

Introduction to the Veterinary Profession

VETS30030 / VETS90122



Introduction to the Veterinary Profession in Australia: Part 1: demographics, regulations, and legislation

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(acknowledging Prof. Ken Hinchcliff and Dr. Mike Harrison)

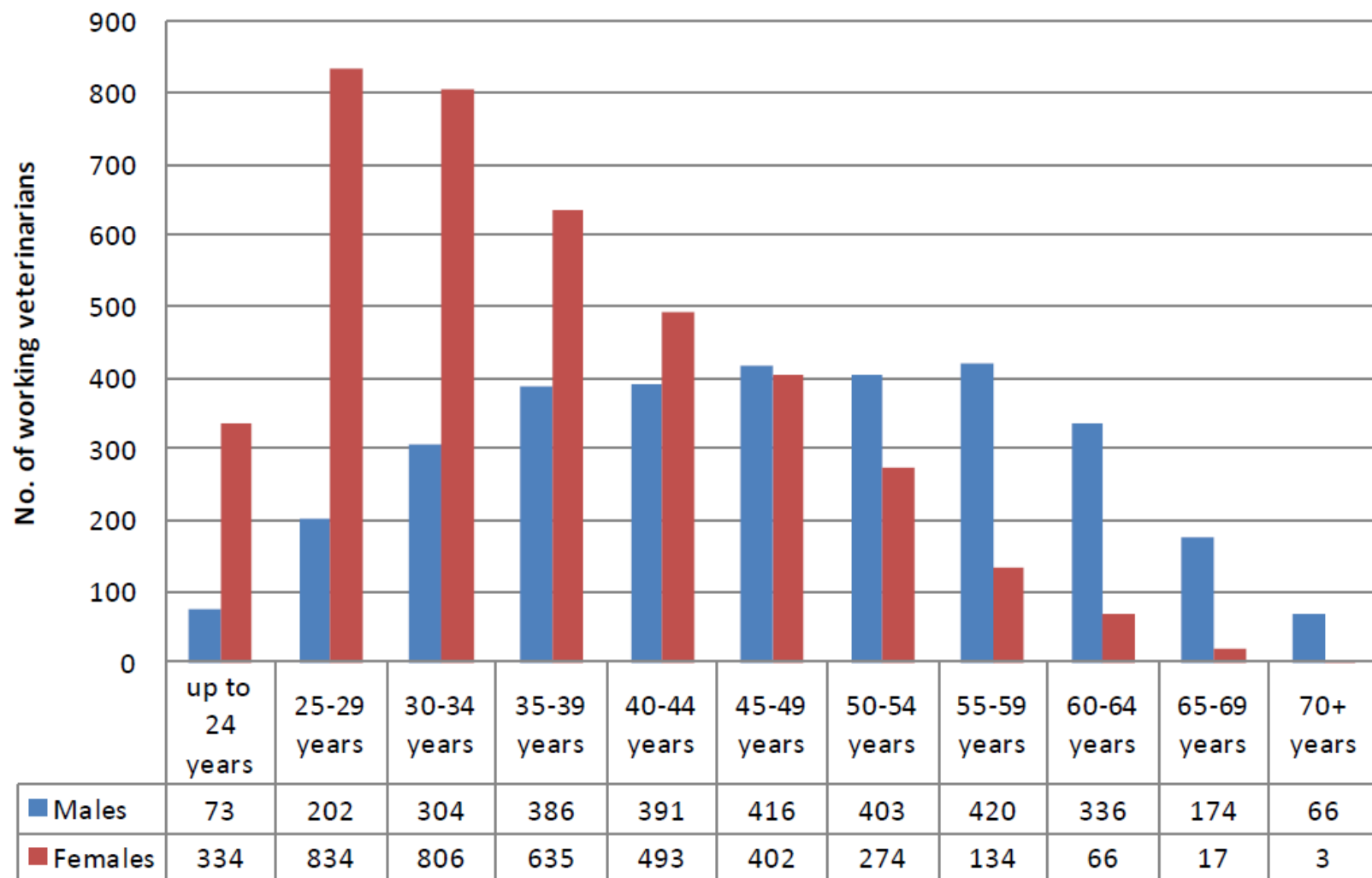


The veterinary profession

- A small profession – 13,657 veterinarians registered in Australia; about 70% in private practice
- Demographic is of older male majority and increasing younger female minority
- Has now become female dominated profession (16% of DVM Class of 2020 were male)

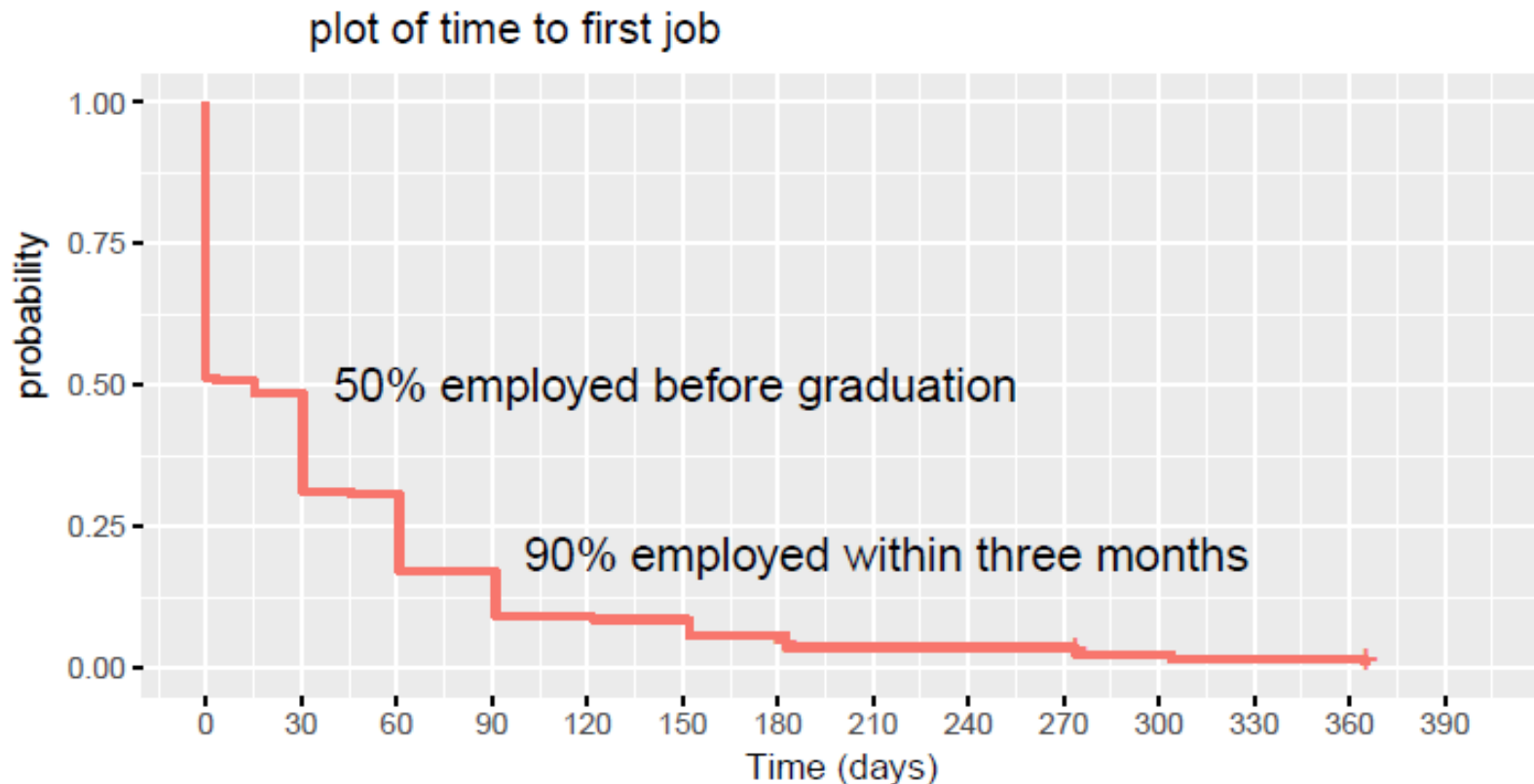
The Veterinary Profession

- **Wide variety of careers and job types**
 - Private practice
 - Dog and cat (75%)
 - Mixed rural (small animals, cattle, sheep, horses)
 - Dairy/equine/pig/poultry
 - Specialty (surgery, dermatology, medicine etc)
 - Government and regulatory
 - Biosecurity
 - Food safety
 - Regulatory
 - Other
 - Industry, academia, consulting

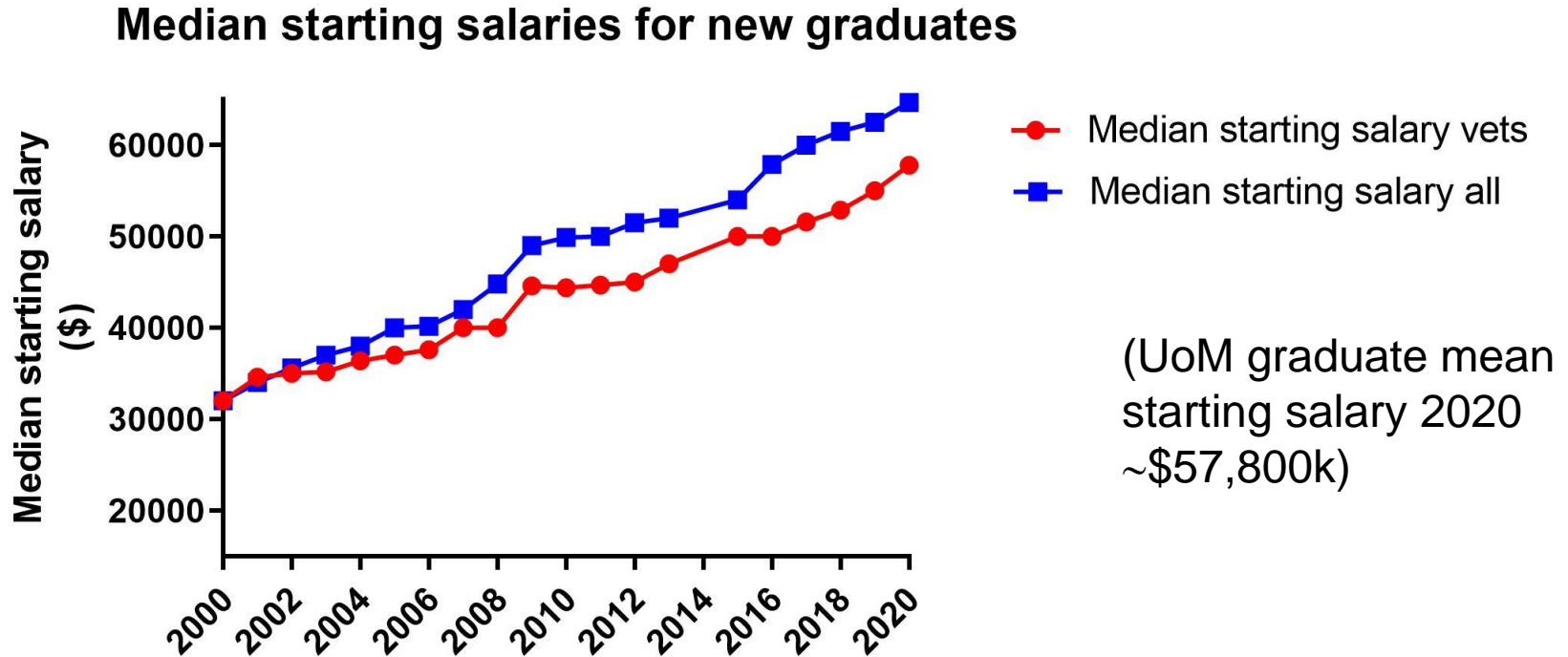


UoM Graduate survey

- 12 months post graduation
- 99% of graduates employed
- 15% undertook an internship; 3% a residency; 4% a PhD



Starting salaries



Source: QILT 2020 Graduate Outcomes Survey


Issues facing new graduates in the profession

The New York Times


Business Day

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High Debt and Falling Demand Trap New Vets



Joshua Lott for The New York Times

Dr. Hayley Schafer examines Cabo, who is owned by Brittany LaMarche and her son Gage, at Caring Hearts Animal Clinic in Gilbert, Ariz. [More Photos »](#)

By DAVID SEGAL

Published: February 23, 2013 | [196 Comments](#)

- Educational debt is a big issue

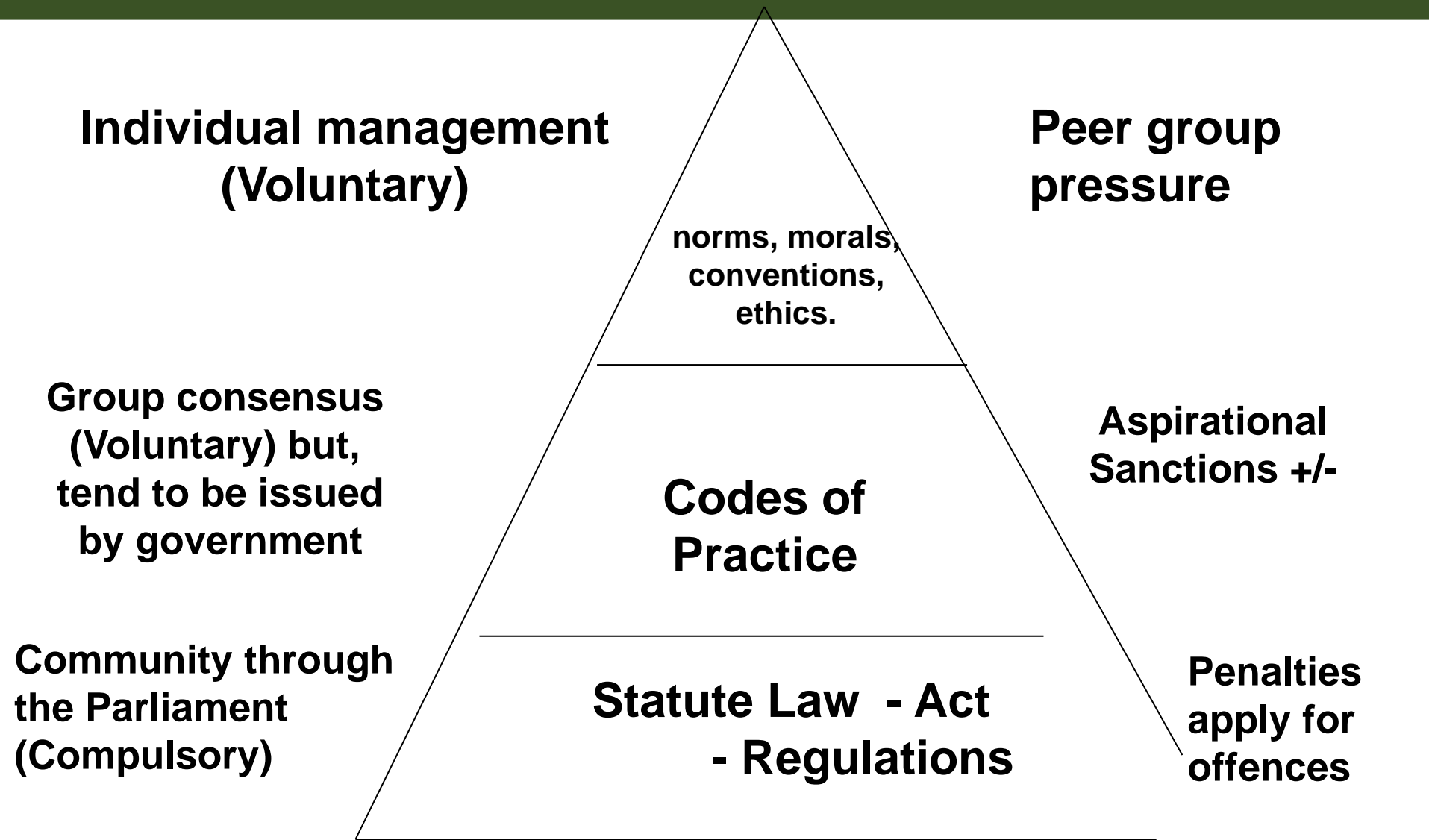
But:

- Very good employment rates
- Significant shortage of vets in Australia (and worldwide)
- Strong demand is driving up salaries

Structure of the veterinary profession

- Regulatory
 - Australasian Veterinary Boards Council
 - Veterinary Boards of each state/territory
 - Veterinary Practitioners Registration Board of Victoria
 - Veterinary Practice Act (1997)
- Professional organisations
 - Australian Veterinary Association
 - Australian and New Zealand College of Veterinary Scientists

Management of the Veterinary Profession



Veterinary Practice Act 1997

- (a) To protect the public by providing for the registration of veterinary practitioners and investigations into the professional conduct and fitness to practice of registered veterinary practitioners; and,
- (b) To establish the Veterinary Practitioners Registration Board of Victoria
- (c)

Version No. 024

Veterinary Practice Act 1997

No. 58 of 1997

Version incorporating amendments as at 31 December 2010

The Parliament of Victoria enacts as follows:

PART 1—PRELIMINARY

1 Purposes

The main purposes of this Act are—

- (a) to protect the public by providing for the registration of veterinary practitioners and investigations into the professional conduct and fitness to practise of registered veterinary practitioners; and
 - (b) to establish the Veterinary Practitioners Registration Board of Victoria and the Veterinary Practitioners Registration Board Fund; and
 - (c) to repeal the **Veterinary Surgeons Act 1958**; and
-

Statute Law – example

Veterinary Practice Act 1997.



- Established the Veterinary Practitioners Registration Board of Victoria.
- Members are appointed by the Minister for Agriculture.
- www.vetboard.vic.gov.au/



The mission of the Board is to protect the public by ensuring access to veterinary services of an appropriate standard, delivered by veterinary practitioners acting in accordance with appropriate standards of professional conduct through the effective and efficient administration of the Veterinary Practice Act 1997



The Veterinary Practitioners Registration Board of Victoria is a statutory authority created through the passing of the *Veterinary Practice Act 1997*.

The legislative functions of the Board are:

- To register veterinary practitioners
- To investigate complaints against registered veterinary practitioners
- To subject registered veterinary practitioners to disciplinary procedures when appropriate
- To issue guidelines
- To advise the Minister on any matters relating to the Board's functions

The mission of the Board is to protect the public by ensuring access to veterinary services of an appropriate standard, delivered by veterinary practitioners acting in accordance with appropriate standards of professional conduct through the effective and efficient administration of the *Veterinary Practice Act 1997*.

VPRB- Vic



- Registration of Veterinary Practitioners.
- Investigation of Registered Veterinary Practitioners
- Professional conduct of Registered Veterinary Practitioners.
- Health of Registered Veterinary Practitioners.
- Conduct of Formal and Informal hearings
- Review of Board decisions by the Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal.



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