

**Submission
No 65**

**INQUIRY INTO MANAGEMENT OF CAT POPULATIONS
IN NEW SOUTH WALES**

Name: Miss Amanda Andrews

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Submission into the NSW Inquiry into the Management of cat populations.

I have been volunteering for a not for profit cat rescue organization for over 10 years and in that time I have been able to observe how invaluable rescue groups are in the management of the cat population in a regional community.

Relating to the Terms of reference:

(d) the effectiveness of community education programs and responsible pet ownership initiatives

f) the effectiveness and benefits to implementing large scale cat desexing programs

This is an effective method to control the cat population but needs financial support from the government and local council to make this program effective.

Financial support not only for the rescue organizations that conduct these desexing programs but also for the veterinary clinics who assist.

People fail to desex their cats because of a number of reasons and one of those is cost. If this can be subsidized in some way and not just for the RSPCA but also for local not-for-profit rescue organizations this could alleviate some of the hesitation to desex which inturn controls the cat population.

Another factor is education and time and time again people simply neglect to desex their pets and I'm unsure what the answer to this but there needs to be more education via the rescue groups holding education programs for basic cat welfare, social media postings and media from local councils. Billboards, ads, flyer drops and they need to be consistent.

I feel the rescue groups are more than capable to conduct these desexing programs but feel the local council should work with them as well as the local pound as the rescue organizations really have community backing.

In summary, I feel rescue groups should be better supported with resources to provide the community with education and financial aid to help this problem.