

**Submission
No 13**

**INQUIRY INTO 2025 INQUIRY INTO THE OPERATION OF
THE APPROVED CHARITABLE ORGANISATIONS UNDER
THE PREVENTION OF CRUELTY TO ANIMALS ACT 1979**

Name: Ms Simone Clarke
Date Received: 26 October 2025

I was a WIRES volunteer for about 2 years, from 2020 to 2022, and during this time, branch secretary during the majority of the time.

During this period I witnessed the following via emails and calls

- Bullying and harrasment of volunteers from board members
- Negligence in providing a safe work environment.
- Deliberate encouragement and protection of bullies
- Use of volunteer funds to hire an ex rspca inspector to compile evidence against volunteers whom objected to the organisations tactics or whom tried to support other volunteers.
- Use of volunteer funds to threaten volunteers with animal abuse charges (via lawyers), then offer them no charges as long as they signed an nda and resigned.
- Minimal sharing of funds and denial of funds applied for to pay for animal enclosures.

Despite the large funds held by wires, volunteers were not only paying most of their own costs to help animals but even the existing claims wires did reimburse were made harder to claim.

I also helped disprove much of the supposed evidence of one of the above noted dossiers (and have these records)

There were many more smaller examples I was aware of that demonstrated wires board and the ceo are uninterested in wildlife welbeing or the volunteers caring for them.

I tried to report these breaches and seek support from fair trading, and the ACNC.

Fair trading advised they were unable to help.

ACNC advised they dont give you any response. Any action, if taken was kept secret.

I did not hide my complaints from the board, I did also try to drive change with them directly before submitting. This was ignored. This also meant that I could no longer care for wildlife as I would simply be charged with made up animal cruelty charges and be removed in the same way.

As a result I had to give up and walk away, and so I resigned. I simply could not function in such an ongoing toxic situation.

I am happy to share any information to any inquiry. I have attached my acnc lodgement, and my resignation email. The fair trading complaint can be found inder my name.