



Working together<sup>1</sup> to save more lives

## GETTING 2 ZERO SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

### NSW Legislative Council's Portfolio Committee No. 8 – Customer Service INQUIRY INTO POUNDS IN NEW SOUTH WALES

Getting to Zero (G2Z) is a national program providing free, remote and onsite, consulting and support services for local government, not-for-profit organisations and community groups to improve outcomes for lost/stray and homeless animals in every community in Australia.

G2Z welcome the opportunity to engage and advocate at all levels on topics relevant to or inclusive of companion animal management.

This information has been requested by the Portfolio Committee for the Inquiry into Pounds and is a summary of our findings conducted in a limited time frame. As such, it is possible that notable information has been overlooked and the information provided is by no means exhaustive. G2Z offer our services to conduct further investigation if necessary, and to provide support for the Inquiry wherever possible.

### **Summary of Findings**

#### **1. How can lay staff be utilised to perform some procedures within a veterinary clinic:**

Non-Veterinarian staff in other countries (notably most States of the United States of America and the United Kingdom) are authorised to undertake more procedures and practices than here in Australia. This is due to differences in the applicable Veterinary Acts for those locations. The Veterinary Acts for each State in Australia are very restrictive and do not allow for specially qualified staff, such as Veterinary Technicians and/or Veterinary Nurses to support veterinarians to their maximum capacity.

The following links provide more relevant information on the matter.

[American Veterinary Medical Association information on roles, responsibilities, education and regulation of Veterinary Technicians and Veterinary Assistants](#)

[American Veterinary Medical Association policy on Veterinary Technology](#)

[American Animal Hospital Association Trends magazine article – Veterinary Technician Specialists](#)



**GETTING 2 ZERO**

*Working together<sup>2</sup> to save more lives*

[Vet Tech Guide – Working in an Animal Shelter article](#)

[Maui Humane Society Veterinary Technician Job Description](#)

[California Veterinary Medicine Practice Act 2023](#)

[Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons Code of Professional Conduct for Veterinary Nurses](#)

[NSW Veterinary Practice Act 2003](#)

Australia does have Veterinary Technician qualifications available however it is understood that the relevant Veterinary Acts have not been updated to recognise their capabilities. It is also possible that the courses currently available in Australia do not meet the standards of similar courses in the UK and USA.

We recommend you make contact with Sonya McDowell who is currently working to increase the capacities of Australian Vet Nurses -

## **2. Economic analysis on intake reduction and financial effect on pet ownership**

Sonya McDowell – [presentation supplied for the Big Hairy People and Pets Summit & Workshops 2023, recording of presentation, extra resource supplied with presentation.](#)

Nadia Scott – [presentation supplied for the Big Hairy People and Pets Summit & Workshops 2023 and recording of presentation.](#)

Dr Ann-Margret Withers – [presentation supplied for the Big Hairy people and Pets Summit & Workshops 2023, recording of presentation, extra resource supplied with presentation.](#)

National Desexing Network Cooperative Desexing Program – [Benefits to Councils](#)

[Deloitte RSPCA NSW Cost Benefit Analysis for Bathurst Regional Council CAWS Program](#)

Caitlin Crawford - [Solutions-Based Approach to Urban Cat Management—Case Studies of a One Welfare Approach to Urban Cat Manage](#)

Diana Chua - [Stray and Owner-Relinquished Cats in Australia—Estimation of Numbers Entering Municipal Pounds, Shelters and Rescue Groups and Their Outcomes](#)