



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

SELECT COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES 2016-17

MR BRENDAN SMYTH MLA (CHAIR), MR JAYSON HINDER MLA (DEPUTY CHAIR), MS JOY BURCH MLA, MR STEVE DOSZPOT MLA

COMMUNITY AND INDUSTRY REPRESENTATIVE GROUPS SURVEY

SURVEY OF COMMUNITY AND INDUSTRY GROUPS ON THE
ACT BUDGET 2016-17 PRESENTED BY THE ACT GOVERNMENT ON 7 JUNE 2016

If you wish to respond to this survey, please return it to committees@parliament.act.gov.au by **3.00pm Friday 10 June 2016**. If there is insufficient room for any of your comments, below, please append additional comments.

1. Full name of group/organisation:

RSPCA ACT

2. Name of contact person for this survey and their telephone number and email address:

Tammy Ven Dange, CEO [REDACTED]

3. Please provide a brief overview of your organisation/group and its purpose.

RSPCA ACT's mission for the prevention of cruelty to animals in the ACT. As a member of the RSPCA federation, we are financially independent from any other RSPCAs in the country and all of our funding is generated and kept within the boundaries of the ACT with very few exceptions.

- RSPCA ACT will be celebrating our 61st birthday this September.
- We care for approximately 6000 animals each year through the shelter and thousands more that use our public vet clinic.
- We are the only permanent place where someone can surrender a stray or unwanted animal, other than a dog (dogs can also go to the ACT Domestic Animal Services facility).
- RSPCA ACT has the only vet clinic that provides ongoing treatment for wildlife.
- We employ the only full-time licensed animal welfare inspectors in the ACT.
- We are the only known vet clinic that offers payment plans to people receiving financial assistance through Centrelink.

4. Has your organisation/group developed a written analysis of the ACT Budget that it would like to submit to the Committee?

Yes (If yes, please email it to the Committee Secretariat with your completed survey.)

No

5. Please list, in order of priority, your three key priority areas regarding the ACT Budget 2016-2017 (you can expand on these in Question 6):

- a. Funding to cover basic legislative mandated services that RSPCA ACT provides on behalf of the ACT Government such as the mandatory 7 day hold for stray animals.
- b. Lack of forward planning for animal welfare and preventative programs and services that could reduce costs over time.
- c. Continued funding of the greyhound racing industry

6. Please provide detail of your views on the ACT Budget in relation to your three priority areas?

- a. We have been told, though it's not yet visible to us in the current budget that funding for key services will continue into 2016/17 with possibly slight increase.
- b. The lack of a multi-year funding agreement makes it difficult for RSPCA ACT to strategically plan operational programs and new preventative initiatives. The lack of forward planning for preventative initiatives alone will mean that animal welfare costs will continue to increase for all relevant parties including the ACT Government.
- c. The continued funding of over \$1m a year to the ACT greyhound racing industry does not make sense from an community benefit, participation or animal welfare perspective.

7. Are there any other particular issues with the ACT Budget that you would like to bring to the Committee's attention?

Yes No

a. If yes, please comment/attach further details:

8. Did you provide a budget submission to the ACT Government?

Yes (go to question 9) No (go to question 10)

9. Do you think that the ACT Budget has addressed the issues raised in your submission?

Yes No

a. If yes, please comment

We believe that the ACT Budget has met Priority 1 for the current financial years. Priority 2 and 3 are still a major concern.

10. Does your organisation/group wish to give its views in a Committee public hearing on Friday 17 June 2016, at the Legislative Assembly, London Circuit, Canberra.

Yes No

If you indicate yes, and the Committee selects you to appear at the hearing, the Committee Support Office will contact you by close of business Wednesday 15 June 2016 to confirm arrangements. Please note that the Committee may not be able to hear from all groups/organisations.

Thank you for contributing to the inquiry.
