

Submission
No 186

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

Name: Name suppressed

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Partially
Confidential

I am a wildlife carer and rely on veterinary care every day for wildlife rescue. The Crown owns the wildlife but do not in any way pay for their treatment. This is up to vets to see and treat wildlife. Often they do not have time to properly assess if other paying cases come in. Wildlife carers can wait all day and perhaps still not get the wildlife seen. This is especially problematic if the animals is severely injured and should be put to sleep. I know many vets would like to properly assess but do not have time. They are also expected to provide treatment - including medication costs and use of theatre and instruments eg xrays. With an extinction crisis our wildlife deserves to be seen but vets cannot be the ones squeezed to make a living. They should also be in a position to collect data on repeated issues with wildlife (if they see cases across different organisations) along with the organisations and researchers but they do not have time to review cases, do necropsies and contribute as well as they can. They do not have time to keep training up-to-date with latest issues with wildlife and how many different species - they treat across species including amphibians, reptiles, birds, mammals and we expect them to have an understanding of what is normal or needs management - whether pain relief or antibiotics, despite knowing that different medications react differently to different animals. They are increasingly under pressure as more and more wildlife is adversely affected with human interaction - pets, cars, loss of habitat etc. Many vets apologise for not being able to properly assess the wildlife, and many carers often have to bring the wildlife back a number of times if the vet has time to see them. The vets I know will often look at the wildlife in their lunch breaks or after hours and they have finished for the day. I believe that the government should be providing funds for wildlife treatment and training. This would alleviate some stress for time and funds