

THE AUSTRALIAN AND NEW ZEALAND COLLEGE OF VETERINARY SCIENTISTS



ABN 50 000 894 208

Garden City Office Park
Building 3
2404 Logan Road
EIGHT MILE PLAINS QLD 4113
Telephone: 07 3423 2016
Email: examinations@anzcvs.org.au

21 April 2020

MEMORANDUM

To: Enrolled Fellowship candidate

From: Dr Carolyn Guy, Chief Examiner

Subject: **April 21st ANZCVS Communication to Fellowship Candidates**

In these times of uncertainty, while it is difficult for the Board of Examiners to provide certainty and peace of mind as to how the rest of the year will play out for fellowship candidates enrolled to sit exams or in training, we want to assure you we are listening to the communications of support and frustration from members, employers and candidates. Like you take on board all advice from health authorities, state, federal and New Zealand governments we are using this advice to model possible scenarios in providing exams and direct supervised learning or supplementary learning for fellowship candidates. In this communication we want to let you know what we are considering to ensure you we are doing just that.

How long before the 2020 fellowship exam date will be released? You will be provided with a date at least 3 months prior to the written examinations to allow for study. If we can provide more notice, we will. The requirement for at least 3 months is to ensure that candidates can prepare. Given the volatile nature of this pandemic, cancellation or postponement within this period is still possible.

When will the literature to be examined on extend to? The literature cannot exceed March 1st, 2020 when the exams were due for 2020 examinations. The reading list in the subject guidelines has not changed as current subject guidelines stay relevant to these examinations.

Will the written examinations be closer in time to the practical and orals? This is something that is being considered and candidates will be advised of the dates of all examination components in the one communication, at least 3 months prior to the examinations.

Will the examinations be held remotely or online (including Zooming orals)? These options are also being discussed by the Board because of the current social distancing requirements and border controls. The decision will depend on what is possible at that time.

What if domestic travel is lifted but New Zealand candidates cannot travel to Australia?

We have this in consideration as to how we could provide examinations in New Zealand at the same time as Australia.

What if the 2020 exams are so close to the 2021 exams and I have to study for a resit?

Having the exams a year apart will not be possible and we want to encourage sitting candidates to think about this scenario and what study requirements may add to the next 13 months in leading up to the exam and if a resit was required.

Could the examinations still be deferred until the 2021 offering? This is a possibility depending on the situation later this year, noting that if there is significant uncertainty remaining later this year and we could not give less than 3 months' notice to candidates to allow for study.

The deferral of fellowship examinations was not taken lightly nor was the decision taken to cause anxiety to candidates but with the knowledge of how important these examinations are to fellowship candidates. The Board and Council are united in providing these examinations to candidates this year despite the circumstance we find ourselves in, however these examinations can only be provided if it is safe to do so under the guidelines of health authorities and governments.

We thank you for your patience while we continue to plan for the 2020 examinations. We are very conscious of the necessity of keeping you informed and we will continue to do so over the coming months. Please continue to communicate with us should you have questions. Where those questions are generally applicable, we will aim to answer by communicating with all fellowship candidates.