

Summary of Australasian Veterinary Graduate Survey results, May 2009

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Summary:

The survey was conducted over a four week period and received 182 responses. Most respondents were females less than 31 years old. Almost all respondents chose to enter the prize draw for a veterinary textbook that was offered in thanks for their participation.

Almost all graduates entered work in veterinary practice, two thirds of these in small animal practice. Respondents tended to agree that they were prepared for the medical aspects of their first job. Lower levels of agreement were found for attributes related to surgery, interpersonal relationships and financial aspects of veterinary practice.

Most graduates found employment in a capital city, with the remainder fairly equally spread between regional cities and country towns. Many worked 41-50 hours per week and less than 1:2 in after hours' duty. Most were paid between \$36-45K (gross, including AH duty) in the first year of their first job. Just over half were still in the same job that they commenced after graduation.

Future analysis:

Detailed analysis of the survey responses will investigate patterns in the data from each University and year of graduation. This is expected to provide useful information about how well the veterinary curriculum prepared students for their first job after graduation.

Broad conclusions:

At this stage it appears that an online survey administered through a central website is an effective way of gathering graduate information. The chance to enter a prize draw for a veterinary textbook is valued by respondents. Further analysis of data about graduates' employment patterns and perceptions of their veterinary degree is likely to provide additional information of value in outcomes assessment.

Prize draw winner: Dr. David Fowler, NSW

Thank you to all who participated in the Australasian Veterinary Graduate Survey.