

# Summary of Submissions for VCNZ

Overall number of submissions



**924** from individuals\*  
**36** from organisations

**Total 960**

\*NOTE that some submitters chose not to provide their demographic information, so numbers may not add to 100%.

## Individual 96%



**2%**

Academic



**18%**

Allied veterinary professional



**50%**

Veterinarian



**3%**

Other

## Organisation 4%



Veterinary Practice

**2%**



Advocacy Group

**0.2%**



Other

**0.5%**

## Regional demographic information

- Auckland ● **17.8%**
- Bay of Plenty ● **3%**
- Canterbury ● **15%**
- Gisborne ● **0.7%**
- Hawke's Bay ● **3%**
- Marlborough ● **0.3%**
- Manawatu-Wanganui ● **10%**
- Nelson ● **1%**
- Northland ● **4%**
- Otago ● **8%**
- Southland ● **3%**
- Taranaki ● **1%**
- Tasman ● **1%**
- Waikato ● **15%**
- Wellington ● **9%**
- West Coast ● **8%**



# Key themes

The majority (often above 80%) of the respondents agreed that all the situations presented in the survey are issues.



80%

## Issues Identified

### These included:

- No professional regulation of AVPs
- Limited role of AVPs
- All responsibility sitting with Veterinarians
- Stress and fatigue resulting in poor mental health within the industry
- Shortage of veterinarians and AVPs
- No regulation of veterinary practices.

Most responses considered all these issues to be of moderate to high risk to the public, the veterinary sector, and animal welfare.

### Other issues identified by respondents included:

- Provision of after-hour services and poor working conditions
- The impact of climate change on the industry
- Gender imbalance in the industry
- Increase in pet ownership leading to more animal abuse (exacerbating short staffed emergency clinics)
- Low remuneration in the profession, no clear career progression, and lack of support for newbies in the sector.

## Regulation of AVPs

### Quality and competency standards was ranked the most important reason for AVP regulation.

- Most respondents want the title of AVP (under the Act) to specifically include veterinary nurses and veterinary technicians.
- Mandatory regulation run by VCNZ was the most popular option for regulation of AVPs.
- Most respondents did think that this option would increase costs, but thought that the benefits would outweigh the cost.
- The main concern identified by some respondents was that this option would stretch VCNZ's resources too far to regulate both professionals well.

### Most respondents wanted the following elements to be included in regulation:



## Regulation of Veterinary Practices

### Most respondents agreed that veterinary practices should be regulated.

- Requiring registration of veterinary clinics with VCNZ and moving legislative responsibility for some activities (e.g. veterinary medicines and controlled drugs, quality of facilities, and after hours) from the veterinarian to the veterinary clinic was the most preferred option by respondents.
- Most respondents thought this would have a positive impact on animal welfare and the veterinary sector as a whole.
- Many of the respondents thought this would have a positive impact on veterinarians and veterinary clinics, but many respondents were also unsure.
- Most respondents thought that it would also increase costs.
- Many thought it would increase workforce capacity, but many thought it wouldn't change.

