



# Specialist Eligibility Assessment

## Applicant Guide

January 2023

This booklet is provided by the Australasian Veterinary Boards Council Inc. (AVBC) to assist candidates in their application for assessment of their specialist training and qualifications.

The booklet was prepared by the Advisory Committee on the Registration of Veterinary Specialists (ACRVS).

The ACRVS wishes to acknowledge the tremendous work done by Dr. Nicki Fairley, former Convenor of the New Zealand Specialists Registration Committee, in preparing the first draft of this document and the contribution of the Australian and New Zealand College of Veterinary Scientists to Section 5.

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## 1 CONCEPT OF A VETERINARY SPECIALIST

A veterinary specialist is a registered veterinarian with an exceptionally high level of skills well above those of a general practitioner in the same discipline. A specialist must have undergone extensive advanced supervised training, culminating in the passing of a rigorous set of examinations. The specialty must be a branch of veterinary practice having sufficient depth and breadth to allow one to practise solely in that field.

## 2 PURPOSE OF SPECIALIST REGISTRATION

A system for specialist registration has been established by the veterinary registration boards in Australia and New Zealand under the provisions of their respective legislation, to ensure that the public has access to advanced veterinary expertise. Veterinarians must meet stringent requirements relating to qualifications, experience and training to be registered as specialists. Under legislation in Australia and New Zealand, only registered specialists may claim specialist status.

## 3 ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA FOR ASSESSMENT OF SPECIALIST TRAINING AND QUALIFICATIONS

*Before applying to the ACRVS applicants must:*

- a) hold a current registration certificate issued by an AVBC member registration board in Australia or New Zealand; and
- b) normally have been practising as a veterinarian for a minimum of five (5) years; and
- c) have completed a suitable training program as set down in Section 5; and
- d) have successfully completed an examination at the conclusion of the training program as set down in Section 5.5.7; and
- e) be accepted by colleagues and peers as possessing knowledge and skills at the level of a specialist; and
- f) be currently working (including teaching) a minimum of twenty-five hours per week in the field of specialty.

## 4. REGISTRATION PROCESS

The Advisory Committee on the Registration of Veterinary Specialists (ACRVS), a committee of the Australasian Veterinary Boards Council Inc. (AVBC), conducts assessments of an applicant's specialist qualifications, training and experience on behalf of its member veterinary registration boards in Australia and New Zealand.\* On completion of the ACRVS assessment, AVBC will notify you and your chosen veterinary board of its recommendation on your eligibility for specialist registration.

Following this recommendation, in order to proceed with your application for specialist registration, you will need to complete your respective board's application form and submit it for their consideration. The final decision on specialist endorsement and registration is made by your veterinary board.

\* Applicants seeking specialist endorsement with the Veterinary Surgeons' Board of South Australia should apply to the board directly.

# MSD

Section 5 : The **Minimum Standards Document**

## 5 MINIMUM STANDARDS DOCUMENT (MSD)

*In assessing applications, the ACRVS follows the criteria set out below. The Minimum Standards Document (MSD) underpins the activities of the ACRVS. Every application received is assessed against the most current version of the MSD as well as the application's own merits. Applicants need to demonstrate in their application how their specialist training program and examinations satisfy the requirements of the MSD.*

### 5.1 Minimum time from graduation

An applicant would normally have been practising as a veterinarian for at least five (5) years before being eligible to be registered as a specialist.

### 5.2 Minimum time working in the specialty

An applicant must have worked for at least three (3) years full time equivalent, including training, in his/her specialist area before being eligible to be registered as a specialist.

### 5.3 Current clinical activity

An applicant must be currently working (including teaching) a minimum of twenty-five hours per week in the specialty.

### 5.4 Professional activities

An applicant must be able to show evidence of current professional activities and contribution to profession including:

#### 5.4.1 Publications

Publications are a form of evidence of contribution to the profession and must demonstrate the candidate's scholarship in the discipline and ability to communicate scientific information.

##### 5.4.1.1 Refereed publications

Original scientific papers, reports, review articles or case studies published in scientific journals that utilise a system of scientific peer review prior to publication.

##### 5.4.1.2 Books and theses

##### 5.4.1.3 Unrefereed publications

Scientific papers, reports and case studies published in journals or magazines that do not utilise a system of scientific peer review prior to publication.

##### 5.4.1.4 Unpublished reports

Papers and reports that have not been published in a publicly accessible publication.

#### 5.4.2 Teaching in the discipline

#### 5.4.3 Attendance, speaking or presentations at conferences/workshops/courses:

#### 5.4.4 Committee participation, memberships, etc.

### 5.5 Training Programs

#### 5.5.1 Approval of the training program

Certifying Bodies are those organisations that approve training programs and administer examinations in veterinary specialties for the purpose of specialist recognition. Examples of Certifying Bodies include the Australian and New Zealand College of Veterinary Scientists, American Board of Veterinary Specialties, the European Board of Veterinary Specialisation, and the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons. The ACRVS expects that Certifying Bodies would have standards for approval of training programs in their respective disciplines and provide a means to assess the professional competence of candidates who have completed an approved training program.

Applicants must submit information on their training program. If the training program does not appear in Annexe A of the *Specialist Eligibility Assessment* guide, then that training program will need to be assessed by the ACRVS before the candidate's application can be assessed. This can take some time.

The ACRVS would expect the requirements for training programs of the Certifying Bodies to include as follows:

#### 5.5.2 Supervised training

A period of supervised training is an essential part of preparation for the final examination. This may involve either:

- a) a formal directly supervised structured training program such as a University training program; **OR**
- b) an alternate training program considered to provide an equivalent level of training to a formal training program.

#### 5.5.3 The period of supervised training

Training programs would normally include ninety-six (96) weeks of full-time, directly supervised training or its equivalent in the clinical and technical aspects of the relevant discipline (excluding vacation time).

- a) *Formal Training Program:*

Training occurs continuously in a full-time training program of two (2) years or more.

## MSD

b) *Alternative Training Program:*

The alternative training program would most likely consist of at least seventy-six (76) weeks of full time directly supervised training. Directly supervised training would be in blocks of at least six (6) weeks duration. The remaining twenty (20) weeks may be indirectly supervised training where five (5) weeks indirect supervised training is equivalent to one (1) week directly supervised training. Therefore up to one hundred (100) weeks of indirectly supervised training may be taken. Indirectly supervised training is defined as follows:

- i) Training must be in the appropriate discipline and would normally occupy at least twenty-five (25) hours per week; **AND**
- ii) There would normally be weekly discussion of cases with the supervisor.

c) *Completion of training*

Regardless of the type and structure of the training program, training would normally be accomplished within six (6) years. The proportion of the candidate's weekly time spent in the practice of the discipline would normally be not less than twenty-five (25) hours per week during training.

### **5.5.4 The selection and role of supervisors**

- a) Supervisors should be approved by the Certifying Body.
- b) Supervisors shall be recognised experts in the candidate's chosen discipline and must be actively working in the candidate's chosen discipline. Supervisors shall be either registered as specialists in the discipline or have qualifications deemed equivalent by the ACRVS.
- c) Supervisors shall be responsible for both instruction and continuing assessment of candidates and for providing feedback as required by the certifying body.

### **5.5.5 Prerequisites of an approved centre**

- a) Approved centres for the purpose of training would normally be expected to have:
  - i) An adequate workload in the specialty
  - ii) Adequate facilities for the performance of the specialty
  - iii) Adequate access to other professional expertise
  - iv) The written permission of the principal of the centre providing the facility.
- b) A description of the centre should be detailed in the training program submitted to the Certifying Body.
- c) The Certifying Body will provide approval of the centre.



**5.5.6 Scholarship**

- a) The training program should include evidence of scholarship which may include:
  - i) Case reports
  - ii) Presentations at national or international scientific meetings
  - iii) The completion of research project/s
  - iv) Published manuscripts
- b) Written evidence of completion of the above should be provided to the Certifying Body for scrutiny by the Certifying Body and/or the examiners.
- c) The number and content of the above will be prescribed by the Certifying Body.

**5.5.7 Examinations**

Although the Certifying Body will set and grade examinations, it is expected that examinations will be rigorous and comprehensive covering theoretical and applied aspects of the discipline. It is expected that a range of examination techniques, such as written, oral, practical, case studies, and interpretative studies will be employed to assess professional competence. The Certifying Body may also take into account referees' reports, research manuscripts and further evidence of a candidate's contributions to the specialty such as publications, invited talks, teaching and professional interaction.

**5.6 Higher degrees**

Under normal circumstances, PhDs and Masters degrees will not be considered as suitable qualifications to support a claim for specialist registration.

Under special circumstances it may be possible for a candidate to request that part or all of a higher degree program be assessed as contributing to their specialty training program requirements. Recognition of equivalence to a formal training program will only be given where the candidate provides documentation to allow assessment of the training at the same level as that of any other formal training program.

## 6. MINIMUM STANDARDS DOCUMENT (MSD) FOR FOUNDING MEMBERS OF NEW SPECIALTIES

The following Minimum Standards only apply to Founding Members of New Specialties. These standards form part of the requirements for assessment of applications where applicants are seeking recognition in a new specialty in Australia and New Zealand. The key to invoking Section 6 of the MSD is when applicants for assessment **have not completed a formal training program within a recognised specialty college**. This would only occur when there is a brand new area of specialisation and there is no clearly defined opportunity to have undertaken a training program for that new specialty. **You will need to contact the AVBC office directly for a copy of the Founding Members of New Specialties application form.**

The AVBC Founding Member of a New Specialty (Chapter, College or new specialty) must provide evidence that:

- 6.1** The nominated specialty is deemed relevant and to the benefit of animals and their owners in Australia and New Zealand. The onus is on the applicant and those intending to establish a new specialist category to demonstrate the public need (in the Australian and New Zealand context).
- 6.2** The new specialty Chapter or College and its Charter or de facto Diplomates or Fellows were approved by the ABVS, EBVS, RCVS or ANZCVS. This approval was granted during or after 2010.
- 6.3** The applicant has achieved distinction in the field and has qualifications exceeding those proposed as necessary for future candidates desiring to apply for Fellowship or Diplomat training.
- 6.4** The applicant is recognised for their specialist-level skills and practice within the discipline by their peers, and is an author of relevant publications including refereed publications from peer reviewed journals resulting from research or practise in the specialty.

AND either a., b., or c., as follows:

- a.** Must have at least ten years' experience in the specialty, and, by teaching, research, or practise have contributed significantly to the development of the specialty; **OR**
  - b.** Be a Professor or Associate Professor of the specialty in a college or department of veterinary medicine whose graduates are registerable without further examination in Australia or New Zealand and have contributed significantly to the development of the specialty; **OR**
  - c.** Have advanced training (PhD or equivalent) in the specialty; and have demonstrated competency through teaching, research or practise in the specialty to which the individual devotes most of his or her professional time.
- 6.5** The applicant is currently registered in Australia or New Zealand and in good professional standing with the registration board through which the application is made.

- 6.6** The applicant is currently working (including teaching) a minimum of 25 hours per week in the specialty.
- 6.7** Demonstrate a contribution to the growth/establishment of the specialty through a commitment to specialist training programs (e.g. training residents). Applicants must commit to, and provide evidence of supervision of candidates in the new specialty within five (5) years of a successful recommendation from AVBC for specialist registration (in Australia and New Zealand). The training program must have been approved by ABVS, EBVS, ANZCVS or RCVS.
- 6.8** The applicant has passed an approved rigorous and comprehensive certifying examination process which constitutes the certifying examination of the specialty college. (Details of the rigor of this examination are referred to in Section 5.5.7 of the MSD.)
- 6.9** Time Limit: The founding member must apply to the AVBC for assessment of their eligibility for specialist registration within five (5) years of their certification date as a Charter or de facto or Founding Member of the new College, Chapter or specialty.
- 6.10** Statement of intent: The ACRVS expects that founding member applicants will make a commitment to expanding the number of specialists in their discipline. A founding member applicant is required by the ACRVS to submit a Statement of Intent to provide training programs for future specialists in the discipline.
- 6.11** Applicants must submit a detailed application and CV to clearly address the AVBC's requirements for a Founding Member.
- The ACRVS would expect the application to address in detail items 6.1 to 6.10 above (also summarised below):
- i. Relevance; Benefit; Public Need
  - ii. Specialty has ABVS, EBVS, ANZCVS or RCVS approval
  - iii. Distinction in the new field
  - iv. Peer Recognition
  - v. Currently registered and in good standing
  - vi. Professional activity
  - vii. Commitment to a training future specialists (e.g. residency program)
  - viii. Completion of an approved certifying exam
  - ix. Time limit
  - x. Statement of Intent to provide training programs for future specialists in the discipline

## 7. REFEREE REQUIREMENTS

Referee requirements as required by the Certifying Body.

## 8. FEES

You may be required to pay more than one fee to register as a veterinary specialist. The **fee for assessment** is set by the AVBC and is subject to GST. The assessment fee must accompany your application. Please refer to Section D of the application form for more information and payment methods. The **specialist registration fee** is set by your local registration board. Please contact your registration board for their current registration fee structure.

## 9. APPEALS PROCESS

Any appeals must be made through the registration board to which an application for specialist registration is submitted. Each board has its own appeals mechanism and an appellant should contact the Registrar or Executive Officer of that registration board in the first instance.

## 10. PRIVACY POLICY

The AVBC Inc. will collect information from applicants with their prior knowledge and consent. By signing this application you give AVBC Inc. permission to make enquiries to assist in the assessment of eligibility for specialist registration and to use any information supplied in this application for that purpose. You may apply to the AVBC Inc. for access to information collected by AVBC Inc. in relation to your application. The AVBC Inc. will not disclose your personal information to a third party with the exception of providing your information to the any subsequent registration board with whom you may seek registration as a specialist.

The AVBC Inc. will not disclose your information to other state institutions and authorities except if required by law or other regulation. We have implemented technology and security policies, rules and measures to protect the personal information that AVBC Inc. has under its control from unauthorized access, improper use, alteration, unlawful or accidental destruction and accidental loss. AVBC Inc. will remove personal information from our systems where it is no longer required.



# Annexe A

Examples of qualifications whose **formal full time training programs** generally meet the requirements of the *Minimum Standards Document*.

The Certifying Bodies which set out the standards generally acceptable for specialist recognition as stated in Section 5 are:

*The Australian and New Zealand College of Veterinary Scientists (ANZCVS);*

*The American Board of Veterinary Specialties (ABVS);*

*The European Board of Veterinary Specialisation (EBVS);*

*The Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons (RCVS)*

The AVBC requires that the ACRVS carefully examines each application and compare it to the requirements set out in the Minimum Standards Document (Section 5 of the AVBC publication, *Specialist Training Assessment*). The process is more involved than purely validating that appropriate qualifications have been obtained.

Examples of qualifications whose **formal full time training programs** generally meet the standards acceptable for specialist recognition stated in Section 5 are listed below. **This list is neither exhaustive nor exclusive. This list is to be used as a GUIDE only.**

A training program **not on this list** needs to be assessed/evaluated by the ACRVS before the application is assessed. This requires the applicant to provide detailed information about the training program so that this assessment can be done. If a training program needs to be assessed, the assessment process can take up to 12 months to complete. Non-standard or alternative programs are not included in Annexe A as they require individual evaluation.

## Annexe A

SPECIALIST CATEGORIES	QUALIFICATION
1. Animal Behaviour	Fellow of the Australian and New Zealand College of Veterinary Scientists (FANZCVS) - veterinary behavioural medicine
2. Avian Medicine & Surgery (or Avian Medicine)	Fellow of Australian and New Zealand College of Veterinary Science (ANZCVS) - avian medicine & surgery (from 2020) - avian medicine (until 2020)
3. Dairy Cattle Medicine & Management (or Cattle Management and Diseases)	Fellow of the Australian and New Zealand College of Veterinary Scientists (FANZCVS) - dairy cattle medicine and management (from 2010) - cattle management and diseases (until 2010)
4. Equine Medicine	Fellow of the Australian and New Zealand College of Veterinary Scientists (FANZCVS) - equine medicine  Diplomate of the American College of Veterinary Internal Medicine (ACVIM) - large animal internal medicine (equine)  Diplomate of the European College of Equine Internal Medicine (ECEIM) - equine medicine ***** (6)
5. Equine Surgery	Fellow of the Australian and New Zealand College of Veterinary Scientists (FANZCVS) - equine surgery  Diplomate of the American College of Veterinary Surgeons (ACVS) - large animal surgery (equine)  Diplomate of the European College of Veterinary Surgeons (ECVS) - large animal surgery (equine)
6. Feline Medicine	Fellow of the Australian and New Zealand College of Veterinary Scientists (FANZCVS) - feline medicine

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SPECIALIST CATEGORIES	QUALIFICATION
7. Laboratory Animal Medicine	Diplomate of the American College of Laboratory Animal Medicine (ACLAM) - laboratory animal medicine
8. Large Animal Medicine	Diplomate of the American College of Veterinary Internal Medicine (ACVIM) - large animal internal medicine (food animal)
9. Small Animal Medicine	Fellow of the Australian and New Zealand College of Veterinary Scientists (FANZCVS) - small animal medicine  Diplomate of the American College of Veterinary Internal Medicine (ACVIM) - small animal internal medicine  Diplomate of the European College of Veterinary Internal Medicine - Companion Animals (ECVIM-CA) - small animal medicine ** (2)
10. Small Animal Surgery	Fellow of the Australian and New Zealand College of Veterinary Scientists (FANZCVS) - small animal surgery  Diplomate of the American College of Veterinary Surgeons (ACVS) - small animal surgery  Diplomate of the European College of Veterinary Surgeons (ECVS) - small animal surgery
11. Veterinary Anaesthesia & Analgesia (or Anaesthesia & Critical Care)	Diplomate of the American College of Veterinary Anaesthesia and Analgesia (ACVAA) # - veterinary anaesthesia and analgesia  Diplomate of the European College of Veterinary Anaesthesia and Analgesia (ECVAA) - veterinary anaesthesia and analgesia *** (3)  Fellow of the Australian and New Zealand College of Veterinary Scientists (FANZCVS) - veterinary anaesthesia and analgesia (from 2017) - veterinary anaesthesia and critical care (until 2016)



## Annexe A

SPECIALIST CATEGORIES	QUALIFICATION
12. Veterinary Emergency Medicine & Critical Care	Diplomate of the American College of Veterinary Emergency and Critical Care (ACVECC) - veterinary emergency and critical care  Fellow of the Australian and New Zealand College of Veterinary Specialists (FANZCVS) - veterinary emergency and critical care
13. Veterinary Anatomical Pathology	Fellow of the Australian and New Zealand College of Veterinary Scientists (FANZCVS) - veterinary anatomical pathology  Diplomate of the American College of Veterinary Pathologists (ACVP) - veterinary anatomic pathology
14. Veterinary Clinical Pathology	Diplomate of the American College of Veterinary Pathologists (ACVP) - veterinary clinical pathology
15. Veterinary Cardiology	Diplomate of the American College of Veterinary Internal Medicine - CA (ACVIM-CA) - veterinary cardiology  Diplomate of the European College of Veterinary Internal Medicine - Companion Animals (ECVIM-CA) - veterinary cardiology
16. Veterinary Dentistry	Diplomate of the American Veterinary Dental College (AVDC) - veterinary dentistry
17. Veterinary Dermatology	Fellow of the Australian and New Zealand College of Veterinary Scientists (FANZCVS) - veterinary dermatology  Diplomate of the American College of Veterinary Dermatology (ACVD) - veterinary dermatology

## Annexe A

SPECIALIST CATEGORIES	QUALIFICATION
18. Veterinary Radiology (or Diagnostic Imaging)	<p>Fellow of the Australian and New Zealand College of Veterinary Scientists (FANZCVS)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- veterinary radiology (from 2012)</li> <li>- veterinary diagnostic imaging (until 2012)</li> </ul> <p>Diplomate of the American College of Veterinary Radiology (ACVR)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-veterinary radiology</li> </ul> <p>Diplomate of the European College of Veterinary Diagnostic Imaging (ECVDI)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- veterinary diagnostic imaging **** (4)</li> </ul> <p>Diplomate of the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons (RCVS)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- veterinary diagnostic imaging</li> </ul>
19. Veterinary Epidemiology	<p>Fellow of the Australian and New Zealand College of Veterinary Scientists (FANZCVS)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- veterinary epidemiology</li> </ul>
20. Veterinary Microbiology	<p>Diplomate of the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons (RCVS)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- veterinary pathology (microbiology)</li> </ul>
21. Veterinary Neurology	<p>Diplomate of the American College of Veterinary Internal Medicine (ACVIM)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- veterinary neurology</li> </ul> <p>Diplomate of the European College of Veterinary Neurology (ECVN)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- veterinary neurology</li> </ul>
22. Veterinary Nutrition	<p>Diplomate of the American College of Veterinary Nutrition (ACVN)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- veterinary nutrition * (1)</li> </ul>
23. Veterinary Oncology	<p>Fellow of the Australian and New Zealand College of Veterinary Scientists (FANZCVS)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- veterinary oncology</li> </ul> <p>Diplomate of the American College of Veterinary Internal Medicine (ACVIM)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- veterinary oncology</li> </ul>

## Annexe A

SPECIALIST CATEGORIES	QUALIFICATION
24. Veterinary Ophthalmology	<p>Fellow of the Australian and New Zealand College of Veterinary Scientists (FANZCVS)</p> <p>- veterinary ophthalmology</p> <p>Diplomate of the American College of Veterinary Ophthalmologists (ACVO)</p> <p>- veterinary ophthalmology ***** (5)</p> <p>Diplomate of the European College of Veterinary Ophthalmologists (ECVO)</p> <p>- veterinary ophthalmology ***** (7)</p> <p>Diplomate of the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons (RCVS)</p> <p>- veterinary ophthalmology</p>
25. Veterinary Radiation Oncology	<p>Diplomate of the American College of Veterinary Radiology - Radiation Oncology (ACVR-RO)</p> <p>- radiation oncology ***** (9)</p>
26. Veterinary Reproduction	<p>Diplomate of the American College of Theriogenologists (ACT)</p> <p>- veterinary reproduction</p>
27. Veterinary Sports Medicine & Rehabilitation	<p>Diplomate of the American College of Veterinary Sports Medicine and Rehabilitation (ACVSMR)</p> <p>- veterinary sports medicine and rehabilitation (equine) ***** (10)</p>
28. Zoological Medicine	<p>Diplomate of the American College of Zoological Medicine (ACZM)</p> <p>- zoological medicine ***** (8)</p>

- \* (1) Approved in April 2009 (ECVN)  
 \*\* (2) Approved in April 2009 (ECVIM-CA)  
 \*\*\* (3) Approved in August 2009 (ECVAA)  
 \*\*\*\* (4) Approved in June 2010 (ECVDI)  
 \*\*\*\*\* (5) Approved in December 2010 (ACVO)

- \*\*\*\*\* (6) Approved in May 2012 (ECEIM)  
 \*\*\*\*\* (7) Approved in December 2012 (ECVO)  
 \*\*\*\*\* (8) Approved in October 2018 (ACZM)  
 \*\*\*\*\* (9) Approved in November 2018 (ACVR-RO)  
 \*\*\*\*\* (10) Approved in August 2019 (ACVSMR)

# Name change from American College of Veterinary Anesthesiology (ACVA) to American College of Veterinary Anesthesiology and Analgesia in 2012. Name changed in 2014 to American College of Veterinary Anesthesia and Analgesia.

# Annexe B

## History and Rules of the ACRVS

### **HISTORY OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON THE REGISTRATION OF VETERINARY SPECIALISTS (ACRVS)**

The ACRVS is a standing committee of the Australasian Veterinary Boards Council Inc. (AVBC). It was first established by the Australian and New Zealand College of Veterinary Scientists (ANZCVS) in 1985 to advise on the suitability of the training, experience and qualifications of applicants for registration as specialists. The ACRVS became a standing committee of the Australasian Veterinary Boards Council Inc. (AVBC) on its incorporation on 20 December 1999.

The purpose of the ACRVS is to establish uniformity between the registration boards in terms of the standards applied to applications for assessment of eligibility for registration as a veterinary specialist.

Veterinarians apply to the ACRVS for assessment of their training, experience and qualifications and the ACRVS advise the veterinarian's registration board if their application meets the criteria for specialists accepted by the AVBC.

The ACRVS reports annually to the AVBC and communicates with the AVBC as necessary on issues such as new fields of specialist registration and training, and experience and qualifications for specialist registration. The ACRVS also contacts (and is contacted by) individual registration boards occasionally on specific issues.

The ACRVS handles the assessment of applications by mail, email, teleconference and face to face meetings.

As a standing committee of the AVBC the ACRVS has no statutory authority or power. Registration boards are not obliged to use the ACRVS to assess training, experience or qualifications, but most have agreed to do so.

Recognised categories for specialist registration are determined by the AVBC. Introduction of new categories is a rigorous process conducted in consultation with the ANZCVS.

Criteria for assessing applications were developed in consultation with the AVBC and with advice from the ANZCVS. This latter advice is essential, as the ANZCVS is the major provider of supervised training and assessment for veterinarians seeking specialist registration in Australia and New Zealand. The criteria applied to applications are essentially the same regardless of the area in which specialist registration is sought.

The ACRVS has no role to play in any appeal other than to provide advice to the registration board involved if asked to do so. Appeal mechanisms are administered by the applicants' registration board.

### AVBC Member Registration Boards in Australia and New Zealand

#### **Veterinary Practitioners Board of New South Wales**

Tel 02 8338 1177

Fax 02 8338 1077

email [admin@vpb.nsw.gov.au](mailto:admin@vpb.nsw.gov.au)

[www.vpb.nsw.gov.au](http://www.vpb.nsw.gov.au)

#### **POSTAL ADDRESS**

Suite 7.09, 247 Coward Street

Mascot NSW 2020.

#### **Veterinary Practitioners Registration Board of Victoria**

Tel 03 9620 7444

Fax 03 9620 7044

email [communications@vetboard.vic.gov.au](mailto:communications@vetboard.vic.gov.au)

[www.vetboard.vic.gov.au](http://www.vetboard.vic.gov.au)

#### **POSTAL ADDRESS**

Level 14, 10-16 Queen Street

MELBOURNE VIC 3000

#### **Veterinary Surgeons Board of Queensland**

Tel 07 3087 8777

Fax 07 3087 8144

email [vsbqld@daf.qld.gov.au](mailto:vsbqld@daf.qld.gov.au)

[www.vsb.qld.gov.au](http://www.vsb.qld.gov.au)

#### **POSTAL ADDRESS**

GPO Box 46

BRISBANE QLD 4001

#### **Veterinary Surgeons Board of Western Australia**

Tel 08 9317 2353

Fax 08 9317 2363

email [admin@vsbwa.org.au](mailto:admin@vsbwa.org.au)

[www.vsbwa.org.au](http://www.vsbwa.org.au)

#### **POSTAL ADDRESS**

PO Box 1721

MELVILLE SOUTH WA 6156

#### **ACT Veterinary Practitioners Board**

Tel 02 6207 0012

email [TCCS.vetboard@act.gov.au](mailto:TCCS.vetboard@act.gov.au)

[www.cityservices.act.gov.au/pets-and-wildlife/veterinary-practitioners-board](http://www.cityservices.act.gov.au/pets-and-wildlife/veterinary-practitioners-board)

#### **POSTAL ADDRESS**

GPO Box 158

CANBERRA ACT 2601

#### **Veterinary Board of the Northern Territory**

Tel 08 8999 2028

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[www.vetboard.nt.gov.au](http://www.vetboard.nt.gov.au)

#### **POSTAL ADDRESS**

GPO Box 3000

DARWIN NT 0801

#### **Veterinary Council of New Zealand**

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