

## Changes to the Preliminary (MCQ) Examination of the National Veterinary Exam (NVE)

The NVE Board of Examiners completed a major review of the Preliminary (MCQ) Examination of the NVE in 2016. Changes to both the format and delivery of the MCQ will take effect from the next sitting planned for **APRIL 2017**. This will be the only preliminary examination held in 2017. The closing date for applications for this exam is **8 February 2017**.

The changes outlined in this information sheet refer only to the Preliminary (MCQ) Examination of the NVE. All other requirements for NVE eligibility assessments, English language assessments, the Final (Clinical) Examination, application procedures and application fees remain unaffected by the changes. Please refer to the NVE Candidates' Information Handbook available from the AVBC website [www.avbc.asn.au](http://www.avbc.asn.au) for more information.

In summary, the major changes to the Preliminary Examination are:

- only one MCQ examination session per year;
- a move to two papers from the current three-paper exam format;
- computer-based delivery of the exam papers; and
- only three attempts permitted before a two year "lock-out" is imposed.

From 2017, the Preliminary (MCQ) Examination will consist of two papers, set in English, in multiple choice question format, held at a number of venues in Australia and overseas. The Preliminary Examination will be held on a single day and **only once per year** – expected to be early in the calendar year, generally in April.

The two papers test:

Paper 1: Base knowledge (general knowledge of veterinary science); and

Paper 2: Clinical reasoning (clinical judgement or the ability to use specific knowledge).

Paper 1 has 120 questions (20 pilot questions not scored) and Paper 2 has 100 questions (20 pilot questions not scored). Candidates have three hours to complete each paper. The papers align with a new question blueprint details of which are to be found in the Candidates' Information Handbook on the AVBC website.

A candidate will either attain an overall pass or an overall fail in the Preliminary (MCQ) Examination, and not a paper-specific result. From 2017, candidates who fail the preliminary exam three times will be required to seek counselling from a Board of Examiners member and will be required to wait for two years before being allowed to re-sit the exam.

## Computer-Based Delivery of the Examination

AVBC has moved to computer-based delivery of the exam papers in partnership with Excel Psychological and Educational Consultancy (EPEC) and their venue provider, Cliftons.

Candidates will navigate through the computer-based exam papers at selected venues in Australia and overseas. Answers are marked using circular radio buttons (see example below). Candidates can only select one answer from the list of choices. When a candidate selects an answer choice, all other answer choices are deselected automatically. Candidates have the ability to change, edit and flag questions as they go.

An example of radio buttons:

- Option 1
- Option 2

A short practice exam will be made available for candidates to familiarise themselves with the navigation of computer-based exams and candidates are encouraged to take up the opportunity to do so.

A list of venues, venue information and access to a practice exam will be made available to candidates as part of the preliminary examination application process.

Please contact the NVE Coordinator at [nve@avbc.asn.au](mailto:nve@avbc.asn.au) if you have any concerns.

*August 2016.*