ATTRACTIONG SKILLED PROFESSIONALS TO THE NT

Veterinarians will have another incentive to seek employment in the Northern Territory after the Veterinarians Amendment (Fees and Penalties) Bill 2005 was introduced in Territory Parliament today.

The amendments include a cut to the registration fee for veterinarians who want to work in the Territory.

Minister for Primary Industry and Fisheries Kon Vatskalis said the Bill caters for veterinarians who live in another jurisdiction but occasionally practice here.

“Up until now only a single form of registration has been available. These amendments introduce primary and secondary registration, making it more convenient and cheaper for veterinarians who regularly travel as part of their work.

“Veterinarians who come to work in the Territory now only have to apply for secondary registration which involves a more streamlined application process and is half the cost of primary registration.

“Because the amendments are being introduced as part of a national scheme, local veterinarians will be able to enjoy the same benefits if they choose to work interstate.

All States and Territories in Australia have amended or are in the process of amending veterinarian’s legislation.

Minister Vatskalis said attracting skilled professionals to the NT is an example of how the Martin Government is moving the Territory ahead.

“There are regions and towns in the Territory that have experienced a serious shortage of veterinarian staff and these amendments will make it easier to attract professionals to come and work here.

“Veterinarians are increasingly expected to operate in a national market and this Government is making it easier for them to take advantage of work opportunities without having to deal with complex registration processes,” said Mr Vatskalis.

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