

**From:** [Mark Slater](#)  
**To:** [Portfolio Committee 4](#)  
**Cc:**  
**Subject:** Re: 2021 inquiry into the approved charitable organisations under POCTAA - Post-hearing responses - 28 March 2022 - NSW Animal Welfare League - D22/24362  
**Date:** Monday, 23 May 2022 11:04:32 AM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)  
[Outlook-j1luo0dg.png](#)  
[AWL NSW Pre-budget submission.docx](#)

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Good Morning Anthony,

I hope this email finds you well off the back of a great weekend. Alongside of the answers Chief Inspector Matthew Godwin provided you, I have attached our pre budget submission that was based on the questions / answers within the Hansard of this inquiry.

I believe it answers the questions of the committee however, I can always provide more detail for the committee, should they require. Please feel free to circulate my mobile should anyone of the members of the committee wish to discuss anything directly with me.

From next week should you wish to contact me via email my address will be xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx as my fixed term contract at AWL NSW has come to completion -what a fast four years that was!!

With regard,  
Mark

**Mark Slater MAICD**

**T:**



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*I acknowledge the Traditional Owners and Custodians of the lands on which I live and work and pay my respect to Elders past, present and future.*



# ANIMAL WELFARE LEAGUE NEW SOUTH WALES

Pre-Budget submission

## Abstract

A proposal for the expansion of mobile veterinary services, improved education and increased POCTA capacity

Mark Slater

## INTRODUCTION

Animal Welfare League NSW (AWL NSW) would like to thank the New South Wales government for allowing contribution regarding the submission of the 2022-23 budget relating to mobile veterinary services, improved education and increased numbers of Inspectors delegated under the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1979 .

AWL NSW is an organisation founded on the 22<sup>nd</sup> April, 1958 by a group of prominent animal supporters, with bright hopes of advocating on behalf of animals and educating the broader public as to what better animal welfare should look like.

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Animal Welfare League NSW™ believes that all animals should be treated humanely, free from unnecessary pain and suffering. Animal Welfare League NSW is dedicated to advocating for all animals and having a positive impact on their lives, as well as the promotion of the necessity of veterinary care for all animals and the education of the general public about what constitutes good animal welfare. Please note all proposed costs are exclusive of GST.

## 3 KEY INDUSTRY PRIORITIES

Since 2019, there has been broad-ranging discussions regarding the welfare of animals in general, these conversations have been heightened by drought, food security issues, natural disasters (fire and floods in NSW) and the SARS-CoV-2 global pandemic. It is evident that improvements in animal welfare will be an ongoing endeavour, highlighted for example by the numerous NSW Parliamentary select committees that have been established focused on animal welfare. Below are the key industry priorities that AWL NSW would like to see established over the next twelve months.

1. *Mobile veterinary capabilities*
2. *Education and training*
3. *More POCTA delegated Inspectors across NSW*

### ***Mobile Veterinary Operations***

#### ***Issues:***

The New South Wales government has faced great scrutiny in relation to response to natural disasters and care rendered to those in need as part of disaster recovery – this is not a criticism however a relevant observation. Further to the issue of disaster response and recovery is the shortage of skills that are apparent due to the lack of veterinary professionals across Australia, something exacerbated by the global COVID-19 pandemic.

AWL NSW has actively contributed to the proposed staged repeal of the Veterinary Practice Regulation 2013. Within our contribution to this process we have highlighted the need for both fully licenced mobile veterinary clinics and an adequate investment in mobile veterinary services that will help to reduce suffering of animals that are not able to access care or have been caught up in a natural disaster. AWL NSW's Mobile Vet Truck is contributing in these areas, but another important curriculum that should be delivered is educational curriculums for broader society as well as within the NSW school network and within primary producers networks. The AWL NSW Mobile Vet Truck also provides invaluable support to our Inspectorate in the management of large scale animal cruelty and neglect cases.

### ***Actions requested:***

AWL NSW has a vision to provide greater care to animals living in an array of situations, providing welfare minded solutions to a range of issues that have continued to place immense pressure on the government and an already straining veterinary industry. Mobile vet operations provides for several improvements to ensure an adequately supported and appropriate minimum fee-for-service system as well as a cost effective disaster response and recovery mechanism.

Need	Rationale	Requested
Two fully-fitted out Mobile Veterinary Trucks	To assist in emergency situations, also assisting low-income earners, remote and rural townships with access to a minimum fee-for-service system and to provide welfare services to impound facilities. To support, LGA's across NSW with desexing of impounded animals through access to a minimum fee for service provision.	A\$982,000.00
Two lower emissions vehicles	To assist in emergency situations across Australia, also assisting low-income earners, remote and rural townships with access to a minimum fee-for-service system. This vehicle will be able to do vaccination runs in rural and remote areas where there is a need. These vehicles will also be able to access areas where MVT's could not.	A\$600,000.00
Generator	Two 63 KvA generators fitted to a trailer to equip the mobile provision with power, to ensure that no matter the environment the same care can be rendered to those in need.	A\$128,000.00
Educational curriculum	Development of an educational curriculum to increase broader societies understanding of what constitutes good animal welfare and husbandry.	A\$500,000.00
	<b>Total</b>	<b>A\$2,210,000.00</b>

## **Increased Inspectors numbers**

### **Issues:**

Currently AWL NSW receives a grant from NSW government of \$75,000.00 per annum toward the cost of running the Inspectorate. The Inspectorate currently runs at an annual cost of A\$2,500,000.00, which is made up of six (6) Inspectors and Administrative Support. The above cost of the Inspectorate does not include, the cost of care which is made up of housing animals, feed, veterinary care, animal attendance (daily) and enrichment, it also does not include legal costs associated with prosecutions under POCTA 1979. These costs are currently estimated at over A\$2,000,000.00 + GST per annum.

### **Actions requested:**

AWL NSW requests increased funding for the Inspectorate to more appropriately prevent animal cruelty and also prosecute acts of cruelty where necessary. AWL NSW are proposing an increase in both the annual grant from NSW Government, but also contribution toward start up costs for the expansion of the team, inclusive of six (6) more Inspectors and one (1) more in administrative support. AWL NSW will also establish an offenders educational curriculum, whereby members of the public who are convicted of an act of cruelty will be educated to correct the underlying beliefs driving these behaviours.

Need	Rationale	Requested
Expansion of Inspectorate team	This is inclusive of costs of vehicles, uniforms and equipment, training and induction of sic (6) new Inspectors and Administrative Support.	A\$700,000.00
Annual contribution (grant) NSW Government	This cost is a more appropriate contribution from government, toward the annual costs of running the Inspectorate. Whilst this contribution does not entirely cover the costs, AWL NSW are comfortable the shortfall can be found through other operations within the organisation.	A\$3,600,000.00
Development of offenders program	This cost is inclusive of the development of an offender program for members of the public who have been convicted of an act of cruelty under the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1979. The costs associated with the running of the program are included within the NSW Government grant monies.	A\$2,400,000.00
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>A\$6,700,000.00</b>

*\*Please note that within this proposal only the NSW Government grant monies are ongoing*

## Summary

While more can be done to improve, AWL NSW believes that as a starting point the following four points are critical to improving the welfare of animals in NSW.

- 1) Mobile Veterinary capabilities
- 2) Education and training
- 3) Increased numbers of Inspectors state wide
- 4) Development of a mandatory offenders program

AWL NSW is committed to continued, sustained improvement in welfare provision and education. AWL NSW is not only constitutionally bound, but ethically invested in the pursuit of our purposes for existence as witnessed by our constitution February 2021,

- to promote the welfare of Companion Animals and support the humane treatment of all animals
- to make provision for neglected, abandoned and unwanted Companion Animals
- to educate the public in the care, handling and training of Companion Animals
- to endeavour to prevent cruelty to, and neglect of, animals
- to relieve distress and aid injured and sick animals
- to promote sterilisation of Companion Animals
- to encourage the use of veterinary services
- to employ Inspectors to exercise law enforcement powers under the POCTAA
- to take or cause to be taken any legal action in relation to the exercise of the powers or functions of an Inspector under the POCTAA
- to make public by any appropriate means the objects of the Company
- to raise and administer funding to enable the Company to achieve its objectives
- to encourage the making of gifts and testamentary dispositions to the Company to enable the Company to achieve its objects
- to make charitable donations which are aligned to the objects of the Company
  - and
- to do all such other acts as are incidental or conducive to the attainment of the above objects

AWL NSW welcome any query from the NSW State Government or associated stakeholder as to the content of this Pre-Budget submission.