

Submission
No 156

**INQUIRY INTO PUPPY FARMING IN NEW SOUTH
WALES**

Name: Name suppressed

Date Received: 1 March 2022

Partially
Confidential

I have been a registered breeder of dogs and horses in both the United States and more recently in Australia, since moving here as a Professor of Agriculture Research and Genetics in 2008. I am submitting a response to the Bill as proposed as I am strongly opposed to any legislation limiting the ability of a serious and concerned number of dog breeders in Australia who show, breed, exhibit and train purebred dogs. We are well educated and informed breeders, many of us who study genetics and have worked with dogs and their owners to better the health and quality of purebred dogs. This particular bill not only limits our ability as citizens of Australia to participate in an economically and socially important passion, breeding and training dogs, who also serve as family pets and therapy dogs, for the general public. Australia's registered breeders who are members of Dogs NSW and the ANKC in general are a devoted and dedicated group of members who have the best interests of dogs and their health and welfare at heart. It is against the constitution of the US and Australia to limit the public and organised breeder's associations to participate in a hobby and lifestyle that contribute to Australian citizens health and well being by the provision of healthy and well bred family pets. I cannot imagine that we would limit our diversity and selection of dog breeds and important pets and working dogs for therapy, sight and herding because of a small group of uninformed people who think that adoption of animals from rescue organisations will be our only opportunity to own a purebred dog. During COVID, as people now work from home in greater numbers, pet ownership has increased and this trend has not declined in recent months. Pets provide a source of companionship for many, and contribute strongly to well being and mental health of many across Australia, with over half of Australia's homes having some form of a pet. This bill does not allow choice and freedom of expression in selection of an appropriate pet for children, the elderly and those who need a specialised breed. Please rapidly consider overturning this bill. We as breeders serve as an educated and informed body of participants who raise ,show, exhibit, breed and sell dogs as family pets, companions, show dogs and therapy dogs should not be considered as puppy farms. Many of us breed only on demand and selectively and spend and invest significant dollars to breed improvement and public education. We maintain approved kennels, feed and train our progeny, educate our owners and encourage youth to participate in breed events. I showed and bred dogs with my family as a youth, and this provided the basis for my career in research genetics. I currently serve as professor of biology at Charles Sturt University today. Please consider the contribution breeders make to diversity, quality of life, the Australian economy and safety and well being of the Australian citizen. We are not puppy farmers as suggested by the ridiculous wording in this proposed bill.