

Submission
No 139

INQUIRY INTO VETERINARY WORKFORCE SHORTAGE IN NEW SOUTH WALES

Organisation: Catmint Cottage Sydney Rescue Inc.

Date Received: 21 July 2023

As President of a registered rescue charity in the Western suburbs of Sydney we work closely and constantly with our vet. The vet practice we use, Fairfield Road Vet Hospital performs a high volume of work with reduced charges to numerous other groups and individuals at cost to themselves. The volume of work they do is extraordinary. Without this vet practice, which also works closely with Animal Welfare League to perform low cost desexing, we would not have been able to assist so many residents nor to rescue the volume of cats we have.

In our LGA we do not have a pound. We have been through this recently with stray cats brought in by residents who neither have the funds nor the facilities to keep them yet all inquiries made were that no outfit could or would take them and a local vet would put the cat down if left there, claiming that was the council directive.

Cats are being left at rental properties and dumped in the streets because there is nowhere for them. I am working full time on situations like the recent one where a man who was leaving the country could not find anywhere for his five cats. He dumped the first one at a factory outlet and was planning to follow up before we intervened.

Adoptions for all groups and shelters have been very slow including our own for the past year. Being gridlocked means we are helpless to take on more.

There are not enough veterinarians in our district especially wanting to be involved because there is not the support for them. Primarily they are a business being asked to be a charity by the volume of rescue work they are confronted with.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Regards,
Margaret Dalziel