

Submission
No 9

**INQUIRY INTO 2021 INQUIRY INTO THE APPROVED
CHARITABLE ORGANISATIONS UNDER THE
PREVENTION OF CRUELTY TO ANIMALS ACT 1979**

Name: Name suppressed
Date Received: 26 February 2022

Partially
Confidential

Thank you for accepting my submission.

Let me start by acknowledging that Australia has some of the weakest animal protection laws in the world

Every piece of criminal legislation in this country has a process of transparency and oversight as to how it is enforced – EXCEPT animal cruelty laws.

Why is this so?

Australia seems to have a culture of animal cruelty. The government sanctions cruelty and offenders are often not punished and are left to reoffend.

We have no independent office of animal welfare and enforcement of laws is left to an unfunded charity with no real power and sadly lacking in resources.

In recent weeks we have seen several reports of unbelievable cruelty to animals. The head ripped of a duck in Australia Day celebrations, water dragons attacked with darts and the premeditated psychopathic cruelty of trapping a joey and setting it on fire. These are not acts performed by normal people. These are acts of psychopathy and these individuals need to be removed from society. Tougher enforceable laws are essential.

Then we move to government sanctioned cruelty - look no further than Australian farming practices, horse racing, greyhound racing, puppy farms, battery hens, kangaroo slaughter and bashing to death of joeys, live export. There are many many more but one of the most disturbing aspects of government sanctioned cruelty is that no one is allowed to report it. Ag Gag laws ensure that the perpetrators are safe and the reporter will be charged with an offence.

Doesn't that sound wrong? Cruelty is allowed, exposing cruelty is an offence.

Summary - Strong, enforceable laws with transparency are essential. An independent office of animal welfare is required to get politicians away from making decisions in which they have a conflict of interest.