

Your Advocacy at Work

2025 Retrospective

A snapshot of what *your collective voice* achieved in 2025

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Robust veterinary workforce



Backing vets today — and securing the profession for tomorrow

Momentum built towards a coordinated, nationally recognised approach to veterinary workforce planning.

What this delivered for members:

- Progress toward a national veterinary workforce strategy, with data-driven solutions now firmly underway
- Recognition of veterinarians as essential workers in regional workforce planning
- Direct advocacy to MPs in Canberra on workforce funding, rural incentives and mental health support
- \$400,000 Tasmanian Veterinarian Support Package over four years, improving access to childcare, supporting student placements and expanding safe-team initiatives

Key milestone:

- **Release of *Destination Thriving: A Roadmap for the Australian Veterinary Workforce* — a landmark white paper that clearly defines the challenges you face and outlines practical reforms to address shortages**

Reducing barriers for the next generation of vets

You told us student debt, unpaid placements and access to rural experience are critical issues. Advocacy focused on turning that feedback into action.

What this delivered for students and practices:

- **New placement subsidies for students undertaking rural and regional placements**
 - \$1,500 travel support for final-year students in Tasmania
 - **\$3,000 subsidies for placements across northern WA, NT and northern QLD**
- 69 participants in the Graduate Mentoring Program - a record level of engagement - strengthening early-career support
- **Continued pressure on the federal government to:**
 - **Include veterinary students in the Commonwealth Prac Payment Scheme**
 - Increase funding for veterinary training to better reflect real-world costs

Mental health for Vets



Protecting the wellbeing of the people behind the profession

Advocacy ensured veterinary mental health remained front-of-mind for policymakers.

What this delivered for members:

- **Expansion of THRIVE and Cultivating Safe Teams (CST) initiatives**
- **A USD \$125,000 Zoetis Foundation grant to strengthen Cultivating Safe Teams AWARE psychological safety and resilience program**
- Cultivating Safe Teams ACTION Program development underway, with pilots launching in early 2026
- Dedicated mental health policy submissions across WA, NSW, SA and nationally
- A second THRIVE Symposium at AVA Conference, creating space for honest, profession-wide conversations

Sustainable disaster response and wildlife care



Recognising the unpaid, unseen work vets do for Australia

Advocacy focused on making the case for fair recognition and support for the vital public good veterinarians provide.

What this delivered for members:

- Practical HPAI preparedness resources developed with government
- Strong national leadership during:
 - Hendra virus response
 - Flood and other disaster events
- **Publication of the AVA Disaster Policy, Principles and Plan, strengthening coordinated disaster responses**
- **Expanded drought resources developed in consultation with Divisions and SIGs**

Protecting animal health and welfare



Safeguarding standards that underpin trust, trade and food security

Advocacy reinforced the essential role veterinarians play in protecting Australia's animal health, welfare and public safety.

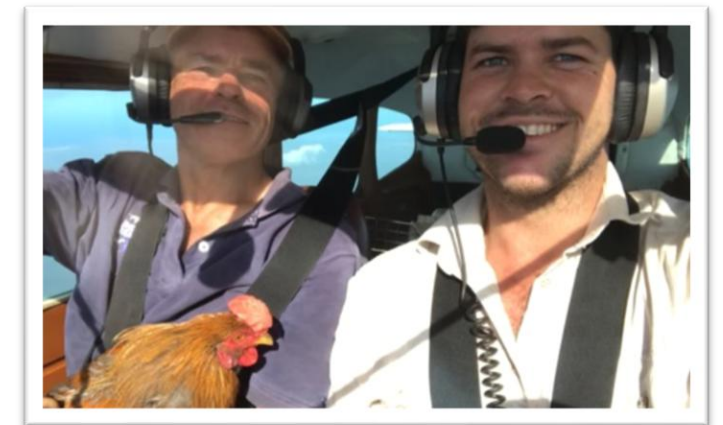
What this delivered:

- **Continued influence on the Australian Animal Welfare Strategy (AAWS) through national roundtables and sector-specific consultations**
- **Engagement on welfare standards implementation at state and territory level**
- **Strong advocacy for antimicrobial stewardship and surveillance, including new prescribing guidelines for horses**

Northern Territory Focus



- NT Government/Ministerial meetings – Minister Maley, Minister Cahill
- Submission lodged for *Crocodiles as Pets Guideline*
- NT Board of Studies Student Award – annual support provided through the AVA Dennis Thomson Memorial Science Award for a high school graduate
- Veterinary Nurse Skills Review – AVA suggested Skills Insight NT info session be included in association with the NT Div conference
- CDU – AVA included in discussions re NT Vet School proposal
- Dr Rupert Trembath, Katherine's Young Person of the Year, featured in AVA News



The National stats - 2025



Finalised and Board ratified **8 new policies, updated 7 existing policies. 7 additional policies progressed to member comment**

Issued **27 media releases**

Attended more than **130 meetings** with politicians and staffers, departments and stakeholders

Lodged **40 submissions**

Undertook **36 advocacy projects**

Supported these National campaigns

- Pets in Australia Report (Animal Medicines Australia)
- Governance Institute's 2025 Ethics Index
- Boehringer Ingelheim's 'Value Your Vet'

What's next?

This progress is only possible because members like you share your experiences, respond to consultation and support the collective voice of the profession.

In 2026, advocacy will continue to focus on turning this momentum into long-term, nationwide change.



Have feedback or insights to share?

Your experience strengthens our advocacy.

Email us anytime at publicvetaffairs@ava.com.au

Thank you for standing with your profession — and for making every one of these outcomes possible.