



VCNZ update – August 2016

In this issue

- [VCNZ elections](#)
- [Welcome to Jenny Weston](#)
- [Controlled drugs survey out now](#)
- [The power of apologies](#)
- [Clarification: new radiation safety regulations](#)

VCNZ Elections – Nominations close at 5pm on Thursday 6 October 2016

The election for the three elected veterinarian members of Council will be held in early December.

A strong Council is needed to ensure fair and consistent regulation that is trusted by profession and the public to set and uphold veterinary standards.

Decisions made by the Council impact directly on the lives of veterinarians, their clients and patients. This three yearly election provides veterinarians with the chance to influence who makes these decisions.

So if you, or someone you know, is up for the job act now!

Electionz is managing the election and online voting process. Nominations must be made on the [official nomination form](#) and received by the Electionz returning officer by 5pm on Thursday 6 October 2016. Candidates must be nominated by at least two other practising veterinarians.

Click [here](#) for the previous Electionz email to the profession with details on the nomination process and [here](#) for the election resource page for the nomination form, candidate guide and information on the Council member role.

Welcome to Jenny Weston

We're pleased to welcome Jenny Weston to Council. Jenny Weston is the Dean of Veterinary Sciences at Massey University.

Jenny graduated from Massey in 1994 and worked in clinical practice (mainly dairy) in Taranaki for 8 years before returning to Massey to run the Farm Services Clinic for ten years. She then coordinated the final year clinical rosters for the BVSc students for several years before her appointment as Associate Dean (BVSc) in 2015 and then Dean in May 2016.

Jenny's interests include endurance riding, breeding Scottish highland cattle, travel, and tramping. She lives on a lifestyle block at Ashhurst with her husband and a menagerie of mammals.

The person responsible for the undergraduate veterinary programme at Massey becomes a member of Council. Jenny has replaced Tim Parkinson in this role.

Controlled drugs survey out now – please tell us what you think

Council is looking at its guidance on controlled drugs and we want your feedback. We want to know what's happening in practices at the moment. Are our expectations realistic? Are they easy to comply with? Do we need to look at changes?

Please take a few minutes to complete this survey and tell us what you think. Click [here](#) to begin the survey.

To ensure your answers remain anonymous and confidential, the survey is being administered by NZVA. Your answers will be grouped with the answers of other respondents and will not be used to identify you in anyway.

If you're a NZVA member, you should have already had an email about this. So far we've had nearly 300 responses. Thanks to everyone who has already completed the survey.

The survey will close on 5 September 2016.

The power of apologies

In the latest issue of VetScript, Wayne Ricketts writes about [the importance of saying sorry](#).

Clarification: new radiation safety regulations

In the [June update](#) we talked about the proposed new regulations for radiation safety.

The new Radiation Safety Act requires that users of radiation sources obtain a licence. There will be two tiers of licencing: source licenses and use licences.

Source licences are new in New Zealand, but are consistent with international requirements and best practice. Organisations, eg the veterinary practice, will be required to hold a source licence. This holds them responsible for the radiation source eg maintenance, storage, radiation safety, radiation plans, security etc.

This shifts the responsibility for the safety and security of radiation sources from multiple users to the person or organisation responsible for the overall management of the source.

A number of groups will be exempted from holding use licences. Those groups will require a verifiable means of ensuring that all members have obtained radiation and safety training and knowledge. The Ministry of Health is proposing that vets who are registered and hold a practising certificate are exempt. Council supports that proposal. Vets will still be subject to the Act and any codes of practice that apply.

The exemption only applies to radiography and vets wishing to use radioactive material will still need to apply for a use licence. Those exempted from a use licence (for radiography) will come under the responsibility and supervision of the source licensee.