



**Adrian Pederick MP**  
Member for Hammond

## HANSARD

House of Assembly  
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### VETERINARY PRACTICE (MISCELLANEOUS) AMENDMENT BILL

**Mr PEDERICK (Hammond) (11:30):** I rise to make some comments in regards to the Veterinary Practice (Miscellaneous) Amendment Bill 2013 and note the Liberal Party's support for the bill. Very briefly, what the bill is about is mutual recognition. It is not a national registration scheme, but it is about mutual recognition across the states in recognising veterinary professionals' qualifications so they do not have to reregister either in a neighbouring state or elsewhere in Australia.

I think it is very sensible legislation in that regard, especially when you see how much of the country in South Australia obviously abuts other farmland, etc., that vets can deal with issues across borders. I specifically think about my electorate across from Pinnaroo and further south down through MacKillop and the electorate of Mount Gambier where vets more likely than not have to perform their duties on one side of the border or the other.

There are also some administrative changes in the bill which address whether the Veterinary Surgeons Board of South Australia can recognise courses or veterinary education on the recommendation of the Australasian Veterinary Boards Council. I think this will save duplication, whereas up until now the South Australian board has been independently approving such courses, and this legislation, when it becomes law, will remove that duplication.

I would also like to acknowledge the contribution that vets make to all of us, whether you are a pet owner or whether you are like me and have a property. In the past (40 years ago), we had a commercial Poll Hereford operation, and occasionally a vet had to assist in pulling a calf. It is quite interesting at the time, as a young lad on the farm, witnessing what happens when cattle get bloat. Essentially, the vet puts a knife into the right area—it has to go in the appropriate place in the beast—and they essentially deflate the cow, bull or steer.

**Dr McFetridge interjecting:**

**Mr PEDERICK:** Yes; that's right. It's very interesting and technical work and obviously it demands a high degree of training, but it is very vital in rural industries, especially in the management and health of your stock. Certainly in regard to pets—and I know that people can spend thousands of dollars on pets—vets help keep them in good health and repair broken limbs or other issues that they need to deal with to keep those pets healthy. Certainly a big step that has been taken in this state, as far as the education program for veterinary surgeons is concerned, is the school at Roseworthy, and this was a great leap forward, not just for training of vets but—

**Ms Chapman:** Thank Julie Bishop for that.

**Mr PEDERICK:** Yes; thank Julie Bishop—thank you to the member for Bragg. This is a great leap forward, because I had real concerns that over time Roseworthy was fast disappearing. We saw the wine school come into Waite and the farming disciplines out there wind back, and we also saw the farm agriculture course taken away. I was really concerned that the agriculture education standing we

certainly had in South Australia was going downhill, quite frankly. So it is with much pleasure in the last few years that I have seen the vet school get up and going.

They are doing great work out there. I know they have even studied fur seals up there which obviously have come from somewhere in the sea. They have quite an amazing set-up there, where they can operate on horses and large animals. This is great work, and I have witnessed some of the work when they have had dogs on the table at Roseworthy. This is fantastic, when I thought that Roseworthy was heading one way as far as an educational facility for the state was concerned, that it is onward and upward.

Having the veterinary school here meant that people who wanted to train to be a vet did not have to travel to Queensland or elsewhere to get those courses. It keeps our people in this state and hopefully they can take up those practices in this state. Especially in the country, you have longstanding veterinary surgeons and they become almost part of the family, because you get to know them at all odd hours of the day and night when they have to come out to emergencies. You are charged for those emergencies, I must say, but when you need them you have to have them, because the health of your stock is paramount.

I have seen some great work done by vets over the years, and I think there is plenty of work to go. I think we will produce some great veterinary surgeons at Roseworthy, and they will service the needs of people not just here in South Australia but across the country in years to come. It is a really great profession, helping people right across the state.

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