



CHIEF VETERINARY OFFICER

Dr John Baguley
Registrar
Veterinary Practitioners Board of New South Wales
Suite 7.09, 247 Coward St
Mascot NSW 2020

Via email: admin@vpb.nsw.gov.au

Dear Dr Baguley

Questionnaire on veterinary antimicrobial prescribing behaviour

The Australian Government is committed to addressing antimicrobial resistance (AMR) using a One Health approach through its *Australia's National AMR Strategy – 2020 and Beyond*. The strategy received approval of all jurisdictions through the Council of Australian Governments. As a result, the Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment supports several animal health sector initiatives contributing to the strategy's implementation.

We have partnered with the University of Melbourne to undertake research about current prescribing behavioural practices of Australian veterinarians and the expectations of their clients. We hope the information gleaned from this research will better support Australian veterinarians to use antimicrobials judiciously.

To ensure the results are representative of our veterinary industry, we need broad participation of practitioners. We would value your assistance in raising awareness of this important research with veterinarians registered in your jurisdiction. Information about the study and how to participate is attached along with contact details for the research team. The questionnaire will remain open until late January 2022, unless otherwise advised.

Thank you in advance for your assistance.

Yours sincerely

Dr Mark Schipp

10 January 2022

Seeking Australian veterinarians for antimicrobial prescribing research

Researchers at The University of Melbourne are seeking Australian veterinarians to participate in a research project exploring:

What factors influence the antimicrobial prescribing behaviours of veterinarians in Australia?

This is one of two questionnaires that will be distributed on antimicrobial resistance, stewardship and use. The second questionnaire intends to gain information on *attitudes towards recording and reporting antimicrobial use*.

Please note the two questionnaires are very different and are delivered by different research groups, but both funded by the Department of Agriculture, Water and Environment. Please look out for the second questionnaire, we value your response to both questionnaires and thank you for the time taken to do so. Participation in the first questionnaire involves:

1. Completing a **15–25-minute online survey** about the factors that influence how you make your antimicrobial prescribing decisions.
2. **[Optional]** At the end of the survey, you can **choose whether you'd like to be invited for a 45-minute interview**. I will be interviewing a number of vets across all animal sectors to explore the different approaches people take to antimicrobial use. The interview will be recorded, and the recordings will be analysed to find common and unique themes in vets' responses. Responses may be included in a scientific manuscript but will not be traceable to any individual or clinic.

The results of this project will be used to design targeted resources to support vets in optimising their antimicrobial choices.

If you would like to participate, please go to this link, where you can read the participant information leaflet and complete the survey.

https://melbourneuni.au1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_3Weyl5sWZjrResu

Please note:

- Participation is entirely voluntary.
- Participants who are interviewed will be given a \$50 voucher as partial compensation for their time, and an enormous amount of gratitude from me.
- Interviews will be conducted at a time that suits you and will be on zoom or by telephone.

Thank you so much for helping with this important research.

If you would like more information, please email me at baileyk@unimelb.edu.au or call me on 0417 626 933.

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