
AMA Member Update

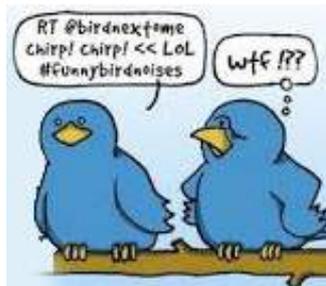
30 October 2017



Animal Medicines Australia
18 National Circuit
Barton ACT 2600
animalmedicinesaustralia.org.au



Ben Stapley
Executive Director



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AMA events

AMA Annual Dinner

9 November
Sydney

AMA meets Parliament

Executive Director message

Last Friday, the High Court decided the eligibility of seven MPs to sit in the Parliament. This included the Deputy Prime Minister. The High Court determined that Mr Joyce (along with Fiona Nash, Scott Ludlum, Larissa Waters and Malcolm Roberts) was ineligible to sit in the Parliament due to his dual citizenship.

Following the High Court decision, Mr Joyce was asked about the relocation of the APVMA and confirmed that there would be no impact. AMA will continue to work on that front to support an effective and stable regulator that is focused on delivering timely and predictable assessments.

The full decision can be read [here](#). It means the Government loses its one seat majority and the people of New England will have a by-election on 2 December.

The situation was described by one commentator as unprecedented since Harold Holt's disappearance.

While the situation for the Government remains unclear at this stage, the issue will continue to evolve. The House of Representatives rose last week, and will resume again on 27 November. The Opposition may then seek to test the Government on the floor of the House of Representatives, but for any motion to be successful, it would still require support of independents and cross benchers that have traditionally sided with the current Government.

While the situation remains fluid and unpredictable, AMA continues to talk to stakeholders on your behalf to ensure that your views and perspectives are heard – including working with the Acting Minister for Agriculture and Water Resources, the Hon Malcolm Turnbull MP.



**Save the date
Tuesday 6 March 2018**

**Issues Management Group
(IMG) for 2018**

14 February 10.00am to 4.30pm,
Sydney
3 May 10.00am to 4.30pm,
Canberra
2 August 10.00am to 4.30pm,
Canberra
11 October 10.00am to 4.30pm,
Canberra

Other industry events

15-16 November: LIVEExchange
Conference (Perth - [link](#))

21 November: National Day to
Celebrate Agriculture (contact
[Amanda Tankey](#) at National
Farmers Federation)

20-22 November: TropAg 2017
(Brisbane - [link](#))

Interested in innovation and
technology in Agriculture? Do you
live in the Canberra, Cooma and
Bega areas? Come along to the
[AgTech MeetUp Group](#) to discuss
the latest in the **AgTech scene**.



MP Tanya Plibersek with George
the wombat (photo courtesy of
Mike Bowers of The Guardian)

The political wrap

August sales figures released by
the ABS on 5 October showed
seasonally adjusted [retail sales](#)
figures fell 0.6%. The worst
result for 7-years.

The Australian Financial Review
released its most [30 influential
people](#) list on 5 October. The list
includes PM Malcolm Turnbull
and his wife Lucy Turnbull,



**Australian Pesticide and Veterinary Medicines Authority
(APVMA) latest performance statistics**

Animal Medicines Australia (AMA) noted the APVMA's most recent
performance statistics and looks forward to working to continue to
improve them.

AMA Executive Director, Ben Stapley, said that this was the second
consecutive quarter that showed an improvement in veterinary
medicines clearance rates for the APVMA from 58% to 75% and now
76%. The applications still in progress had also reduced during the
September quarter from 383 to 301- a 21% improvement.

"An effective and efficient regulator is essential to ensuring that we
can protect animal health and welfare by supplying high quality animal
health products," Mr Stapley said.

Read more [here](#).



**AMA welcomes Victorian Government pet friendly tenancy law
change**

The Victorian Government said it would introduce a package of
reforms making [tenancy laws fairer](#) by allowing renters to own pets.

The reforms included a commitment that "...to end discrimination
against renters with pets, the Government will give every tenant the
right to own a pet, and while landlords will still need to provide
consent, they will only be able refuse in certain circumstances".

AMA Executive Director, Ben Stapley said more than 25% of Victorians
rent and with more than 60% of the population owning a pet, it was
important that the government recognise that reality and put pet

Opposition leader Bill Shorten, former Deputy PM Barnaby Joyce, Finance Minister Mathias Cormann, Homeland Security Minister Peter Dutton, Treasurer Scott Morrison, financial regulator Wayne Byres, former PM Tony Abbott, ACTU Secretary Sally McManus, senior Turnbull staffer Sally Cray, and the CEOs of Endemol Shine Australia, Carl and Mark Fennessey, and behind TV hit shows MasterChef and The Bachelor.

State and territory leaders at COAG on 5 October agreed to provide [drivers' licence photos](#) as part of a national facial recognition database to help police identify suspects more quickly.

SA Senator, [Nick Xenophon](#), announced on 6 October he was resigning from federal parliament to run in the SA state election. The election is on 17 March 2018.

The Productivity Commission recommended WA gain \$3.6 billion in [GST revenue](#) on 9 October while the other states and territories lose revenue.

The Parliamentary Budget Office released an assessment on 11 October that [bracket creep](#) will see an extra 1.6 million Australians hit with increased taxes.

On 11 October the Federal Court upheld the Fair Work Commission's decision to reduce Sunday and public holiday [penalty rates](#) after two unions (United Voice and the Shop, Distributive and Allied Employees Association) tried arguing the FWC had failed to meet its legal obligations.

The Federal Government announced [private health insurance reforms](#) on 12 October. Highlights include the introduction of gold, silver and bronze categories to help consumers pick the most suitable package for your needs, extending mental health coverage and lowering premiums by offering higher excesses. The

friendly policies in place.

Read more [here](#).



Animal health sector commitments and actions on antibiotics use

Together with our international partner organisation, HealthforAnimals, AMA has committed to [five principles](#) around antibiotic use to ensure their effectiveness into the future.

AMA Executive Director, Ben Stapley, said the principles were based on the stewardship activities already undertaken by AMA and our members to combat the threat posed by antimicrobial resistance (AMR).

Read more [here](#).



National Farmers Federation (NFF) INational Ag and Related Industries Day

All Australians are encouraged to celebrate the nation's farm sector on November 21.

Mrs Gina Rinehart, Executive Chairman of the Hancock Prospecting Group and Executive Chairman of Kidman & Co, said National AgDay was about recognising the contribution agriculture makes to our economic and social fabric.

"In 2016-2017 agricultural production was valued at \$60 billion – that's on-farm alone," Ms Rinehart said. "This important day doesn't just recognise agriculture – we're also acknowledging the complimentary industries including animal medicines."

Government also announced it will fund [genetic testing](#) for women with a family history of breast and ovarian cancer.

[The Austrian election](#) on 15 October, saw 31-year-old Conservative The People's Party OVP), Sebastian Kurz, set to become the next chancellor. Although he may need to form a coalition with the Freedom Party (FPO).

PM Malcolm Turnbull announced his Government's [new energy](#) and climate policy on 17 October.

[Jacinda Ardern](#) was declared Labour Prime Minister of New Zealand on 19 October following lengthy negotiations to form a coalition with New Zealand First.

The Hobart man accused of headbutting former PM Tony Abbott appeared in Court on 23 October and had his [charges upgraded](#) to causing harm to a Commonwealth public official. The offence means Astro Lane faces two years imprisonment if found guilty.

[Data released](#) by the Department of Employment on 23 October showed the average pay increase under private sector enterprise agreements was just 2.6% in the June quarter. That's the lowest level of wage growth recorded since enterprise bargaining was introduced in 1991.

The [Productivity Commission](#) released its report on 24 October into factors and influencers that may affect Australia's economic performance.

[Inflation figures](#) released by the ABS on 25 October showed the CPI was up 0.2% in the July to September quarter (expectations were for a 0.8% rise) and an increase of 1.8% over the 12-months to the September quarter.

The [High Court decision](#) into whether seven Members of Parliament were eligible to be in Parliament because of their dual citizenship was handed down on Friday 27 October. Barnaby Joyce



World Animal Day

World Animal Day was 4 October and a time to reflect on the positive contribution that pets and livestock make to our communities and lives.

Read more [here](#).



Agriculture bill introduced to Parliament

The Agriculture Minister Barnaby Joyce introduced the [Agricultural and Veterinary Chemicals Legislation Amendment \(Operational Efficiency\) Bill 2017](#) into Parliament on 25 October.

The [Explanatory memorandum](#) and [Second reading](#) speech can be read in the links.

Executive Director, Ben Stapley, said AMA worked with the APVMA to help develop the Bill and if members have feedback, to contact him.



Virbac's Sarah Hunter NSW finalist for the Telstra Business Women's awards

was ruled disqualified from Parliament. As were Malcolm Roberts, Fiona Nash, Scott Ludlam, and Larissa Waters. Matt Canavan and Nick Xenophon were ruled qualified.

On 29 October Queensland Premier Anastacia Palaszczuk called an [election](#) for Saturday November 25th.

[Newspoll](#) of 30 October showed Labor holding its 54/46 two-party preferred lead over the Coalition government for the third Newspoll running.

Economic Indicators:

Underlying cash deficit: \$29.4 billion (26 Sept at \$33.2b)

Net debt: 19.5% of GDP

Gross Domestic Product (GDP) real: 2.7

Gross Domestic Product (GDP) nominal: March quarter the economy grew 0.3%

Consumer Price Index (CPI): Up 0.2% and up 1.8% over the last 12-months (the RBA has a target of 2% to 3%)

Wage Price Index: 1.9%

Unemployment: 5.6%

Interest rates: No change at official cash rate of 1.5%

Exchange rate: 0.77 USD



Pet Industry Association of Australia (PIAA) AusPet Conference

AMA were proud to be at this year's AusPet Conference in Sydney.

There was an assortment of medicines and products on display including cat enclosures to help keep our felines and wildlife safe, and aquariums with dimable light displays that add to the relaxation our aquatic friends can deliver.

And we caught up some of our members as they explained the many benefits of regular flea, tick and worm treatments to keep our pets happy and healthy.

Virbac's Director of Commercial Excellence, Sarah Hunter, was the NSW finalist for the Telstra Business Women's awards.

Sarah told AMA it a great opportunity to represent women in leadership in Australian agriculture and animal health, and to showcase the industry as a vibrant and fulfilling career path.

(Photo courtesy of Dr Robert Dempster RDL Director at Virbac).



Pets and food safety

Pets can share more than their love which is why it is important to wash your hands after cleaning up after your pet, AMA Executive Director Ben Stapley reminded us.

Read the Food Safety Council's "Food Safety and Pets" facts sheet [here](#).



Red Meat Advisory Council (RMAC) launches "State of the Industry" report

Along with Agriculture Minister, Barnaby Joyce, and Shadow Joel Fitzgibbon, Animal Medicines Australia was part of [RMAC's](#) delegation at Parliament House for the launch of their "[State of the Industry](#)" report.

Highlights from the report included:

- Australia is the leading exporter of beef and goat meat, we are second only to New Zealand in exporting sheep meat & are the third largest livestock exporter worldwide



Growth Hormone Promotants (GHP)

The cornerstones of Australia's beef industry are food safety, integrity and traceability in all sectors of the supply chain, from "farm to fork".

AMA wishes to remind resellers of HGP products to take care when completing their HGP Monthly Returns for the APVMA.

Read more [here](#).



Office of Gene Technology Regulator (OGTR)

The OTGR has announced a technical review to provide clarity about whether organisms developed using a range of new technologies are subject to regulation as genetically modified organisms (GMOs) and ensure that new technologies are regulated in a manner commensurate with the risks they pose.

Read more [here](#).

- Australians eat four times more beef and six times more sheep meat compared to the rest of the world
- We employ 405,000 Australians directly and indirectly
- Red meat contributes \$18 billion to the GDP
- Red meat has achieved 11% growth
- Red meat a network of 75, 000 strong businesses that have experienced 5% growth

Happy Monday!!



French President's dog caught disgracing himself on film

[Footage](#) has emerged showing the French President's black Labrador-Griffon cross, Nemo, relieving himself on a palace fireplace.

The incident happened while the President was meeting with three junior members of his government.

Emmanuel Macron's response was simply: "The delegates triggered completely unusual behaviour in my dog."



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