

INQUIRY INTO THE EXHIBITION OF EXOTIC ANIMALS IN CIRCUSES AND THE EXHIBITION OF CETACEANS IN NEW SOUTH WALES

Questions on notice - RSPCA NSW

The CHAIR: Can you provide the results of that survey. I looked for it after I read your submission but

could only find reference to it in your submission and on your website. I could not find a direct link to the results.

Response: Di Evans took this question on notice and will provide a response on RSPCA Australia commissioned research.

The Hon. WES FANG: For further clarification, is it possible to also provide the raw data from that

survey, that is, the questions that were asked and the responses and the demographics? Sometimes questions asked can be quite instructive as to how the responses are formed. If you have got the background data as well as the report, it would be instructive for the Committee.

Response: Di Evans took this question on notice and will provide a response, as above.

The Hon. PETER PRIMROSE: I direct this question to all witnesses and probably most appropriately to the Animal Defenders Office. Yesterday the Committee heard considerable evidence, particularly from Animal Care Australia relating to definitions in the legislation. It included the definitions being used in the terms of reference for this inquiry. In particular they queried the term "exotic animals" which, according to our terms of reference, is defined to mean any animal other than a stock animal or a companion animal. They continued on basically arguing that the term "exotic animals" was meaningless. For instance, they quoted that lions and rhesus monkeys that have been born, bred and raised in the care of Stardust over many generations are by government departmental definitions all domestic animals and this negates the purpose of any restrictions or further legislation on the keeping of exotic animals in circuses in New South Wales. My question simply to you is in terms of any case law, has there been a dispute about this term? What were the findings? Please feel free to take it on notice if you wish.

Mr SEYEDI: I am from the Animals Defenders Office. In terms of case law specifically, we can certainly take that on notice and see what we can find about that.

Response: This question was not taken on notice by RSPCA NSW

The Hon. PETER PRIMROSE: I think the Committee and I would request any general case law on this, plus a list of those alternative definitions that we can look at with any commentaries and any recommendations that you may wish to make. That would be of value. Do any of the other witnesses have any comments on that?

Response: This question was not taken on notice by RSPCA NSW

The Hon. CATHERINE CUSACK: How is it possible for us as a Committee to get the feedback from the inspectors who have actually been doing that work, who have actually been out there doing the inspections?

Dr ARNOTT: We can provide you with the information as to what they found when they investigated

the complaints.

The Hon. CATHERINE CUSACK: That would be really helpful if you could.

Response: Nine complaints related to circuses have been investigated since 1 July 2018. In investigating these complaints, the Inspectors found no breaches of the *Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1979*.