

**Tara Cheyne MLA**

Manager of Government Business

Attorney-General

Minister for Human Rights

Minister for City and Government Services

Minister for the Night-Time Economy

Member for Ginninderra

**RESPONSE TO QUESTION ON NOTICE****Questions on Notice Paper No 5****Friday, 11 April 2025****Question No. 320****MS CLAY:** To ask the Minister for City and Government Services —

1. How many large animal vets, farriers and people qualified to provide equine dentistry services are available in Canberra currently.
2. How many were available a year ago.
3. Has the Minister reviewed access to local farrier, large animal vet services and equine dentistry in Canberra.
4. How many non-large animal vets are available in Canberra currently.
5. How many were available a year ago.
6. Has the Minister reviewed access to non-large animal vet services in Canberra.

**Ms Tara Cheyne MLA – The answer to the Member's questions are as follows:**

1. The ACT Veterinary Practitioners Board (the Board) maintains a list of all registered veterinary practitioners in the ACT (both practising and non-practising). The Board does not maintain a separate list of specialist categories however, as of 14 April 2025, there are 299 veterinary practitioners registered in the ACT. It is important to note that the restriction on the use of power tools does not prevent non-veterinary dental providers from offering equine dental services in the ACT; however, they are limited to the use of manual tools and the Board does not regulate, nor maintain a register of these providers. Additionally, the regulation of farrier's does not fall within the remit of the Board.
2. As of 30 June 2024, there were 299 veterinary practitioners registered in the ACT.
3. No. However, in June 2024, the ACT Government conducted a review of proposed amendments to the *Veterinary Practice Regulation 2018* (the Regulation) and sought consultation from various stakeholders. The feedback focused on a proposal to amend the restricted acts of veterinary science to allow non-veterinary professionals holding a Diploma



of Equine Allied Health to perform equine dentistry using power tools. Veterinary practitioners, equine dentists, and other relevant stakeholders were invited to comment. The ACT Government received significant feedback during the consultation process, with a total of 55 submissions. Of these, 12 submissions supported the proposed amendment, while 43 submissions opposed it. After considering all submissions, it was determined to maintain the existing standards, thereby continuing to classify the use of power tools in equine dentistry as a restricted act of veterinary science.

4. The Board maintains a list of all registered veterinary practitioners in the ACT (both practising and non-practising). The Board does not maintain a separate list of specialist categories.
5. See response to question 2.
6. No.

**Approved for circulation to the Member and incorporation into Hansard.**



**Tara Cheyne MLA**  
**Minister for City and Government Services**

**Date:** 30/4/25

This response required 45 mins to complete, at an approximate cost of \$72.97