



Effects of Covid 19 Alert level restrictions on workplace hours in veterinary nursing, and allied animal healthcare qualifications

May 2022

In response to the ongoing challenges veterinary practices are facing due to Covid-19, it is acknowledged that work experience for veterinary nursing and allied healthcare students is still impacted, and that students may not be able to achieve the work-based learning hours that are a required part of their qualifications.

Subsequently, we are extending support to education providers who may need to use the [AVPRC Approved Alternative Simulated Skills](#) established in consultation with education providers in April 2020.

To mitigate any animal welfare and public health risks associated with the lack of work-based training opportunities, and/or hands-on animal handling, education providers are asked to facilitate robust alternative training methods that ensure an uninterrupted supply of sufficiently trained VN and AVP graduates in 2023 and in the years to come. This is a high-trust, industry-led model that should strive to ensure public safety, animal welfare and good standards of clinical competency when these graduates enter the workforce.

It is expected that students are offered alternative learning support in lieu of any missing workplace hours so they are able to achieve all learning hours required in the qualification, whether or not they are able to attend work placement.

These recommendations apply for all forms of work-based training and face-to-face practical assessment for students already enrolled in veterinary nursing, and other allied animal healthcare qualifications in 2022, only.

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