

**Submission
No 43**

INQUIRY INTO PUPPY FARMING IN NEW SOUTH WALES

Name: Dr Lindy Orthia

Date Received: 9 February 2022

Dear Committee,

I would like to express my strongly held view that 'puppy farm' type industries should be outlawed across Australia.

Australians have repeatedly expressed outrage against animal cruelty in recent years and decades, including against cruel breeding practices for domestic pets, and there is no reason to allow unregulated, mass-breeding of dogs to continue as it has. Puppy farms are notoriously cruel for the living areas dogs are kept in, the lack of veterinary scrutiny, and the practice of keeping breeding dogs continually pregnant with no relief for literally years on end until they are exhausted. It is heartbreaking to me, as it is to many other Australians, to think about the lives of those mother dogs. So many of us love our pets and would never contemplate the possibility of treating our animals this way, and would expect pet owners who do to face punishment. Animal breeders should not be exempt from cruelty to animals anymore than any other Australians.

There is also no market reason for mass puppy breeders to exist. So many dogs and other pets go unwanted, often put down simply because no one has adopted them and shelters are stretched for resources. One of the key measures to reduce the burden on shelters and to reduce pets being put down for no good reason is to outlaw puppy farms and other mass breeding businesses. Any breeding of domestic animals should be done in a highly regulated way, with regular inspections, high penalties for cruelty and breaches, no mass breeding, high quality conditions, litter limits and consideration of the number of animals available for adoption.

I urge you to take strong action to stop breeders treating dogs like a commodity.

Yours sincerely,
Lindy Orthia