

# **VETERINARY SURGEONS AMENDMENT BILL 2011**

## **FACT SHEET**

The primary purpose of the *Veterinary Surgeons Amendment Bill 2011* is to allow national recognition of veterinary registration in accordance with a commitment given by the Tasmanian Government. The Veterinary Board of Tasmania has also requested amendments to the Act to address a number of issues identified during the life of the Act. These are administrative changes which reflect current policy and practice.

The Bill:

- Allows for recognition of interstate registration of veterinary surgeons practising in Tasmania.
- Better defines “Veterinary services” to cover some current practices.
- Establishes that nothing in the Act is to be construed as permitting any person to contravene any law relating to animal welfare, control and use of chemicals, poisons or pharmaceuticals.
- Provides for the Veterinary Board of Tasmania (the Board) to make and maintain Standards in relation to veterinary practise, and to ensure that veterinarians practice according to these Standards.
- Provides for the Board to determine specialities, rather than these being prescribed by Regulation.
- Amends the provision relating to business names so that a veterinary surgeon needs to notify the Board of a registered business name rather than the Board needing to approve the business name.
- Broadens the powers of inspectors to better allow for investigations.
- Amends the provision relating to Ministerial discretion, to provide clarification and reduce duplication;
- Allows for Registration fees to be set by the Board, and payment times will be brought into line with other jurisdictions. The Registration fees are to be retained by the Board rather than going into consolidated revenue.
- Establishes the requirement that Records are to be kept for 5 years and provides for the Board to be able to retrieve information as required to undertake adequate investigations.
- Establishes the requirement that the responsibilities of veterinary service companies apply to all entities providing veterinary services.
- Establishes a time limit of 3 years from the cessation of treatment for the lodging of a complaint against a veterinary surgeon. It provides for the Board to publish a determination made, together with reasons for the determination.
- Recognises the role of the Australasian Veterinary Boards Council in accrediting courses, and ousts all forms of appeal or review in relation to approval of courses and qualifications.