

Australasian Veterinary Boards Council Ltd

Advisory Committee on the Registration of Veterinary Specialists (ACRVS)

Chair Role Description

Purpose of AVBC

The Australasian Veterinary Boards Council (AVBC) is the national standards-setting body for veterinary education, assessment, and professional recognition across Australia and New Zealand. AVBC plays a critical role in safeguarding the quality and consistency of veterinary practice by:

- Accrediting veterinary schools
 - Delivering the Australasian Veterinary Examination (AVE)
 - Supporting specialist recognition frameworks
 - Working collaboratively with jurisdictional veterinary boards, governments, and the profession
 - Assessing veterinary qualifications and experience for migration purposes
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Purpose of the ACRVS Committee

The Advisory Committee on the Registration of Veterinary Specialists (ACRVS) supports AVBC's purpose by providing independent, expert advice and decision-making on the recognition of veterinary specialists across Australia and New Zealand.

The Committee is responsible for:

- Setting and maintaining standards for specialist recognition
 - Assessing applications for specialist registration and determining eligibility
 - Advising on policy matters related to veterinary specialisation
 - Monitoring and reviewing specialist standards against contemporary practice and international benchmarks
 - Supporting the development of new and expedited pathways for specialist recognition
 - Maintaining integrity, consistency, and public confidence in specialist registration systems
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Role Purpose

The ACRVS Chair (the Chair) provides independent leadership, governance oversight and strategic direction to the ACRVS Committee, ensuring it operates effectively within its delegated authority and delivers a robust, consistent and defensible specialist registration framework.

The Chair plays a critical role in ensuring:

- Specialist registration decisions are evidence-based, consistent and defensible
 - Standards reflect contemporary veterinary practice and public interest expectations
 - The Committee maintains credibility with regulators, the profession, and the public
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Key Responsibilities

1. Governance and Leadership

- Lead the Committee in accordance with AVBC governance frameworks and delegated authority
- Ensure the Committee operates within its Terms of Reference
- Promote a culture of integrity, independence, accountability and transparency
- Ensure appropriate oversight of risks, particularly regulatory, reputational and legal risks

2. Oversight of Specialist Registration Frameworks

- Oversee the development, application and continuous improvement of specialist registration standards
- Ensure alignment with:
 - Contemporary veterinary practice
 - Regulatory expectations across Australia and New Zealand
 - Public interest and workforce considerations
- Support development of risk-based and competency-based pathways for recognition

3. Decision-Making Integrity and Defensibility

- Ensure assessment processes are fair, consistent, transparent and evidence-based
- Oversee quality assurance in application assessment, including:
 - Consistency of decision-making
 - Use of expert advice where required
 - Documentation and defensibility of outcomes
- Ensure appropriate management of complex or high-risk applications

4. Committee Effectiveness and Membership

- Lead and facilitate effective, structured Committee meetings
- Approve agendas and ensure balanced and informed discussion
- Ensure appropriate composition and capability across the Committee, including:
 - Regulatory expertise
 - Specialist clinical expertise
 - Education and training insight
 - Public interest perspective
- Support member performance, development and succession planning

5. Stakeholder and Board Interface

- Act as the primary liaison between ACRVS and the AVBC Board
- Provide clear, concise and timely reporting to the Board
- Escalate significant risks, policy issues or emerging sector challenges
- Support engagement with key stakeholders including regulatory boards and specialist bodies

6. Risk, Compliance and Integrity Oversight

- Ensure compliance with AVBC policies and regulatory expectations
 - Oversee management of conflicts of interest and confidentiality
 - Ensure decisions are free from bias or undue influence
 - Support maintenance of appropriate governance and assurance frameworks
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Key Working Relationships

- AVBC Board
- CEO and AVBC Executive
- Head of Education
- Committee Members and Advisors
- Veterinary regulatory authorities (Australia and New Zealand)
- Relevant specialist and professional bodies

Skills and Experience

Essential

- Demonstrated regulatory or governance experience (Board or Committee level)
- Strong understanding of regulatory, accreditation or standards-setting environments
- Experience in credentialing, assessment or professional recognition processes
- Ability to exercise independent judgement and manage complex decision-making
- Strong facilitation, communication and stakeholder management skills

Highly Desirable

- Experience in veterinary specialist training, accreditation or recognition systems
- Understanding of international specialist frameworks and benchmarking
- Experience in public interest governance

Behavioural Capabilities

- Integrity and independence
 - Sound judgement and objectivity
 - Collaborative and inclusive leadership style
 - Commitment to fairness, transparency and public interest
 - Ability to manage complexity and competing perspectives
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Time Commitment

- Attendance at all scheduled Committee meetings (minimum annually, with additional meetings as required)
 - Preparation and review of application materials and Committee papers
 - Participation in out-of-session decisions and working groups
 - Time allocated for Board reporting and stakeholder engagement
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Appointment and Tenure

- Chair is appointed by the AVBC Board
 - Standard term: three (3) years, maximum two consecutive terms
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Reporting Line

Reports to the AVBC Board and works closely with the CEO and relevant executive support.

Location

Meetings are primarily virtual, with periodic in-person meetings as required.

Remuneration

Remuneration is determined by the AVBC Board in accordance with AVBC policy.

Compliance Obligations

The Chair must:

- Comply with AVBC policies, including conflicts of interest and confidentiality
- Act in the best interests of AVBC and the public
- Maintain strict confidentiality of applications and deliberations

Performance Review

Performance of the Chair will be:

- Reviewed periodically by the AVBC Board
- Assessed against governance effectiveness, quality of decision-making, and Committee leadership