



## EXPRESSION OF OPINION

### Preamble

The following Policy applies when a request is received from the media or another organisation asking for the opinion of the College or one of its Chapters on an issue relating to veterinary science, **OR** when the College or one of its Chapters elects to voice a scientific position on an issue to the media or another organisation.

### Policy

College members are entitled to express an opinion **on their own behalf** at any time. When doing so they are entitled to state their expertise in the area, which may include their College qualification.

College members must not make a public statement **on behalf of the College** or its chapters verbally, in writing, through electronic communication or projected PowerPoint presentation, unless they follow the following guidelines:

### Guidelines

- a. The statement of opinion must have sufficient information for persons not expert in that particular field to understand the issues.
- b. The statement must have the majority support of the relevant Chapter Executive.
- c. The Chapter must send notification detailing the issue to the Executive Officer of the College for review and approval.
- d. The statement may be released by the relevant Chapter Executive following approval by the Executive Officer.
- e. A copy of all correspondence issued to the media/other organisation associated with the statement of opinion must be provided to the College office.