



World Organisation  
for Animal Health

# SKETCHING CHANGE

TALES FROM VETERINARIANS ACROSS ASIA-PACIFIC



BURNT



Scan the QR code to access the comic stories in this publication in digital format, and to read several others.

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Note: Designations, statements and opinions in the material do not imply any official position of WOA or partner organisations, and responsibility for interpretation lies solely with the reader.

# ABOUT THIS VOLUME

The World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH) is committed to strengthening gender equality, disability and social inclusion (GEDSI) within the veterinary sector. Our recent work in Asia and the Pacific has shown that, while there is a growing number of qualified women and diverse professionals in the sector, many still face barriers shaped by longstanding norms, insufficient adjustments and unequal opportunities.

As noted in regional studies conducted by WOAH in Asia-Pacific, gender stereotypes influence perceptions within the veterinary sector, and the absence of reasonable accommodations reinforces the exclusion of persons with disabilities. These findings highlight the need for continued awareness and action across institutions, training systems, and professional communities.

To foster this change, WOAH has expanded its GEDSI initiatives, including awareness raising events and partnerships with veterinary associations and networks in Asia and the Pacific region, in particular the Federation of Asian Veterinary Associations (FAVA), the Asian Association of Veterinary Schools (AAVS) and the International Veterinary Students' Association (IVSA). The Comics Competition Promoting GEDSI in the Veterinary Sector, organised between December 2025 and January 2026, invited veterinary students and professionals to reflect creatively on what an inclusive profession looks like.

The competition aimed to celebrate storytelling, artistic talent, veterinary commitment and GEDSI values, and to inspire dialogue through accessible and engaging narratives. Among the winning submissions, the comic presented here captures the imagination, concerns, and aspirations of veterinarians in different parts of the Asia and the Pacific region. The story reminds us that inclusion is not only a policy goal—it is a shared cultural commitment that strengthens the profession and the communities it serves. While we could not award all participants with prizes, we appreciated all entries and will be sharing additional comic stories of note on our website (see QR code on the cover inner page).

We extend our heartfelt congratulations to the winners of this competition, and thank all participants for adding their voices to this important conversation. This comic enriches WOAH's ongoing efforts to promote a veterinary sector where everyone can thrive, advancing our mission to improve animal health and welfare globally and ensure a better future for all.



**Dr Tomoko Ishibashi**  
WOAH Regional Representative  
for Asia and the Pacific

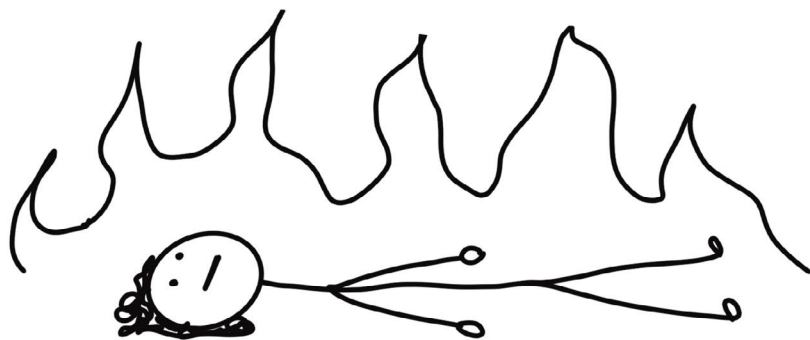


**Dr Naree Ketusing**  
WOAH Sub-Regional Representative  
for South-East Asia

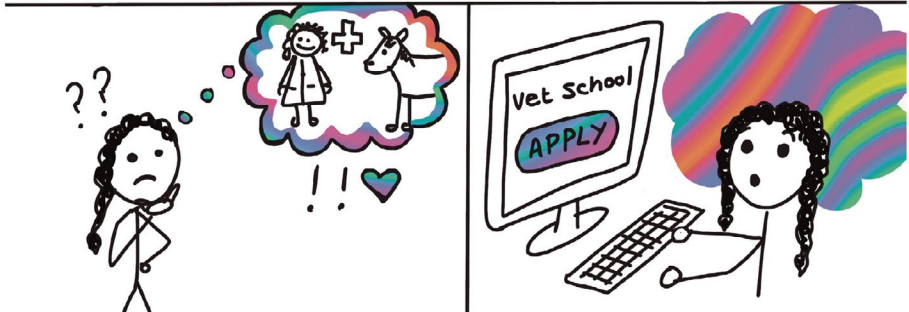
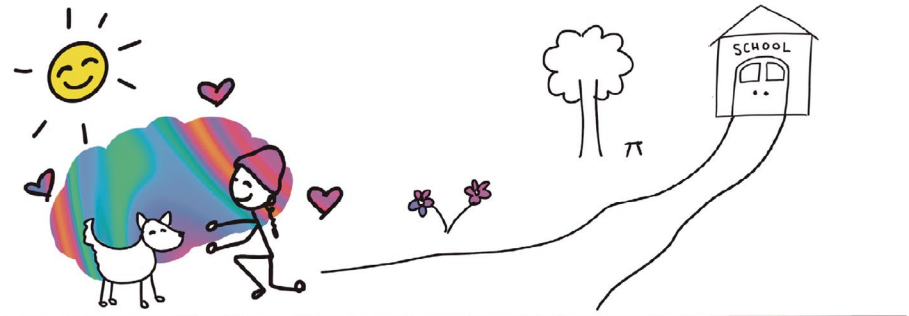


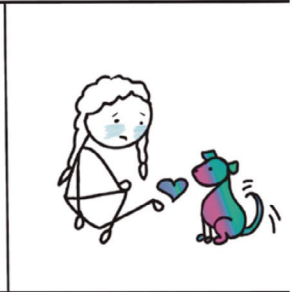
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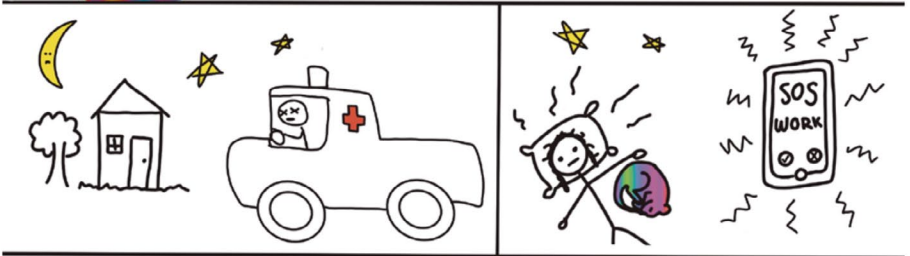
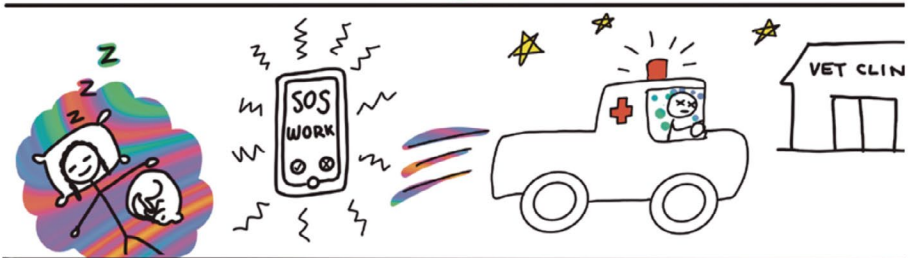
A STORY ABOUT THE WEIRD KID;  
FINDING - AND THEN LOSING  
THEIR JOY AS A VET.



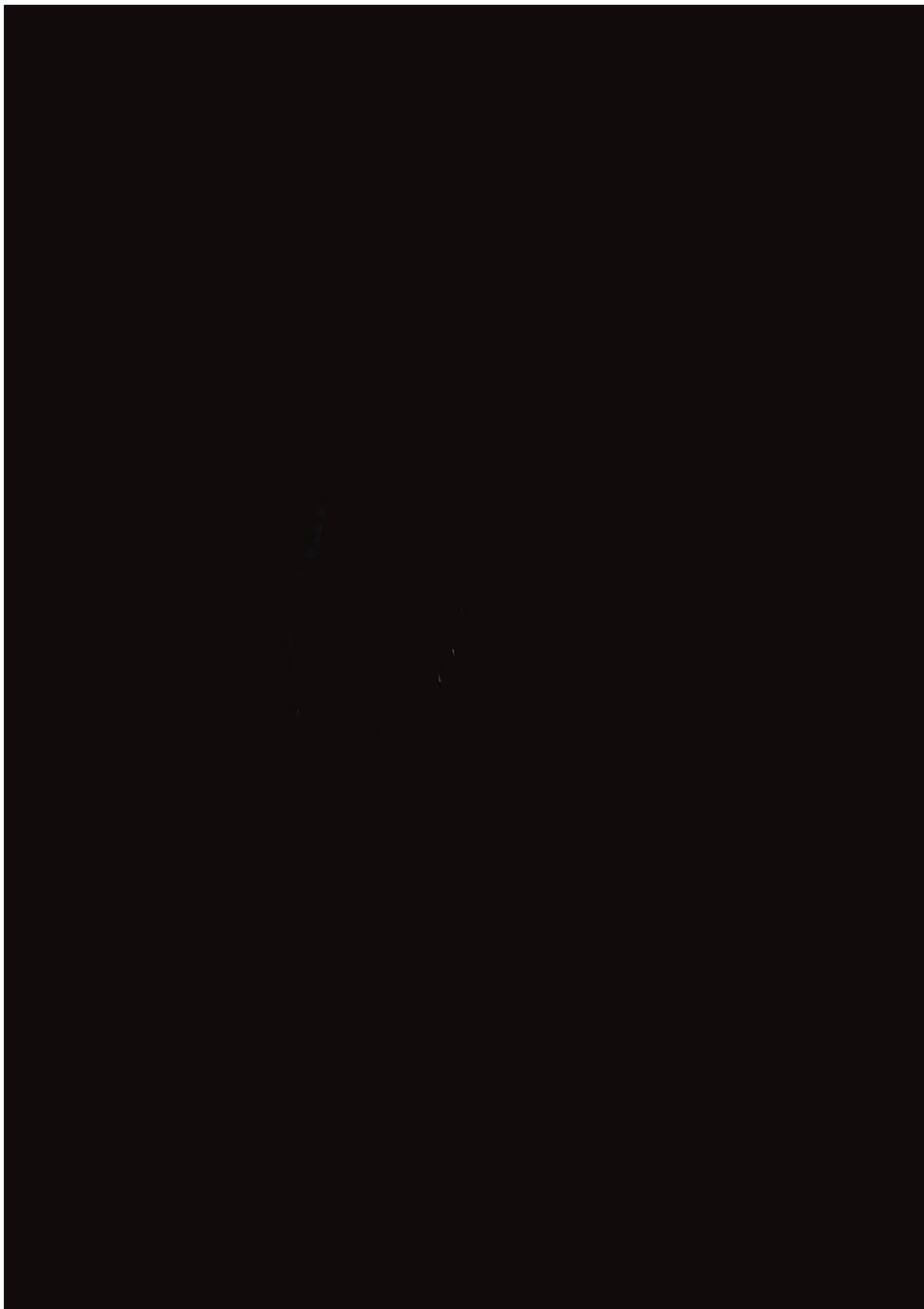
WRITTEN AND ILLUSTRATED BY  
FLICK STOECKELER BVSC. HONS.





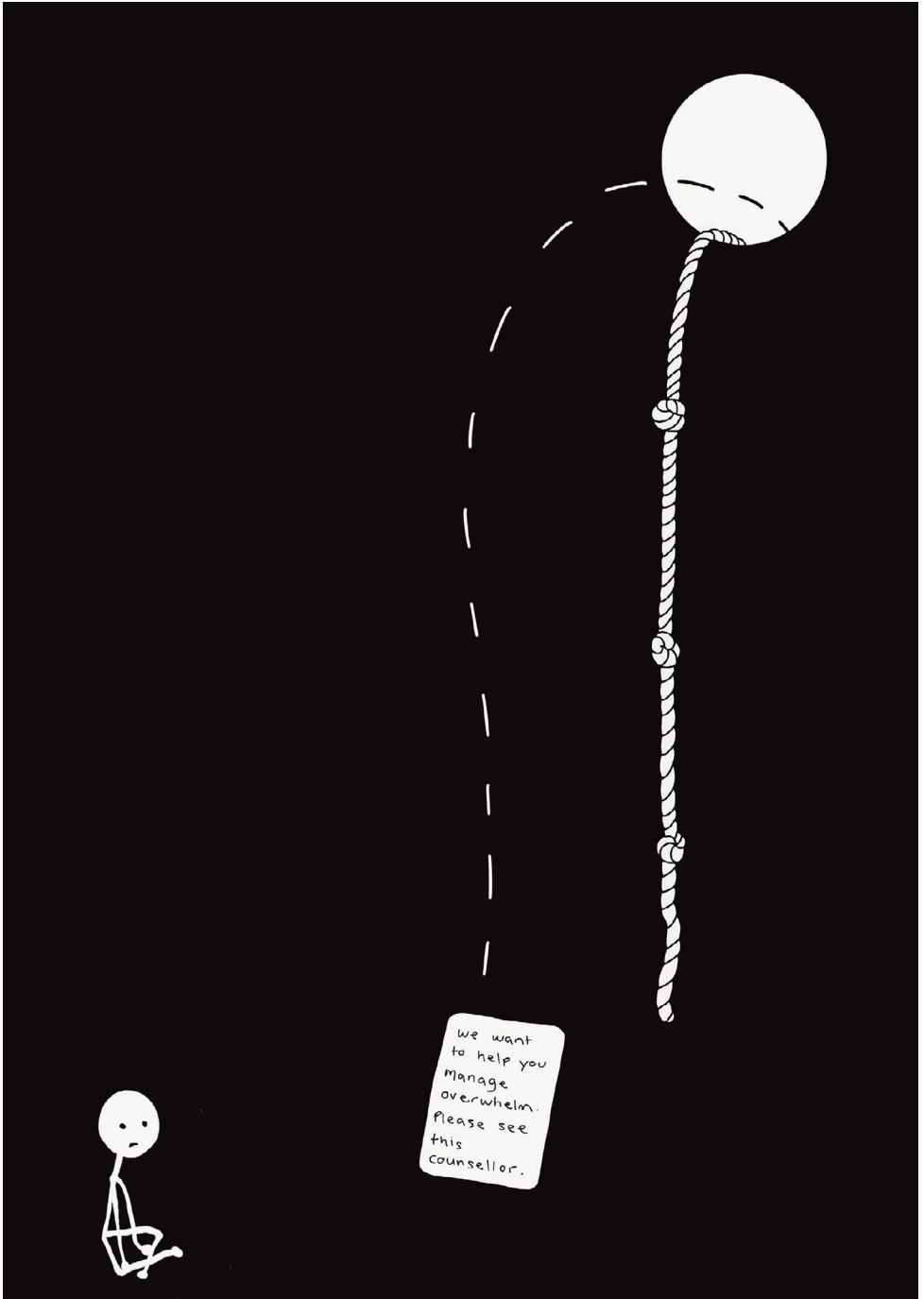


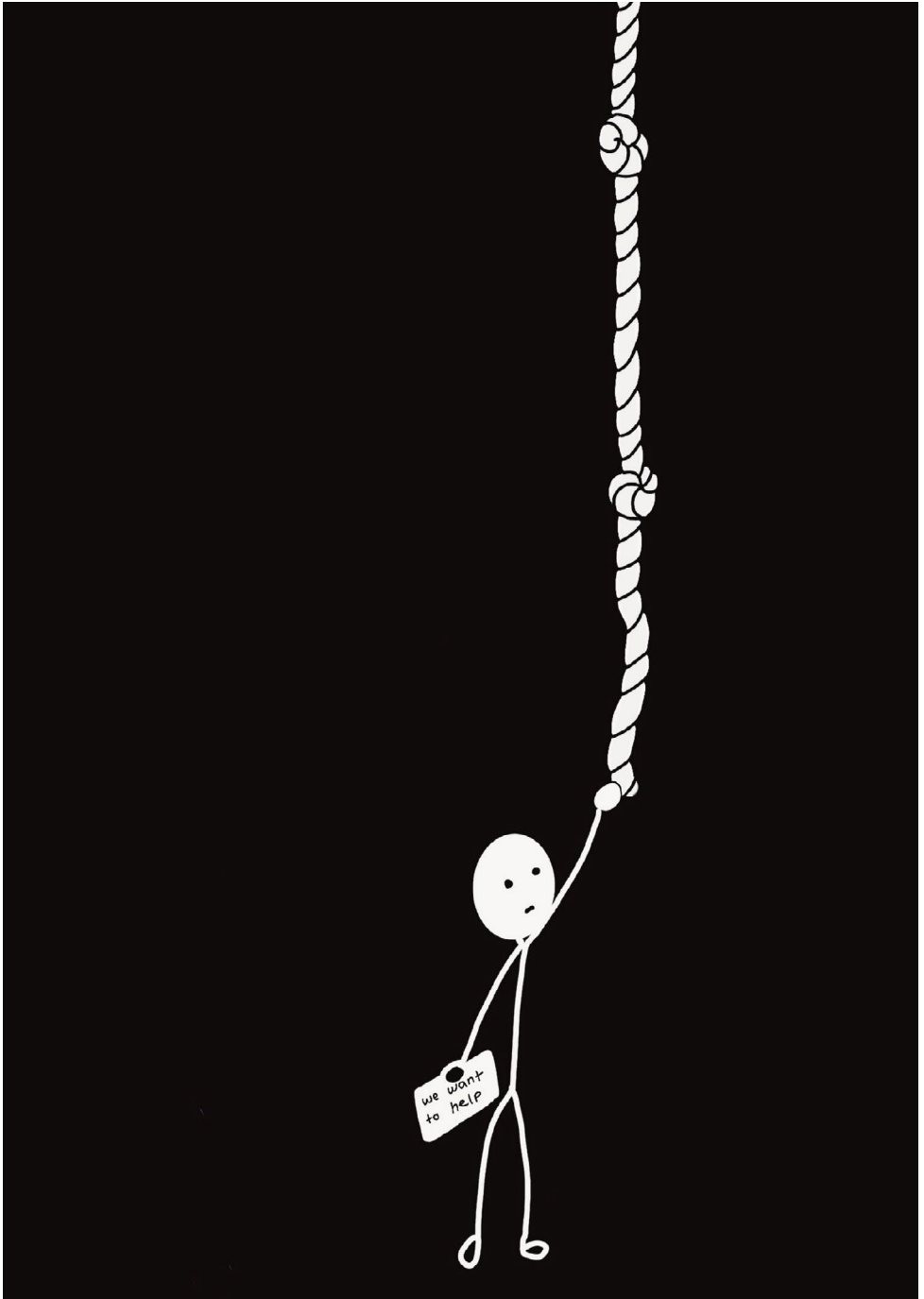


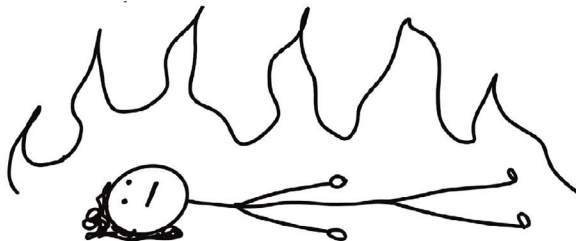


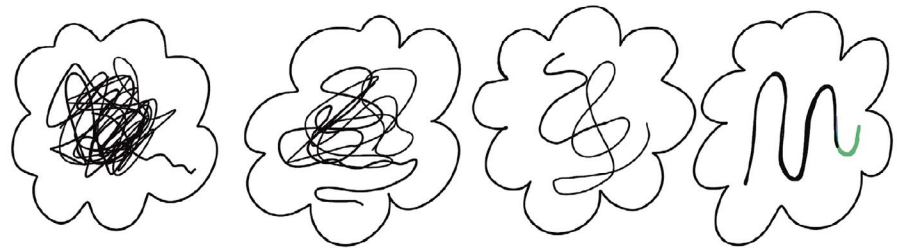
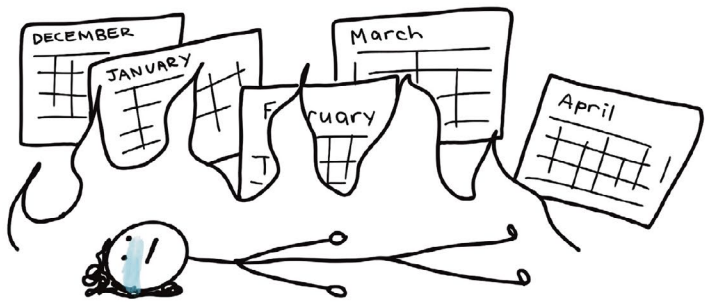


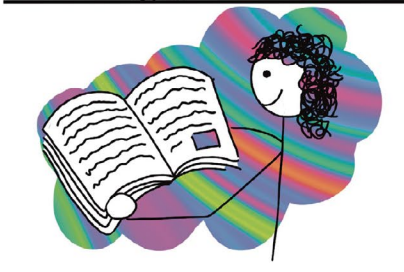
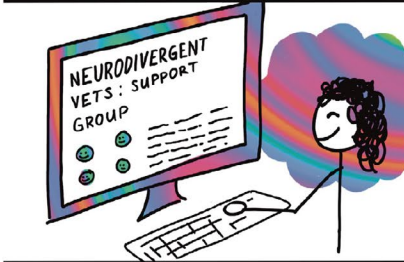
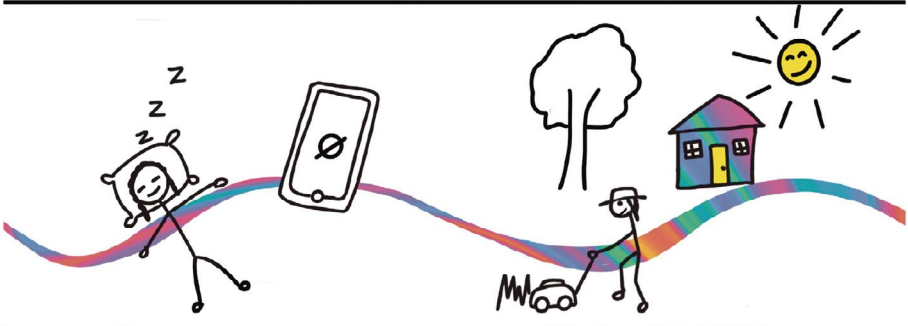
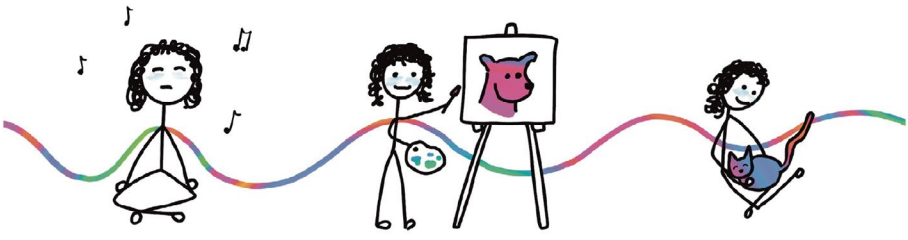
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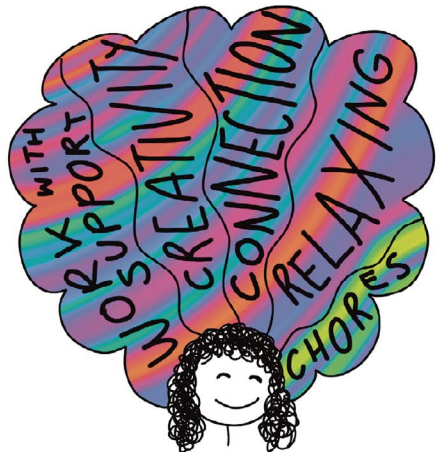
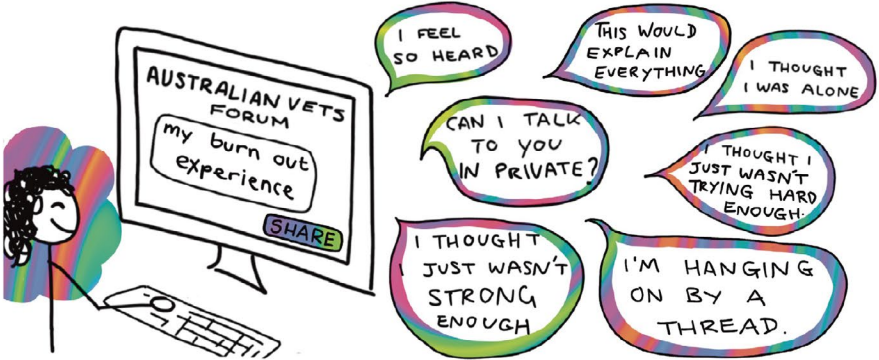
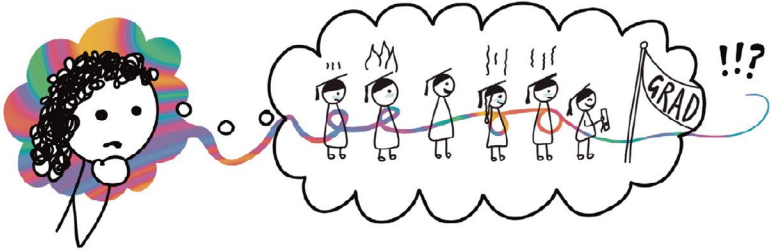
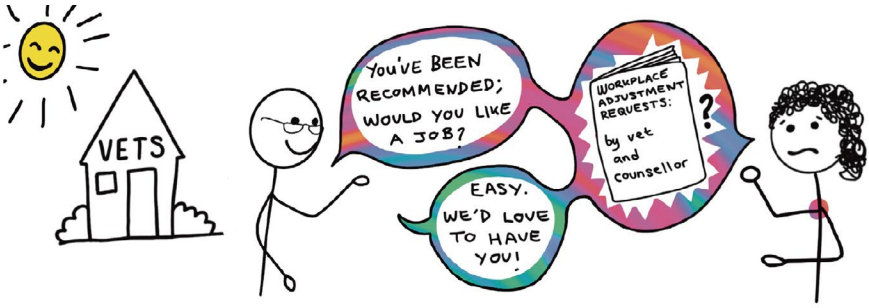












# ABOUT THE AUTHOR

## Felicity Stoeckeler

This comic book depicts one veterinarian's experience with clinical burnout, in a story that many readers may recognise themselves in. The story encourages the reader to reflect on industry-specific stressors, as well as personal challenges and disabilities a person may carry with them into their career.

The story spans from childhood through working as a veterinarian in Australia. The protagonist experiences bullying and exclusion as a child, through university, and into professional life. They seek companionship, joy and inclusion through their relationship with animals, and pride in their work.

As the story progresses, work-related stress is compounded by an unhelpful and unsupportive response from the workplace. Following a significant personal trauma, the protagonist experiences clinical burnout. The remainder of the story depicts their efforts toward recovery, as well as setbacks, and support they encountered.

It is the hope of the author that the story will resonate with readers experiencing similar difficulties. It is hoped that the story will encourage readers to seek inclusion, connection and support; freeing them from 'soldiering on' in situations where they are not supported. For readers who do not see themselves in the protagonist, it is hoped that the story will encourage the same values in their interactions with colleagues.

The illustrator and author is Felicity (Flick) Stoeckeler, an Australian veterinarian who graduated in 2017. The story is heavily influenced by her own life. All of the words and phrases in the story are taken from memories of real interactions. The comic was produced in the later stages of her recovery from burnout. She still enjoys clinical work intermittently as a locum veterinarian, specifically in clinics where her support needs are understood, respected and honoured. Outside of work, she enjoys her relationship with animals through creating commissioned pet portraits.

More of the author's work can be seen at [www.flickstoeckeler.com.au](http://www.flickstoeckeler.com.au).



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