

The Australian Veterinary Association is the national organisation representing veterinarians in Australia. Our 8500 members come from all fields within the veterinary profession.

We recommend that registered **veterinary surgeons should continue to be included as authorised witnesses** in the occupations listed in Schedule 2 the Statutory Declarations Regulations.

The reasons that veterinarians should continue to be included as authorised witnesses are:

- Most towns in Australia have a local veterinarian who is a trusted member of the community. There are presently around 11,500 registered veterinarians distributed widely throughout Australia, including in rural and remote areas.
- Veterinarians are a professional group of individuals who adhere to ethical standards. Veterinary professional codes of conduct define and demand high standards of behaviour in respect to the services provided to the public.
- State and territory veterinary boards enforce these codes of professional conduct.