

**Submission
No 5**

**INQUIRY INTO 2023 INQUIRY INTO THE OPERATION
OF THE APPROVED CHARITABLE ORGANISATIONS
UNDER THE PREVENTION OF CRUELTY TO ANIMALS
ACT 1979**

Name: Mrs Therese Wilk

Date Received: 20 February 2024

I am concerned about the lack of transparency, high amounts and value for money to the regarding the salaries/ remunerations for the CEO and other key management roles salaries etc how can value for money be judged? If it's for the high number of euthanised or rejected cats then this is inhumane and the easy way out and should be seen as failure. This money is better spent on desexing and larger boarding facilities. • I am concerned for the lack of stakeholder engagement: not all stakeholders are members of each/ both charities, and therefore not able to easily access information or obtain responses to queries and concerns. There is too much secrecy and the RSPA is seen by some with fear "don't take the cat to RSPCA, they will find any excuse to euthanise". • There is concern for the lack of consistency with performance of inspectors: the anecdotal experiences with enforcement agents / inspectors appear to vary from one extreme to another. The application of legislation and policies appears to vary most likely based on the experiences and aptitude of the people in those roles. What training is available for inspectors in dealing with people where financial penalties are not a deterrent? What avenues / directions are there for inspectors to follow for the best outcomes for animals? As it appears many are constrained by legislation and it is likely limited funding is driving decisions on the steps, rather than best outcomes for people and their animals. In practice there appears more support where farm animals (where animals are a \$ product) are involved over companion animals. Why is euthanasia seen as first resort? . I believe that an independent office of animal welfare and role is established in NSW for oversight and management – ensuring there are no conflicts of interest, and targeting the outcomes for animals. Euthanasia rates are too high and inhumane. • I believe that social media posts/ comments voicing animal cruelty be addressed in a proactive way. Given the loose Facebook community standards then it appears it is up to each administrator to monitor and act. Examples from Invasive Species Council Facebook posts by their followers are numerous for any introduced species. When and how will animal cruelty on social media be addressed beyond specific photos or videos? The Predator Facebook group has cat hating hunters delighting in the killing of cats with graphic photos of death and gleefully cutting up cats. This is distressing for cat lovers and complaints to RSPA and Facebook are ignored. Who will perform this role? . All cruelty enforcement responsibilities be allocated to the NSW Police. Currently, NSW Police is empowered only if RSPCA or AWL inspectors are not available to attend, or if urgent or serious attention is required. There are relationships between animal cruelty and other forms of criminal activities. Other countries have seen the advantages with police enforcement, such as the Netherlands. In Ontario Canada, it has been identified that enforcement by the police is the most potentially successful approach. The public is not scared of the RSPCA • I suggest that the NSW government lead, fund and enable each council with their Animal Management Officers to proactively address minimising the majority of animal cruelty cases being primarily of neglect. Including delivering cultural education and change management programs to respect and care for companion animals or stock animals. The AMOs may work collaboratively with community leaders, with support from the Australian Institute of Animal Management and the Australian Veterinary Association.