

**Submission  
No 151**

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

**Name:** Mrs Kelly Sokolinski

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I am an ANKC registered breeder in NSW who breeds top quality healthy puppies for showing (my hobby) with the surplus going to carefully selected loving family homes. I also supply German Shepherd puppies to the Police and assistance dogs (Labradors) to a wide range of homes (PTSD, emotional support, medical alert, Autistic kids, explosives/narcotics/truffle detection, alpine rescue). All my dogs are health tested (DNA and x rays) and I import frozen semen and dogs from all over the world to improve my breeding program. As an ANKC registered breeder I am bound by a code of ethics which safeguards the health and welfare of dogs. There are strict rules at what age a female can be bred, how often (not more than twice in 2 years), how many times and in many breeds health testing is required. We are also inspected by our organisation. We also comply above and beyond with the DPI requirements. Under the proposed legislation small breeders like myself would be non compliant. I am very much against puppy farms but the proposed legislation will not stop people from doing the wrong thing. It will encourage people to lie. It will drive up the price of pedigree dogs (supply/demand). I agree it is sad there are dogs in shelters but they are not pedigree dogs bred by ANKC breeders. We take back our dogs and there are breed rescues. I undertake to take back any dog I have bred at any time in their life should the need arise. Almost every dog in the pound is a crossbred and mostly bull breeds. Some people especially with young families do not want to "rescue" such a dog to have around their young children and won't take on one of these dogs just because it is all that is available. Every dog by law must be microchipped so the breeders that produced these animals should be held to account but these type of people do not microchip their puppies so the proposed legislation will not stop people producing this type of dog in their backyard and hence will not solve the problem in the pounds. Why should ANKC breeders who abide by all the rules have to suffer because some people do the wrong thing? These people should be targeted directly. If the breeding of pedigree dogs is "phased out" gene pools will be severely affected and some rare breeds will no longer be viable in Australia. The Australian public will not be able to buy a lifelong family member of their choosing with the predictable temperament to suit their circumstances. Cross bred dog (designer) breeders are not members of the ANKC therefore have no code of ethics safeguarding the health and welfare of the female and puppies. ANKC members should be exempt from these proposed changes and be licensed and audited so they can continue to produce healthy puppies which there is clearly a huge demand for. Back yard breeders and puppy factories churning out crossbred (so called designer) dogs for exorbitant prices with no concern for health testing and selection of good temperaments should be harshly targeted and held accountable when animals they produce end up in the pound. Treating all breeders the same will not solve the problem and will severely affect the ability of Australian families to own a healthy, sound puppy raised in a loving home from parents who were health tested and selected for their outstanding conformation and temperament. We are a nation of pet lovers and the benefits of owning a dog to mental health and wellbeing are well understood in our society. ANKC breeders love their dogs and most live in our homes and are treasured family members first and foremost. We breed our dogs to keep a puppy to show so are always striving to breed a better dog. Crossbred breeders breed to produce puppies purely for profit. Please don't confuse us. Please don't allow this proposed legislation to wipe out the good guys. Thank you for taking the time to read this. Sincerely, Kelly Sokolinski... Dog lover.