

Portfolio Committee No. 4 – Regional NSW

Inquiry into the veterinary workforce shortage in New South Wales

Question on notice: Kristina Vesk, Cat Protection Society

The Australian Veterinary Association submission No.144 to the inquiry suggests a number of recommendations for the Committee to consider. On notice, would you be prepared to look at those recommendations and, through the secretariat, provide any feedback that you might have?

The Cat Protection Society of NSW supports all 16 recommendations made by the AVA in its submission. In particular, with respect to recommendations 9 and 10 (relating to stray, lost, injured and homeless animals, injured wildlife, and emergency situations) we recommend that animal and wildlife charities be consulted in identifying issues and planning strategies to address them. We strongly support recommendation 12 as essential to ensuring accessibility to veterinary services. We support recommendation 15 but believe that there is a major role for the Australian Government to play. We recommend that the Australian Government provides increased funding to enable recommendation 15, as well as other recommendations where it has a very clear interest (eg biosecurity, disease surveillance). Australia as nation needs a sustainable, healthy veterinary workforce, this is not an issue isolated to New South Wales.

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