

# About your Veterinary Boards

For veterinary professionals and members of the public



In each Australian state and territory, and in New Zealand, the veterinary profession is governed by a **Veterinary Board or Council**, whose purpose is to protect the health and wellbeing of animals and the public.

Each Veterinary Board is formed and functions according to specific legislation. The Act in each jurisdiction sets out the Veterinary Board's composition, powers and administration. It also details many of the processes and criteria applied by the Veterinary Board to register veterinarians and respond to complaints. Acts also direct Veterinary Boards to set registration fees to meet the cost of the profession's self-regulation.

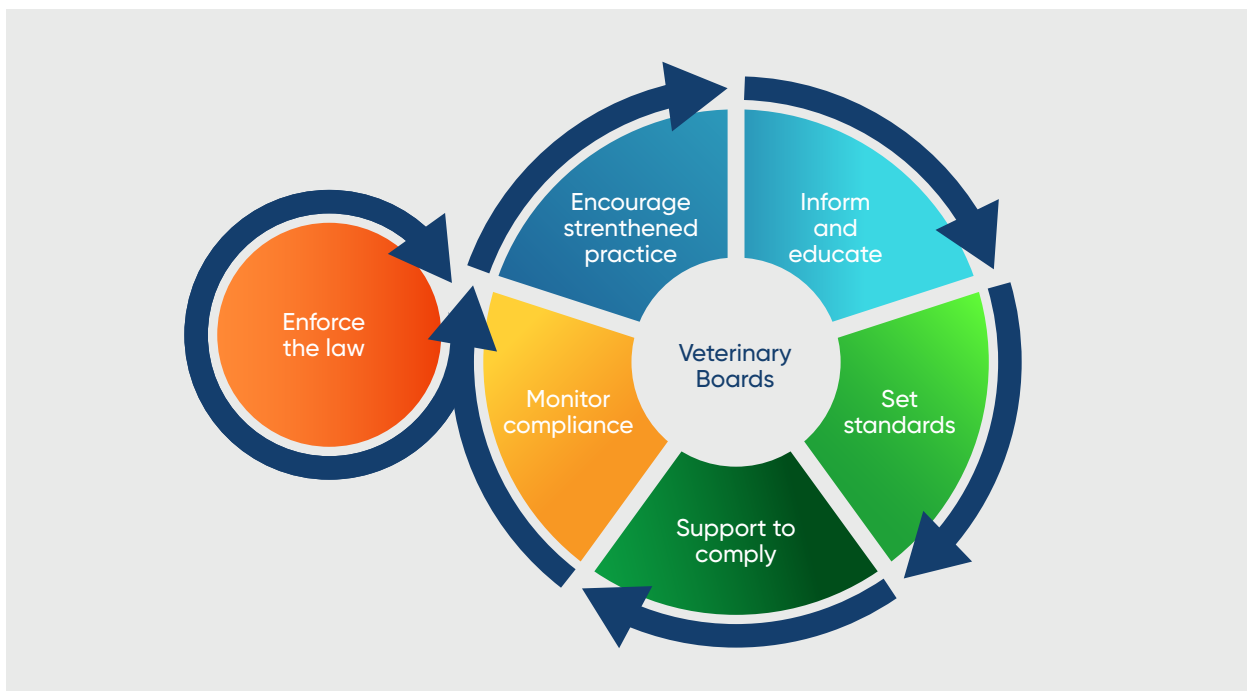


## What do Veterinary Boards do?

Despite some variations, core Veterinary Board principles and activities are very similar across jurisdictions:

- register competent and eligible veterinarians
- register appropriate veterinary premises (some jurisdictions)
- provide guidelines about appropriate standards of practice and veterinary facilities,
- work with government, advise the Minister, and engage with the Australian Veterinary Association and other organisations and regulators on matters relating to Board functions.
- address complaints about a vet's professional conduct and impose sanctions if necessary
- investigate and respond to veterinarians' health impairments

Veterinary Boards do not engage with complaints purely about the cost of veterinary services. Fee concerns are matters for a consumer affairs office or small claims tribunal in each jurisdiction.



## THE AUSTRALASIAN VETERINARY BOARDS COUNCIL (AVBC)

The Australasian Veterinary Boards Council exists through representation and funding from member Veterinary Boards in Australia and New Zealand. AVBC is an advisory organisation with the following core functions:

- Providing a forum for discussion, advice and co-operation among the veterinary boards in Australia and New Zealand
- Encouraging the standardisation and quality assurance of veterinary services to the community
- Assuring and promoting uniform educational standards through accreditation of veterinary schools, the Australasian Veterinary Examination, assessment of veterinary qualifications for migration and assessment of specialist qualifications.
- Supporting the sustainability of the Australasian veterinary profession

### Who is your Veterinary Board?

Board members are appointed by the government for a set term. To support balanced and sound decisions through both public and veterinarian peer perspectives, Board members include both:

- Registered veterinarians with contemporary practice experience in varied types of practice and region, who are subject to the same regulation, standards and fees as every other vet, and
- Public community members with financial, legal, ethical and other expertise

Board members work on a casual, part time basis in addition to regular jobs. They provide strategic oversight of the organisation and leadership for the vet profession, monitor risk and financial performance, guide engagement with stakeholders, employ the Registrar, set veterinary professional standards, make decisions about registration applications and Veterinary Board responses to complaints and investigations. In some jurisdictions, Board members and other Approved People also serve on complaints and health-related hearing panels.

Your Board work with a small, experienced team of employed staff who carry out the Veterinary Boards' day-to-day operations. When you contact your Veterinary Board you'll likely be talking to the Registrar or an appropriate team member.

Staff and Board members work conscientiously to administer the legislation empathetically and impartially. By providing appropriate guidance, assessment, monitoring and response to veterinary practice issues, Veterinary Boards protect the health and wellbeing of animals and the public through a trusted and sustainable veterinary profession.



### Further information

If you'd like further information about your current Veterinary Board and their operations and approaches, we encourage you to visit your state, territory or country's Board website. If you still have questions, helpful Veterinary Board staff are happy to provide assistance.