

Oscar's Law
Hearing – 23 May 2022
Answers to questions on notice

Release of Pet Exchange Register data:

The Pet Exchange Register has not released its data yet. However, as stated during our evidence in the inquiry, consumers can check a source number's validity and report illegal online ads for removal and investigation.

There is a team responsible for this at Animal Welfare Victoria, and we have had success removing several illegal online ads through both the register directly, and through online trading sites (eg Gumtree and Trading Post), which are also accountable under the legislation.

We have followed up with the Victorian Government about the release of the data and would be happy to share an update with the committee when we receive it.

Councils:

The cost of permit renewal is set by each individual council and is dependent on how many DABs the Council has in the area, and how many animals each DAB has. Therefore, it is difficult to estimate an overall cost as it differs by LGA. This way the cost of the inspections and administrative tasks related to permit renewal is recouped via the cost of the permit.

For example, in the Shire of Wellington to apply or renew a DAB for between 3-10 dogs is \$2550 per year. If the DAB has Ministerial Approval for 10-50 female dogs, the cost for permit renewal is \$3000 per year. There are also individual dog registrations that also must be paid to councils every April as well.

The Shire of Wellington has 26 DABs, 13 of which are breeding and rearing establishments and of those 13, 3 have Ministerial approval to have between 10-50 female dogs. This Council made the decision to increase their fees, which allowed employment of additional local laws officers to assist with monitoring and compliance **at no additional cost to ratepayers.**

In terms of qualifications, the Victorian Department of Agriculture has developed a set of audit tools that assist officers to audit DABs against the code annually.

The Department also assists Council animal management officers with advice in regard to the Code and Domestic Animals Act. The department also has its own compliance officers that Council can call on to assist. Council can also call on RSPCA Victoria to assist with any compliance or cruelty issues.