

Introduction

The Veterinary Practice Act 2003 (Act) (s 33(1)(e1)) requires a veterinarian to provide details of any continuing professional development (CPD) as prescribed by the regulation in the Annual Return. Failure to comply with CPD requirements is defined as unsatisfactory professional conduct (Act s 35(e1)). The Act (s 22) also provides that a veterinarian aged over 65 years or who has been a member of the profession for not less than 40 years may be granted honorary registration and the Board requires such veterinarians to be retired from veterinary practice. These veterinarians are not required by the Board to comply with CPD requirements and are subject to non-practicing conditions in accordance with the Act (s 19).

Purpose

The Board recognises that the response to biosecurity emergencies and natural disasters may be limited by workforce capacity and that retired veterinarians may be in a position to assist the government in responding to these circumstances. The purpose of this policy is to assist the response to such circumstances by expanding workforce capacity whilst ensuring the regulation of the provision of veterinary services is aligned with the objects of the Act.

Policy

1. Veterinarians with non-practicing conditions who have not completed sufficient CPD to meet the Board's policy Requirements for Returning to Practice (PR02) may have their non-practicing conditions varied by undertaking CPD prescribed by the Board.
2. Persons previously registered in Australia or New Zealand and who have not completed sufficient CPD to meet the Board's policy Requirements for Returning to Practice (PR02) may apply for full registration or have their names restored to the Register by undertaking CPD prescribed by the Board.
3. The Board will consult with NSW Department of Primary Industries (DPI) and the Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment (DAWE) when determining prescribed CPD.

Procedure

1. The Board will consult with NSW DPI and DAWE to determine prescribed CPD to be undertaken in order for veterinarians to be able to contribute to a specific biosecurity emergency or natural disaster.
2. Applications to vary non-practicing conditions:
 - a) Veterinarians subject to non-practicing conditions who are seeking to assist the State or Federal government in responding to a biosecurity emergency or natural disaster must provide evidence of completion of CPD prescribed by the Board
 - b) The Board may change the division of registration from honorary to full (as required) and vary the conditions on the registration of the veterinarian to the following:
 - i. Restricted acts of veterinary science must only be performed as an employee of a business approved by the Board
 - ii. Restricted acts of veterinary science must be limited to the area of practice required to respond to the biosecurity emergency or natural disaster the subject of this application
 - iii. Restricted acts of veterinary science must only be performed under the supervision of a veterinarian or veterinarians with full or specialist registration, not subject to conditions, approved by the Board
 - iv. Approval must be sought from the Board prior to any proposed change in employment circumstances.
 - c) The Board will review these conditions as required or at least annually
 - d) The Board will waive the fee for restoration to the Register for these applicants.
3. Applications from persons previously registered in Australia or New Zealand with full or specialist registration
 - a) Veterinarians previously registered in NSW or in other Australian jurisdictions or New Zealand and currently residing in NSW who are seeking to assist the State or Federal government in responding to a biosecurity emergency or natural disaster must provide evidence of completion of CPD prescribed by the Board
 - b) The Board may grant the applicant full registration with the following conditions:
 - i. Restricted acts of veterinary science must only be performed as an employee of a business approved by the Board
 - ii. Restricted acts of veterinary science must be limited to the area of practice required to respond to the biosecurity emergency or natural disaster the subject of this application
 - iii. Restricted acts of veterinary science must only be performed under the supervision of a veterinarian or veterinarians with full or specialist registration, not subject to conditions, approved by the Board
 - iv. Approval must be sought from the Board prior to any proposed change in employment circumstances.
 - c) The Board will review these conditions as required or at least annually
 - d) The Board will waive the fees for application for registration, the registration fee and penalty fee if applicable for these applicants.

Monitoring

1. The Board will review a list of all registrants granted full registration with conditions under this policy at least annually.
2. The Board may request a random audit of registrants and unsuccessful applicants under this policy from the Registrar.
3. The Board may request feedback from supervising veterinarians and other stakeholders regarding the effectiveness of this policy

Training and Communication

The Registrar is responsible for ensuring that all persons who are involved in making a decision in relation to the granting of registration receive training in the implementation of this policy.

Conflict of Interest

Members of the Board must comply with the Code of Conduct for Board Members in relation to decisions regarding the granting of registration.

Review

This policy shall be reviewed annually or as required to ensure that it remains appropriate to the operations of the Board and compliant with the relevant legislation.