

**THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL
TERRITORY**

VETERINARY SURGEONS (AMENDMENT) BILL 1999

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

**Circulated by authority of
Michael Moore MLA**

**AMENDMENTS TO THE
VETERINARY SURGEONS (AMENDMENT) BILL 1999**

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

Outline

The *Veterinary Surgeons Act 1965* (the Act) provides for the registration of veterinary surgeons and veterinary specialists in the Australian Capital Territory.

The Board is established to provide registration of suitably qualified veterinary surgeons and veterinary specialists and related matters, in the interests of public safety. It does this by administering the Act through the educational, professional and disciplinary provisions contained within the Act.

Subsection 7(1) of the Act provides for all members of the Board to be registered veterinary surgeons and the Chairperson to also be 'a public servant'. The provision originally referred to a Commonwealth public servant, who would usually be a senior veterinarian in the *Department of Primary Industry*. Since self government was enacted in 1989, the term 'a public servant' is interpreted as an ACT public servant.

Given that there are only five eligible veterinary surgeons in the ACT, it is intended that this provision be repealed. The term of office of the last appointed Chairperson of the Board expired on 27 September 1998 and no expressions of interest were received, leaving the position vacant indefinitely.

The repeal of the requirement for the Chairperson to be 'a public servant', will widen the opportunity for appointment to the position of Chairperson to all registered veterinary surgeons in the ACT and bring the requirements for the occupant of this position into line with the health professions boards.

Revenue/Cost Implications

Nil

Formal Clauses

Clauses 1, 2 and 3 are formal requirements. They refer to the short title of the Bill, commencement and definition of the Principal Act. The Bill commences on the day on which it is notified in the *Gazette*.

Clause 4, in amending Section 7 of the *Veterinary Surgeons Act 1965*, the aim is to remove the requirement for the Chairperson of the Veterinary Surgeons Board to be an ACT public servant, while retaining the requirement for the Chairperson to be a registered veterinary surgeon.

Clause 5, is a consequential amendment to Section 8 of the *Veterinary Surgeons Act 1965*, so that it relates appropriately to the amended Section 7.