

# NSW Legislative Council

Portfolio Committee No. 4 – Regional NSW



## 2025 INQUIRY INTO THE OPERATION OF THE APPROVED CHARITABLE ORGANISATIONS UNDER THE PREVENTION OF CRUELTY TO ANIMALS ACT 1979

Hearing: Thursday, 2 April 2026

### SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTIONS

**Mr Stephen Albin Chief Executive Officer, AWL NSW  
Ms Linda Geddes, Board of Directors President, AWL NSW  
Ms Amanda Gray Chief Inspector, AWL NSW**

- (1) You indicated reliance on government grants—what percentage of your enforcement-related activities are currently unfunded?

**In 2025-26 AWL NSW received an Enforcement Grant of \$2.944M. An additional \$1.766M is funded by AWL NSW for Enforcement. This does not include corporate overheads (accounting, marketing etc) but does include surrendered animals.**

- (2) How many programs or services have been scaled back due to funding constraints?

**AWL NSW has capacity constraints. Based on existing infrastructure the organisation can only complete 25% of all enforcement jobs (with RSPCA NSW completing the other 75%). With more infrastructure and staff we could take a**

greater job share.

(3) What is your projected funding shortfall over the next three years?

**With existing capacity constraints, funding shortfall is in excess of \$5.549M**

(4) Have you considered withdrawing from enforcement-related roles due to financial pressure?

**No, it is a core function of AWL NSW's operations.**

(5) What formal advice have you given government about funding inadequacy?

**We have provided information on cost per inspectorate job and increasing enforcement volumes, highlighting that the more work undertaken by AWL NSW the greater the shortfall.**

A detailed submission was provided to the Government highlighting in kind costs.

(6) What increase in demand have you experienced over the past three years?

**In the last two years we have experienced an increase in demand from 3140 to 5340 – a 70% increase in a 12-month period.**

(7) How many animals are currently turned away due to capacity limits?

**AWL NSW can only do the number of jobs that have been provisioned for under the Enforcement Grant. Various alternative strategies are used to manage demand such as inspectorate surrenders, in situ assistance or offloading between RSPCA NSW and AWL NSW (or vice versa).**

(8) What is your average shelter occupancy rate?

**AWL NSW has inspectorate cases, research animals and community surrenders occupying the shelter. Inspectorate seizures were forecast to be 362 for 2025-26 requiring 95 kennels at 80% capacity. AWL NSW only has 82 operational kennels. Capacity is presently operating above the full utilisation rate.**

(9) How long are animals being held due to court delays?

**The average length of stay of an animal from the Inspectorate is 60 days. This is 19 days longer than the typical surrendered animal. No information is kept on length of stay resulting from court delays.**

(10) What is the cost per animal per day in your care?

**Average Shelter Cost Per Animal \$1,775**

**Average Vet Costs \$890**

**Inspectorate Costs \$4332**

**Total \$6988**

**Average Cost Per Day Per Inspectorate Animal \$116**