

AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

***Health Professions Boards (Procedures) Act 1981***  
***Veterinary Surgeons Act 1965***

APPOINTMENT TO THE VETERINARY SURGEONS BOARD  
OF THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

**INSTRUMENT NO. 249 OF 1999**

**EXPLANATORY STATEMENT**

The *Veterinary Surgeons Act 1965* (the Act) provides for the registration of veterinary surgeons.

The Board is established under Section 6 of the *Veterinary Surgeons Act 1965* (the Act). Section 7 of the Act provides for the Board to comprise of a chairperson and two members to be appointed by the Minister in accordance with the *Health Professions Boards (Procedures) Act 1981* and two members to be elected in accordance with the *Health Professions Boards (Elections) Act 1980*.

The Act provides for the registration of persons engaged in veterinary surgery, and for other related purposes.

The term of office for the Chairperson to the Veterinary Surgeons Board (the Board) expired on 27 September 1998, however, no expressions of interest were received, and as eligibility to be appointed to the position included the requirement that the person should be an ACT public servant as well as a registered veterinary surgeon, the field was limited to only five people.

On 2 July 1999 the *Veterinary Surgeons Amendment Bill 1999* was passed in the Legislative Assembly, deleting the requirement for the person appointed to the position of Chairperson of the Board to be 'a public servant', giving eligibility to appointment to the position of Chairperson to all registered veterinary surgeons in the ACT.

The term of office under subsection 8(1) of the Act, requires that the Chairperson hold "office during the pleasure of the Minister". It is customary, however, to appoint the Chairperson for the same period as other appointed members.

A second notice seeking expressions of interest for appointment to the position of Chairperson to the Board was forwarded by mail to all ACT registered veterinary surgeons in March 1999. Three male registered practitioners submitted expressions of interest for appointment to the position of Chairperson.