowed to practise as a veterinary surgeon without being registered, provided they are working in a private practice under the direct supervision of a registered veterinary surgeon. The regulation has been amended to require the person to seek approval from the Board prior to commencing work, and to ensure that any work is carried out in the presence of the supervising vet. The NVE candidate must be studying for the final clinical NVE exam.

7.2 Research and teaching

Regulation 5(4) provides that students and scientists at a licensed research institution (for example, the University of Tasmania), may provide a veterinary service for the purposes of teaching or research, if the work is part of a research project approved by an Animal Ethics Committee. The researchers must be either trained and assessed as competent by a registered veterinary surgeon in a particular technique required for a research project and be acting under the authority of that veterinary surgeon; or be supervised by and providing the veterinary service in the presence of a registered veterinary surgeon. In either situation, the vet must be nominated by the licensed institution.

8. Veterinary services entities

The Act has been amended to require veterinary services partnerships, as well as veterinary services companies, to notify the Board of particulars of their office(s) and the partners' details. A veterinary services partnership is defined as 'a partnership that carries on a business, all or part of which consists of the provision of veterinary services'.

The Board is required to keep a list of all veterinary service entities (i.e. companies and partnerships). A veterinary services company or partnership that is not on the list must not provide veterinary services.

There are no fees associated with the notification of a veterinary services entity.

9. Informal proceedings - section 48

During the year the Board became aware of an unintended amendment to s48 of the Act, presumably as a result of a drafting error. Section 48 previously provided that the Board may deal with a complaint against a registered vet (or a former vet) by way of informal proceedings. The outcome of informal proceedings may be dismissal of the complaint, a caution or the more serious option of referral to a 'formal' inquiry under s44.

The effect of the amendment is that s48 now only applies to persons who were formerly registered as a veterinary surgeon. This means that the only option available to the Board when dealing with a complaint against a registered vet is to proceed directly to an inquiry under s44. An inquiry is a far more serious step and would normally only be used for serious allegations of misconduct.

The Board raised the matter with the Minister and understands that an amendment will be prepared to rectify the section.

Registrations

To practise veterinary surgery in Tasmania, veterinary surgeons must be registered with the Veterinary Board of Tasmania.

For the first 6 months of the reporting period, there were 67 secondary registrations, however since 12 December 2012, with the commencement of national recognition of veterinary registration (NRVR), there is no longer a requirement that interstate visiting registered veterinary surgeons hold secondary registration or short term/special purpose registration when working in Tasmania.

As at 30 June 2013 there were 244 registered veterinary surgeons on the Register. The terms 'primary' and 'secondary' registration no longer apply.

	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13
Registered at 1 July	205	226 *	237 *	252*	259*	267*	272*	279*	283	300 240 P 60 S
New Registration	30	31	34	30	25	37	45	38	47	25 P 7 S
Cancellation	9	20	19	7	17	32	38	34	30	88
Registration at 30 June	226	237 *	252 *	259*	267*	272*	279*	283*	240P 60S	244 (P)

* Total registrations [Primary + Secondary]

Cancellations of registrations are made under the following circumstances:

- where the Board becomes aware that the registrant has died; or
- at the request of the registrant due to retirement from practice, departure from the state, or other reason for non-practice in this state; or
- by the Board due to non-receipt of renewal applications following service of renewal advice notices.

Of the 88 cancellations occurring at the end of the 2012 registration year, 5 primary registrants retired, 17 primary registrants moved interstate or overseas or were overseas vets undertaking short term locums; and 66 were secondary registrants who were not required to renew registration in 2013 due to the commencement of NRVR.

Recognised qualifications

The Act provides that a person is qualified to be registered as a veterinary surgeon if the person has attained a qualification approved by the Board, and is a fit and proper person to practice as a veterinary surgeon in Tasmania.

The Board has approved the qualifications recognized by the Australasian Veterinary Boards Council Inc. (AVBC) as providing a holder with eligibility to apply for registration as a veterinary surgeon in Australia and New Zealand without further examination. The full list of qualifications is set out on the AVBC website, but in summary, all Australian and New Zealand veterinary degrees are approved:

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- University of Sydney
 - Murdoch University (WA)
 - Charles Sturt University (NSW)
 - Massey University, New Zealand.
 - University of Melbourne
 - University of Queensland
 - James Cook University (Qld)

Overseas trained veterinarians who have been awarded the Australian National Veterinary Examination Certificate (NVE) or the New Zealand National Veterinary Examination Certificate (NZNVE) are also recognized. The NVE is administered by the AVBC. Upon successful completion of the NVE a candidate is issued with a certificate as proof that they have satisfied the examination requirements. All Australian Boards have agreed to accept the certificate as proof of professional competence.

Degrees and qualifications recognized by the following accreditation bodies are also recognized:

- Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons (RCVS) United Kingdom
- Educational Commission for Foreign Veterinary Graduates (ECFVG)
- European Association of Establishments for Veterinary Education (EAEVE)
- American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA).

Specialist Registration

The Board also has the power to register veterinary specialists in an approved speciality. There are no registered veterinary specialists based in Tasmania.

Between 1 July 2012 and 31 December 2012, there were 9 registered veterinary specialists on the Register. All were visiting specialists registered in other states and held secondary registration in Tasmania. With the commencement of NRVR, these visiting specialists no longer need to hold registration in Tasmania. The areas of specialisations were:

Equine Surgery	2	Veterinary Ophthalmology	1
Surgery Small Animal	1	Veterinary Radiology	2
Pathobiology (Pathology)	1	Dermatology	1
Dairy Cattle (bovine) medicine	1		

Australasian Veterinary Boards Council Inc.

The Australasian Veterinary Boards Council Inc. (AVBC) is a legal entity which has authority to speak and act on behalf of all veterinary registering authorities in Australia and New Zealand. Although it has no legislative power to impose any decisions made at meetings on any participating Boards, it has a valuable advisory function and makes recommendations to the Boards in the areas of:

- the accreditation of veterinary schools and courses leading to a degree in veterinary science or medicine;
- assessment of suitability for practice in Australia and New Zealand of persons with foreign qualifications, including the running of the NVE (National Veterinary Examination);
- uniform criteria for recognition of qualifications for registration;

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- provision of advice on matters concerning the occupational regulation of veterinarians, including general and specialist registration; and
 - encouraging harmonisation of the standards, regulations and quality assurance of veterinary services provided to the community in all jurisdictions.

The state and territory Veterinary Boards of Australia, the Veterinary Council of New Zealand and the Australian Veterinary Association (AVA) and the New Zealand Veterinary Association Ltd (NZVA) are members of AVBC. The AVA and the NZVA do not contribute to the financial support of AVBC and are not entitled to vote.

AVBC members have discussions bimonthly, primarily by teleconference, with a face to face meeting for the AVBC AGM. The AVBC delegate, Dr Neale Ward, and the registrar attended the AGM which was held in Cairns Queensland in May 2013.

The AVBC is financed by a levy on participating jurisdictions, based on the number of veterinary surgeons holding primary registration in that jurisdiction.

Exemption from Registration – section 13

Section 11 of the Act makes it an offence for a person to engage in the practice of veterinary surgery or render a veterinary service unless that person is a registered veterinary surgeon. There are some exceptions to the offence provision, including veterinary students acting under the direct supervision of a registered veterinary surgeon. The penalty for breach of section 11 is a fine not exceeding 50 penalty units (\$6,500).

Section 13 provides that an individual may apply to the Board for exemption from the operation of section 11 in relation to a specific veterinary service. As at 30 June 2013, there are four exemptions in place.

An exemption under s13 has been granted annually since 1994-95 to an artificial breeding operator to enable him to perform laparoscopic artificial insemination of sheep. The exemption was granted on the grounds that there were insufficient registered veterinary surgeons providing such a service and that it was in the interest of the state that the integrated ovine artificial reproduction service from the applicant be available to Tasmanian sheep breeders.

An exemption under s13 has been granted annually since 2007 to an overseas trained veterinarian employed by an interstate pharmaceutical company. The exemption is limited to the diagnosis of pig and poultry conditions and is conditional upon the person holding limited registration with the NSW Veterinary Practitioners Board.

Two exemptions under s13 were granted to post graduate students at the University of Tasmania for research projects on feral cats. With the changes to the regulation 5(4), such research projects will no longer require an exemption under the Act.

One application for exemption was refused and the Board's decision was upheld by the Minister on appeal.

Finally, an application for exemption received in May 2013 has not yet been determined.

Communication with Registrants

Website

The Board maintains a website established within the website of DPIPWE. The site provides a ready access for the members of the profession and the public. The following information is provided:

- Membership of the Veterinary Board
- The Board's *Standards of Veterinary Practice*
- Instruction on making complaints
- The Board's newsletters and news items
- Details of services provided by the Board
- Details regarding Veterinary Service Entities
- Registration application forms
- An extract from the Register of registered veterinary surgeons (updated quarterly or as required).

Matters currently covered in the *Standards of Veterinary Practice* include:

- The Standards for Premises where Major Surgery is Undertaken
- Supply of Prescription Animal Remedy (PAR) Veterinary Drugs (S4s)
- Guide for the Dispensing and Supply of Drugs and Poisons by Veterinary Surgeons
- Code of Practice for the Supply and Use of Veterinary Chemical Products
- Record Keeping in Veterinary Practices
- Professional Ethics of the Veterinary Surgeon
- Veterinary Certificates
- Appendix to Standards:
 - *Sample Admission / Consent Form;
 - Advice Note (for use when treating food producing animals)

*An updated sample Consent for Treatment form, and a new Anaesthetic Chart and Hospital Chart – Daily Observation Sheet have been drafted and will be uploaded to the website in early July 2013.

Newsletters

The Board issued Newsletters in July and December 2012.

Information Sheets and news items

The Board periodically circulates news items including approved survey requests via email and the website. The email list is updated as part of the annual registration renewal process and emails are sent to most veterinary surgeons as necessary.

The following Information Sheets added to the website in December 2012:

- National Recognition of Veterinary Registration and changes to the Veterinary Surgeons Act and Regulations 2012 (a summary);
- Extract from the *Government Gazette* 5 December 2012: Approved Fees.

Veterinary Practice Inspections

The Board has three inspectors who undertake routine regional practice inspections on a triennial basis.

No inspections were carried out in 2012-13. During 2011-12 the majority of southern practices were inspected. Inspections of northern and north eastern practices are planned for later in 2013, together with a number of inspections in the south of new and existing practices which have recently undergone alterations.

Complaints

Three complaints which carried over from 2011-12 were finalised and another six complaints were received and finalised during the year.

The Act provides that a complaint may be dismissed in the first instance, may be heard by way of informal proceedings (s48) or may be dealt with by way of inquiry (s44). In both informal proceedings and inquiries, the veterinary surgeon is required to attend before the Board to provide information and answer questions.

Due to an apparent drafting error, when the Act was amended in December 2012, the provisions of section 48 were amended so as to provide that informal proceedings are only available for complaints against veterinary surgeons who no longer hold registration. The effect of the amendment is that unless a complaint is dismissed in the first instance, all complaints must now be heard by way of an inquiry. As a consequence, two inquiries were held during the year which would otherwise have been dealt with by way of informal proceedings.

Five complaints were dealt with by way of inquiry under s44. The findings ranged from the imposition of restrictions and conditions; fines; a caution and a dismissal.

Two complaints were dealt with prior to the changes to the Act by way of informal proceedings and cautions were issued.

Two complaints were dealt with on the papers and the Board determined there was no case to answer and the complaints were dismissed.

Financial Report

Following the amendments to the Act which commenced in December 2012, the Board is now directly responsible for expenses 'incurred in the administration of the Act' and has the authority to set the fees under the Act.

Previously there was an arrangement with DPIPW whereby a portion of the registration income was paid to DPIPW. DPIPW was responsible for the Board sitting fees and expenses, the annual AVBC levy, the registrar's travel expenses for attendance at the AVBC AGM, any legal costs incurred by the Board and contributed 50% to inspection costs. The Board retained the balance of the registration income to pay for the registrar's contract, miscellaneous expenses and 50% of inspection costs.

The Board approved the increase in the annual registration fee for 2013, with the aim over the next few years of establishing a reserve of approximately 12 months operating costs, to put it in a financially viable position so that it can cover unforeseen expenses.

While the statement below is for the financial year, in practice, the Board's finances operate on a calendar year, given that its main income is from registration renewal fees which are received at the beginning of the calendar year. The Board expects to receive approximately \$1700 in income from new registrations and services for the balance of the 2013 calendar year, while its projected expenditure for the balance of 2013 is \$32 000 comprising Board meeting expenses, inspection costs and the registrar's contract.

Income and expenditure statement for the year ended 30 June 2013

Revenue	Note	\$
Registration renewal fees (228)	1	79 800
New registrations (32) exemptions (6)	2	11 099
Services	3	440
GST		721
DPIPWE refunds	4	1 188
Interest		1 759
Miscellaneous	5	1 998
Total revenue		97 005
Expenditure		
Registrar contract	6	45 028
Board sitting fees and expenses	7	5 474
Bank fees		144
Inspections		458
GST		821
PAYG (Q3 only)		406
AVBC levy	8	5 363
Workers compensation insurance	9	572
Refunds		110
Miscellaneous	10	1 312
Total expenditure		59 688
Operating profit		37 317

Projected income 1/7/13 to 31/12/13	\$
New Registration fees x 6	1 500
Services/Miscellaneous	180
Projected income	1 680

Projected expenditure 1/7/13 to 31/12/13	
Registrar contract	22 866
Board sitting fees and expenses	5 200
Inspections	4 000
Projected expenditure	32 066
Projected profit at 31/12/13	6 931

Notes:

1. The annual renewal fee applies for the calendar year and was due by 31 January for 2013. The Board approved annual renewal fee for 2013 was \$350. The 2012 prescribed renewal fee was \$201.60. In forthcoming years a CPI increase may apply.
2. This figure includes 25 new primary registrations approved during the whole financial year and 7 secondary registrations up to December 2012. New primary and secondary registrations granted between 1 July 2012 and 11 December 2012 were charged in accordance with the *Veterinary Surgeons Regulations 2004*. From 12 December 2012 the Board approved fees apply to new primary registrations only, secondary registrations are no longer required under NRVF. New registration fees include an application fee and a pro-rata component of the annual fee calculated on a quarterly basis in accordance with s21A.
3. The Board charges an administrative fee for services being \$44 (inc GST) for a Letter of Good Standing and \$110 (inc GST) for a copy of the Register.
4. Up until 31 December 2012 DPIPWE reimbursed minor meeting expenses and 50% of inspection costs.
5. Miscellaneous revenue included fines imposed following two inquiries and reimbursement from the AVBC of the registrar's travel expenses for attendance at the registrars' annual meeting and AVBC AGM.
6. In accordance with the registrar's contract, the registrar is responsible for the provision of suitable office facilities and own vehicle and:
 - All office equipment and supplies including stationery, postage, PO Box, phone, fax, internet, email and printing
 - Travel expenses associated with up to 5 Board meetings per year except overnight accommodation when required. Travel costs for any additional meetings will be covered by the Board as will costs of interstate travel.

The registrar's contract is reviewed annually. A CPI increase of .8% was approved from 1 August 2012.
7. Up until 31 December 2012 DPIPWE paid the Board members' sitting fees, meeting and travel expenses associated with Board meetings. The Board is now responsible for those fees and expenses and members' ATO PAYG. The amount shown reflects the costs from January to June 2013 for two Board meetings and two "Meet the Profession" meetings. The remuneration per meeting as approved by the Minister is \$420 (chair) and \$320 (members). Travel expenses are paid at the government rate. The DPIPWE member does not receive a sitting fee.
8. The Board pays an annual levy (plus GST) to the AVBC in January each year based on the number of registered vets as at 30 June of the preceding year.
9. The Board is now responsible for the workers compensation obligations for Board members and inspectors.
10. Miscellaneous expenses include White Pages entries and inquiry costs; and the registrar's expenses for attendance at the annual registrars' meeting and AVBC AGM (which were reimbursed by the AVBC – see Note 5.)

Copy of Gazette Notice Approval of Fees 5 December 2012

Veterinary Surgeons Act 1987 APPROVAL OF FEES

The Veterinary Board of Tasmania, in pursuance of section 3 of the *Veterinary Surgeons Act 1987* and with reference to section 11 of the *Acts Interpretation Act 1931*, at a meeting on 29 November 2012, approved, in relation to each matter set out in an item described in column 2 of the Schedule, the fee specified opposite in column 3 of the Schedule, as the fees payable in relation to the matter, with effect on and from the date on which section 4 of the *Veterinary Surgeons Amendment Act 2011* comes into force.

Dr Neil Leighton
Chairman

Schedule

Column 1 – Item number	Column 2 – Description	Column 3 – Fee \$
1.	Application for exemption under section 13 of the Act	550
2.	Application for registration under section 18 of the Act as a veterinary surgeon (plus pro-rata of initial registration fee under s21A)	110
3.	Application for registration under section 18 of the Act as a veterinary specialist (must also be registered as a veterinary surgeon s16(1)(a))	175
4.	Provisional registration under section 19 of the Act (plus pro-rata of initial registration fee under s21A)	110
5.	Temporary registration under section 20 of the Act (out of session fast track fee only payable if registration required within 10 business days of receipt of application)	70
6.	Initial registration fee under section 21A of the Act – (a) 1 January – 31 March (b) 1 April – 30 June (c) 1 July – 30 September (d) 1 October – 31 December	350 262.50 175 87.50
7.	Annual registration fee under section 22 of the Act (renewal)	350

Demographics of the Profession

As part of the registration process registrants are requested to provide information on their practice for the preceding year. The 2013 renewing registrants provided the following information relating to the 2012 calendar year:

Survey forms distributed	230 ⁽¹⁾
Survey forms completed	202
Survey respondents	88%

The following classifications are quoted as a percentage (%) of survey respondents:

Year of Renewal	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Work Status										
Full time	74	70	72	67	67	67	65	63.3	63.0	54.9
Part time	19	24	21	24	23	21	23	25.8	28.0	35.1
Retired	8	6	7	9	10	12	12	10.9	8.9	9.9
Work Location										
Tasmania	73	71	70	67	67	67	68	70.6	68.4	93.1
Tasmania & Interstate/overseas	16	18	19	20	23	26	24	21.3	24.6	5.2
Interstate/Overseas	11	11	11	13	10	7	8	8.1	6.9	1.7
Type of Employment										
Private Practice	76	76	81	82	82	80	83	80.2	83.1	83.1
University	3	3	1	1	1	2	1	.09	0.4	0.5
Government Service	14	11	9	7	10	9	8	8.1	7.1	11.5
Industry	2	4	5	3	2	4	3	4.1	3.1	1.1
Other	5	6	4	7	5	5	5	6.8	6.7	3.8
Type of Practice/Work (Major Activity)										
Large Animal	6	8	7	9	7	9	7	9.6	6.8	2.2
Small Animal	37	32	35	38	37	40	41	40.2	37.4	46.2
Mixed Practice	26	31	30	27	27	27	25	27.4	28.1	34.2
Equine	6	5	6	6	7	6	9	6.8	6.8	4.9
Aquaculture	3	2	3	2	3	3	3	3.7	2.1	1.6
Regulatory/Advisory	6	5	4	5	5	4	4	3.2	3.8	3.8
Consultancy	2	2	3	3	2	2	1	1.8	3.4	1.1
Research/Laboratory	5	6	3	2	3	3	3	2.3	2.1	1.6
Industry	1	4	3	2	1	2	2	0.9	0.8	0
Avian/Poultry	2	1	1	1	2	1	1	0.9	0.8	0
Other/Specialist	3	3	4	3	4	2	3	1.8	4.3	0
Non-Veterinary	3	1	1	2	2	1	1	1.4	0.8	1.1
Wildlife									2.1	3.3
Teaching									0.4	0
Average weekly hours worked (2)	40.9	37.1	37.4	36.0	37.9	37.5	38.2	34.8	30.9	43.4 (FT) 18.6 (PT)

- Notes**
- The 2013 figures relate to renewing Tasmanian registrants only, i.e. interstate vets are no longer required to hold secondary registration, thus were not sent a survey.
 - Only 64% of 2013 respondents provided an hours worked / week estimation for 2012. Full time and part time hours are shown separately.



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "N. Leighton".

N L Leighton BVSc MACVSc
Chairman

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "A P Horner".

A P Horner LLB BA
Registrar

30 September 2013