



Australian Government

Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

A Statement from the Chief Veterinary Officer (Australia) on Equine Dentistry Providers

The Department of Agriculture Fisheries & Forestry has received approaches from various people concerning the Australian Association for Equine Dentistry Incorporated and their campaign for the development of national accreditation and Australian Quality Training Framework competency-based training for equine dental providers.

The principal concern is for the health and welfare of horses being treated. To ensure this, medications should only be administered by people who have an appropriate understanding of how medication works and the knowledge to treat any potential adverse reactions. Similarly, any invasive treatments need to be carried out by appropriately qualified operators who understand the anatomy and physiology of the animal.

All parties involved need to consider these issues carefully and base their decisions on sound science and what is best for the health and welfare of horses.

While the Commonwealth seeks the best outcomes for the health and welfare of horses, the regulation of veterinary surgeons (and definition of what constitutes an act of veterinary science) falls under the control of individual state and territory governments.