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## Quarterly performance statistics at APVMA show continued effort needed

The latest quarterly performance statistics published today by the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority (APVMA) show that 88 per cent of veterinary product applications have been completed in line with statutory timeframes.

Executive Director of Animal Medicines Australia Ben Stapley said the overall performance results have been maintained from previous quarters, although some performance aspects have trended down including the completion of technical assessments.

“We welcome the additional focus given by the APVMA to clearing the back log of applications that have been pending assessment, though we do believe there is room for further efficiency improvements at the APVMA,” Mr Stapley said.

The APVMA have completed some major veterinary applications which were overdue however there are still more than 80 major assessment applications for veterinary products which have exceeded statutory timeframes.

“Animal Medicines Australia is still concerned about the number of major assessments which are not meeting the statutory timeframes for consideration. The number of completions for this type of application has decreased 5 per cent from the previous quarter.

“We would also like to see the number of non-technical assessments which are completed within timeframes improve. The non-technical assessments for pesticides have been more consistent with a high level of compliance over the last 12 months and we would also like to see this consistency and timeliness for non-technical veterinary assessments.

“It is critical for the health of Australian animals that veterinary medicines be assessed by the independent regulator through a timely and efficient process. Our veterinarians and pet owners need access to these products to maintain and improve animal health.”

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