FAQ ABOUT VOLUNTEERING FOR AVERT IN THE AUSTRALIAN BUSHFIRE CRISIS

1. **What is AVERT?**
   Vets Beyond Borders' AVERT (Australian Veterinary Emergency Response Team) Program is a national database of experienced volunteer veterinarians, veterinary nurses and veterinary technicians, prepared to be deployed at short notice to assist state and territory emergency response officials following natural disasters or emergency animal disease (EAD) outbreaks in Australia.

   For more information, [www.vetsbeyondborders.org/programs/avert/](http://www.vetsbeyondborders.org/programs/avert/)

2. **How do I register for AVERT?**
   Apply online via [www.vetsbeyondborders.org/programs/avert/](http://www.vetsbeyondborders.org/programs/avert/)

3. **Who can register for AVERT?**
   Veterinarians and veterinary nurses who are qualified, experienced and registered with a Veterinary Surgeons Board in Australia (vets only).

   We are keeping the details of other volunteers on our system; however, we have not been asked to provide information regarding non-qualified volunteers at this stage.

4. **After I register with AVERT, when and where will I be deployed? Can I choose the location?**
   AVERT volunteers will be contacted by Australian emergency response officials when and where they are needed. Volunteers will be asked to be deployed to specific locations requiring assistance. Volunteers have the option to accept or decline when they are asked to assist.

   Volunteers are only likely to be asked to assist within their own state or territory. For overseas volunteers, please see Qs 5 & 8.

5. **I am a veterinarian registered to work overseas. How can I volunteer in Australia?**
   Currently, we are only accepting volunteers who are based within Australia. If we are asked to expand our resources to overseas volunteers, we will advise on Facebook.

   Qualified and experienced overseas veterinarians can volunteer in Australia if they are registered in advance with a Veterinary Surgeons Board in Australia.

   Please visit the Australian Veterinary Boards Council website for more information: [https://avbc.asn.au/overseas-graduates](https://avbc.asn.au/overseas-graduates). Please visit the Department of Immigration website [www.immi.gov.au](http://www.immi.gov.au) for information on visa and work requirements.

6. **I'm an overseas veterinarian. Which state Veterinary Surgeons Board in Australia do I register with?**
   This will depend on which state you are looking to visit and practice in.
7. If I'm overseas and travel to Australia, will I be able to be deployed to the fires? We cannot guarantee that any volunteers on our register will be asked to assist in any emergency or recovery activities. The state and emergency authorities determine their requirements and contact volunteers directly. We are not able to directly deploy volunteers.

Therefore, we do not encourage volunteers to travel to Australia in the hope of deployment.

8. I am a veterinary nurse registered to work overseas. How can I volunteer in Australia? Currently, we are only accepting volunteers who are based within Australia. If we are asked to expand our resources to overseas volunteers, we will advise on Facebook.

Qualified and experienced veterinary nurses can volunteer in Australia.

Please visit the Australian Veterinary Boards Council website for more information: https://avbc.asn.au/overseas-graduates/

And please visit the Department of Immigration website www.immi.gov.au for information on visa and work requirements.

Western Australia is currently the only state in Australia where veterinary nurses are required to register in order to practice. If you plan to work in WA, you will need to apply for registration with the Veterinary Surgeons Board of Western Australia.

For more information, please visit www.vnca.asn.au/about-veterinary-nursing/for-overseas-trained-veterinary-nurses/

9. I am not a qualified veterinary nurse but have volunteer experience around animals. Can I register with AVERT? AVERT is only accepting applications from qualified vet nurses. Other volunteers have not been registered at this stage. If we are asked to expand our resources to non-qualified volunteers, we will advise on Facebook.

10. I am a vet nurse. Do I need indemnity insurance to volunteer? No.

11. I am an overseas volunteer. Can VBB assist with costs with travel and accommodation? No, we are not in a position to fund or support volunteers to cover costs. Some state authorities may choose to pay for some expenses for volunteers, depending on the activities they would be asked to assist with.

12. I want to donate items/supplies. Who do I send them to? Currently our partners have advised they require monetary support, rather than supplies. If you have supplies, please contact your local wildlife organisation as they may have a requirement locally.

13. What is VBB doing with money donated? VBB is in the process of assessing the needs of wildlife organisations to provide the help they may need. More information will be provided in due course.

For further enquiries, please email avert@vetsbeyondborders.org.