

**Submission
No 164**

INQUIRY INTO PUPPY FARMING IN NEW SOUTH WALES

Name: Ms Alannah Roberts

Date Received: 2 March 2022

As a registered Dogs Australia (Dogs NSW) I am against the proposed AJP Bill. In essence, the bill is set out to eradicate responsible breeding of purebred dogs. As a long time member of Dogs Australia, I abide by an existing code of ethics to ensure the welfare of my animals. On average my girls have 2-3 litters in their lifetime. We have kept most of our girls as they are our companions first and foremost.

In the 10 years, I have been breeding I have had 14 litters. Our average litter size is 2 and in that time I have only sold 4 as pets. I am hardly flooding the market or contributing to the number of animals in shelters. I have a return clause in my contract should any pet owner of mine no longer want their dog, they are to come back to me by any means necessary.

If you take a moment to look at the animals that are in shelters a vast majority of them are mixed breed and not from reputable breeders.

As stated this bill sets to eradicate breeding purebred dogs altogether, dogs have been companions to humans for over 30,000 years since they were domesticated, bred from wolves to the number of breeds we have today, being carefully selected for their traits, temperament and appearance. Dogs raised in a well-adjusted home environment with proper socialisation and treatment go on to make wonderful companions. I hate to point out the obvious but most pound dogs have severe behavioural issues and also trauma from whatever abuse or neglect they experienced. People of Australia should be given the right to adopt or shop responsibly. Dogs Australia should be given more power to conduct their own audits of us to ensure the welfare and well-being of our dogs.

A puppy farm is a large commercial facility (most of the time abhorrent conditions) where dogs are housed in kennels and runs, they rarely get socialised and their primary purpose in their life is to be bred from over and over again until their uteruses are spent and their nipples hang to the floor. They constantly have puppies with large waiting lists.

A responsible breeder such as myself is someone who breeds for generations to come to preserve our breed, as a toy breed the purpose of a Pomeranian is for companionship. Every litter we breed is planned ahead, pedigrees are researched, we conduct health checks, DNA profiling, genetic screening prior to any matings even being conducted. We are experts in our breed, Pomeranians have been around before 1888 when Queen Victoria popularised them. Competing in dog shows successfully with a rich history that can be dated back decades. Breeding is a part of preserving the breed and in doing so we keep this beautiful breed going for years to come, as breeders have done before us. It is their legacy long after they are gone. I spend time educating people about our breed, researching and attending nutrition seminars, paying thousands of dollars out of pocket for the best vet treatment. As I have only sold 4 puppies in my tenure, it's safe to say I am not profiting from breeding. I work full time to fund my passion.

Puppies are raised in my home, the whelping pen is by my bedside so I am able to give the puppies and mama round the clock care. My dogs aren't kennelled they have a big yard to play and socialise with each other, lots of enrichment like toys, a swimming pool, sandpit. The yard can be split to separate individuals. When girls are in heat they remain inside for their safety so we can plan to breed correctly and also for their safety when we don't plan on breeding them. Their room inside (where they sleep) is climate controlled. Under the AJP Bill, this type of set-up would not be compliant.

In conclusion, this Bill will do nothing to eradicate Puppy Farmers, it will only empower them to build bigger facilities, produce more puppies to fund these business endeavours thus

contributing to the problem. Dogs Australia breeders historically have declined in membership and thus the number of puppies we produce has also decreased, people are busy they don't have time to commit to breeding so it's clear that we are not the problem. Finally, it will strip people's right to have/breed dogs as they wish and also the right to choose a well-bred dog that is right for them.

Responsible breeders are integral to the future of animal companionship.