Dear (Member of Parliament’s name)

I am a veterinarian practicing at (name of practice) in (town/suburb). Our practices provide care for approximately XXX animals and their owners in our community.

Currently we are experiencing great difficulty in providing veterinary care to these pets and owners. In recent weeks we have had staff shortages with X veterinarians & Y nurses/other staff away due to COVID-19 restrictions. As a result of this we have had to either turn away or postpone XX% appointments, with no immediate prospect of the situation improving. This is a significant inconvenient to our clients in the local community and is negatively impacting animal welfare.

I understand that National Cabinet released a list of a number of occupations where people who are close contacts of COVID-19 positive people can continue to work under certain conditions if the State Government considered them highly impacted. Although veterinarians are on this list, the Queensland Government is not recognising that all veterinarians are highly impacted essential workers. The government will only allow veterinarians involved in food production to be considered essential. This definition excludes those exclusively delivering care to horses and companion animals. I can assure you, based on my experience and that of my colleagues, that the delivery of companion animal (or equine) veterinary services is highly impacted and it is putting the welfare of both my staff and the animals we care for at risk.

I would like to urge the Queensland Government to reconsider its public orders and recognise that all veterinary services are highly impacted and therefore all veterinary professionals be considered critical essential workers.

The current situation is having a significant negative impact on the welfare of my staff and colleagues, in a profession that has been experiencing a mental health crisis and workforce shortages well before COVID.

As my local representative, I ask you to contact the Health Minister and the Premier and request them to re-consider their decision not to make all vets critical essential workers.

Yours sincerely

XXXXXXX

(Residential Address)

(Phone number)

All state MP’s email addresses can be found here <https://www.parliament.qld.gov.au/Members/Current-Members/Member-List>

If unsure of your electorate, please type your town/suburb into <https://www.ecq.qld.gov.au/electoral-boundaries/where-is-my-electorate>