

1 September 2023

Australian Universities Accord Panel
By online submission

Dear Sir/Madam,

Re: Australian Veterinary Association submission

The Australian Veterinary Association (AVA) is the national organisation representing veterinarians in Australia. Our members come from all fields within the veterinary profession. Clinical practitioners work with companion animals, horses, livestock, and wildlife. Government veterinarians work with our animal health, public health, and quarantine systems while other members work in industry, research, and teaching. Veterinary students are also members of the Association.

The AVA thanks the Higher Education Accord Panel for the opportunity to provide a submission to the Australian Universities Accord Panel in response to its Interim Report. We previously made submissions to the first round of consultation and on the release of the Discussion Paper.

As stated in these, the AVA supports the development of an Accord to drive lasting reform in Australia's higher education system. We are committed to working with Government, and other stakeholders to deliver a higher education system that meets the current and future needs. Determination of the knowledge and skills our society needs requires a collaborative process across all stakeholders. While education benefits the individual, it also provides significant benefits to our society and the future prosperity of our nation. The cost of attainment of education must be fairly shared across society, particularly for those services which society deems essential, for example veterinary services.

The AVA has a strong relationship with the Veterinary Schools of Australia and New Zealand (VSANZ). As key stakeholders in the veterinary profession, we both recognise the challenges facing the sector and there is significant alignment in our assessment and views on potential remedies. This is particularly so in regard to the Interim Report published by the Accord Review Panel. As such, in responding to this report, the AVA is endorsing the submission made by VSANZ and the recommendations held therein.

Should you wish to discuss this further, please contact me at cristy.secombe@ava.com.au.

Yours sincerely



Dr Cristy Secombe BSc BVMS MANZCVS MVSc (hons) Dip ACVIM PhD
Head of Veterinary and Public Affairs
Australian Veterinary Association

The Australian Veterinary Association Ltd

Unit 40, 6 Herbert Street, St Leonards NSW 2065

Phone: 1300 137 309 / +61 2 9431 5000

Fax: +61 2 9437 9068

www.ava.com.au

ABN 63 008 522 852