

**Submission  
No 4**

**INQUIRY INTO VETERINARY WORKFORCE SHORTAGE  
IN NEW SOUTH WALES**

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As a Veterinary business owner, there are significant limitations to meeting employee requirements, which should not be, but are, the financial responsibility of the business owners. There are three examples outlined below-

1. Wildlife are dropped to the hospital for care. There are few if any clinics who have funding for this or are structured in a way to accept donations, therefore the cost of this care is worn by the business owner.
2. Stray or injured animals are dropped in the clinic. Vets take an oath to provide pain management at a minimum, and significant staff hours are taken up contacting the owners.
3. Pet ownership is associated with significant health benefits, and therefore economic benefits for government. Marginalised community members with pets are often unable to afford pet care, and for ethical and team morale reasons, business owners frequently discount or provide cost free pet care. This is not the business owner's responsibility, though denying care to these animals will exacerbate the staffing crisis.

The human animal bond institute has documented the health benefits of companion animal pet ownership in the US (see attached report). Vets need support. Pet health = human health.