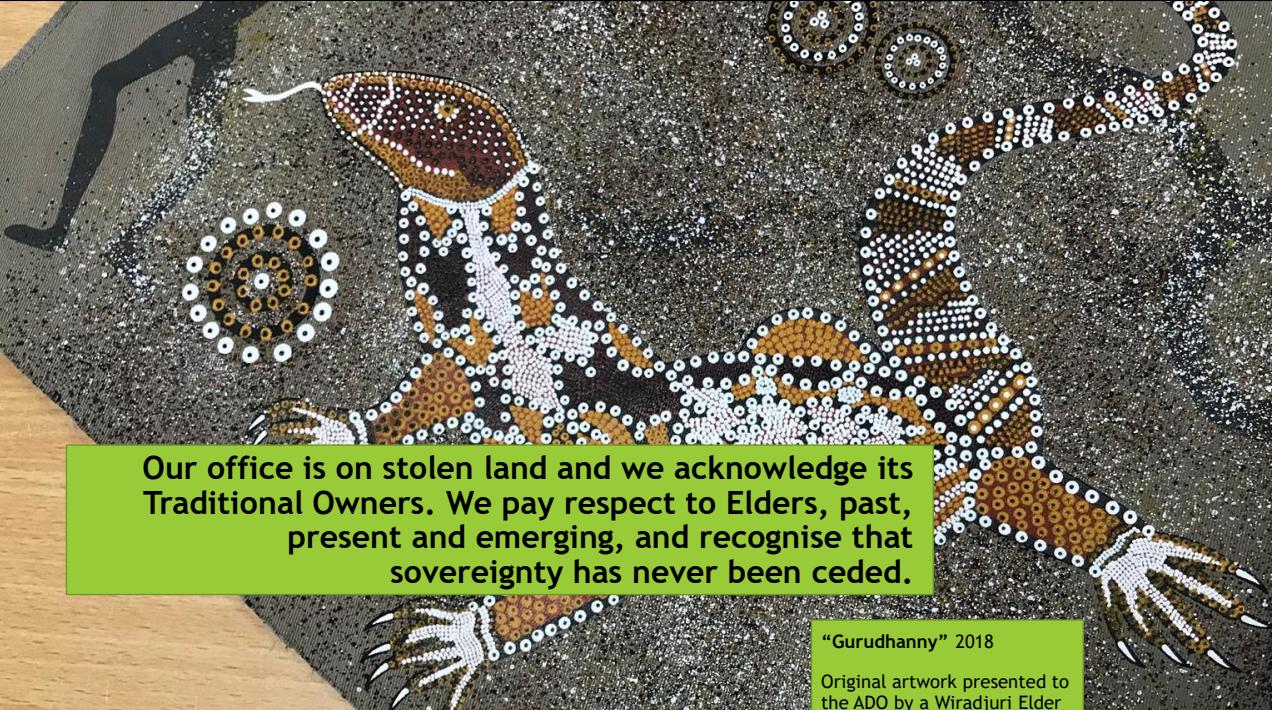


ANNUAL REPORT
of the
ANIMAL DEFENDERS OFFICE
2024-25



1



Our office is on stolen land and we acknowledge its Traditional Owners. We pay respect to Elders, past, present and emerging, and recognise that sovereignty has never been ceded.

“Gurudhanny” 2018

Original artwork presented to
the ADO by a Wiradjuri Elder

2

ADO Goals

The objects for which the Animal Defenders Office is established are:



To empower and encourage the community to protect animals through the law.

To promote respect for the environment and the individual animals and species who depend on it for their survival and wellbeing.

To raise awareness within the community about legal aspects of the treatment and use of animals by humans.

To provide advice on the law affecting animals and those who protect them.

To carry out and publish research on animal protection and other related areas of law.

To seek appropriate law reform to improve the protection of animals and the ability of humans to make compassionate choices.

To promote public interest animal protection litigation and forms of alternative animal protection dispute resolution.

To promote links between the association and similar organisations in the ACT, interstate and overseas.

3

Committee Report

Section 73(1)(c), *Associations Incorporation Act 1991* (ACT) ("the Act")



- The association was incorporated on 26 August 2013.
- The last financial year ended on 30 June 2025.
- This report lists some of the activities the association has undertaken during the most recently ended financial year, as well as other matters required under section 73(1)(c) of the Act.

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Principal activities of the ADO 2024-25



LEGAL WORK

- In 2024-25 ADO volunteers:
 - Logged 360+ inquiries and requests for help (350+ last year)
 - Responded to 155 legal advice requests (144 last year)
 - Opened 13 new ongoing legal cases (12 last year)

5

ADO on the record in 2024-25



Jurisdiction	Forum	Animals	Counsel	Matters	Outcomes
ACT	ACAT	Pet dogs	No	6	Won 1 contested hearing. Settled 3 in ADO client's favour. Lost 1 on re-appeal. 1 currently on appeal.
VIC	County Court of Victoria	Puppy-farmed dogs	Yes	1	Settled in ADO client's favour
VIC	VCAT	Greyhounds	No	1	Settled in ADO client's favour
NSW	Fair Work Commission - Drake Inquiry	Greyhounds	Yes	1	N/A (ADO client was witness)
NSW	NCAT	Greyhounds	Yes	1	Ongoing

6

Inquiry into Greyhound Racing NSW

Evidence of former Chief Veterinary Officer at GRNSW
Assisted by Counsel and the ADO, 3 December 2024

The former Chief Veterinarian's views on current Rule 39:
"Q. You stated that the rule was "barbaric" having a race frequency of every two days?

A. For sure. When an athlete exerts themselves significantly, strenuously, they need a period of time to recover ... allowing them to then 48 hours later be placed back in a situation where they need to do it and then do it again ... is unnecessarily placing the welfare of that athlete at extreme risk and, to my mind, that is **barbarous**."

Transcript 03/12/2024 (Day 15) 1378



Representation caseload 2024-25 – highlights



7

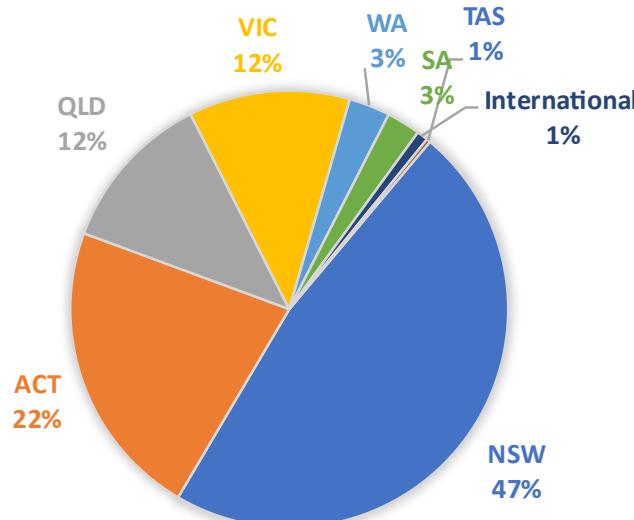
Inquiries/Advices/Cases by Jurisdiction 2024-25



	Total 24-25	Total 23-24
NSW	171	154
ACT	80	86
QLD	43	40
VIC	43	41
WA	11	17
SA	9	4
International	3	0
TAS	1	4

8

INQUIRIES/ADVICES/CASES BY JURISDICTION 24/25



9

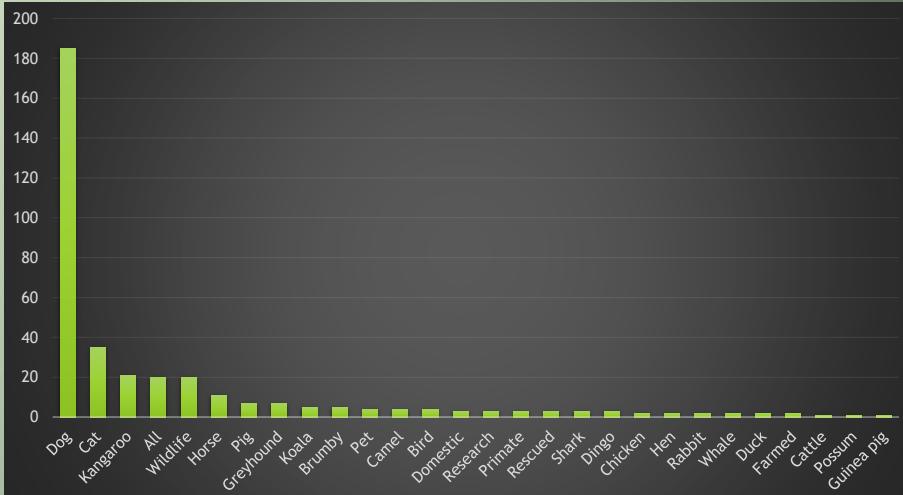
Organisations
we helped in
2024-2025



10

Inquiries/Advices/Cases by Animals 2024-25

(Dogs really are a (hu)man's best friend...)



11

Inquiries/Advices/Cases by Animals 2024-25

ANIMAL	TOTAL
Dog	185
Cat	35
Kangaroo	21
All	20
Wildlife	20
Horse	11
Pig	7
Greyhound	7
Koala	5
Brumby	5
Pet	4
Camel	4
Bird	4
Domestic	3
Research	3
Primate	3
Rescued	3
Shark	3
Dingo	3
Chicken	2
Hen	2
Rabbit	2
Whale	2
Duck	2
Farmed	2
Cattle	1
Possum	1
Guinea pig	1

pets generally
 camels horses sharks
 cats dingos hens brumbies
 dogs cattle wildlife
 pigs kangaroos farmed animals
 all animals

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In 2024-25 the ADO made **written submissions** to:



Alpha Stock Images

1. The NSW Select Committee on the Proposal to Develop Rosehill Racecourse.
2. SA's Dog and Cat Management (Cat Management) Amendment Bill 2024 inquiry.
3. The NT Government's review of the *Animal Protection Act*.
4. The Joint Standing Committee on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs' inquiry into the Truth and Justice Commission Bill 2024.
5. The NSW Upper House Inquiry into the impact of the phase-out of Australian live sheep exports by sea on New South Wales.
6. Racing Victoria's 2024 Jumps Racing Review.
7. The NSW Upper House Inquiry into the management of cat populations.
8. The NSW Government's public consultation on the Draft Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Regulation 2025.
9. The Australian Government's 'Renewing the Australian Animal Welfare Strategy' public consultation process.
10. The SA Parliamentary Inquiry into Kangaroo and Wallaby Populations.
11. The NSW Government's Companion Animals Act review.

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More about the ADO's **written submissions** in 2024-25:



Alpha Stock Images

Jurisdiction:

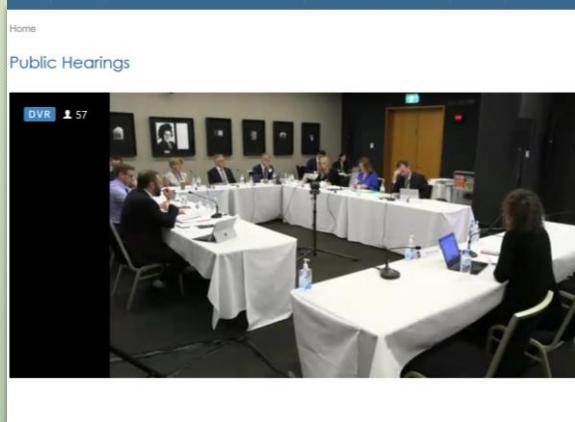
- NSW: 5
- CTH: 2
- SA: 2
- NT: 1
- VIC: 1

Subject:

- All animals/Animal law: 3
- Racehorses: 2
- Cats: 2
- First Nations people: 1
- Sheep: 1
- Kangaroos: 1
- Companion animals: 1

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In 2024-25 the ADO gave oral evidence to Inquiries at:



- NSW Legislative Assembly's Inquiry into the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Amendment (Virtual Stock Fencing) Bill 2024, 5 July 2024.
- NSW Legislative Council's Inquiry into the management of cat populations in NSW, 1 April 2025.

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Animal law outreach stalls in 2024-25:



- 14/7/24: Haig Park Village Markets
- 27/10/24: Compassionate Stakes
- 15/12/24: Haig Park Village Markets
- 27/3/25: *Dominion* screening ACT
- 23/5/25: ACT Law Week Exhibition of Local Justice Organisations
- 25/5/25: Million Paws Walk

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Some of the events the ADO attended/co-hosted in 2024-25:



Koala March, Canberra 1/9/24



Rally Against Rodeos (Qbn) 8/3/25



Walk for Justice for Kangaroos 13/6/25



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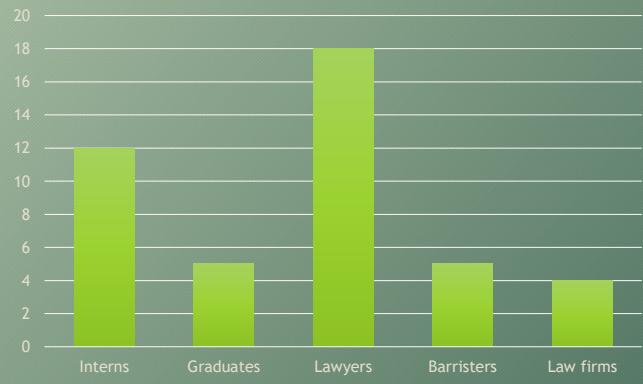
The ADO: volunteers in 2024-25



The ADO was assisted by:

- 1 full-time volunteer/principal lawyer
- 34 lawyer, paralegal, graduate (PLT), and admin casual/part-time volunteers
- Five pro-bono barristers
- Four pro-bono law firms

ADO Volunteers & Pro Bono Assistance 2024-25



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ADO behind the mic in 2024-25



SBS

Australia Explained

A beginner's guide to owning a pet in Australia with the ADO!

SQUIRE PATTON BOGGS

Squire Patton Boggs' Emerging Australian Pro Bono Practice

By Jessica Antal, Angela Radich and Melissa Koo

Case Study: Supporting Survivors of Family Domestic Violence & Sexual Assault

On 1 January 2022, Pro Bono Manager, Jessica Antal, brought with her a passion for assisting victims of crime via the completion of criminal injury compensation applications.

As part of the pro bono program, lawyers in the Sydney office turned to working with these organisations, we consider ad hoc requests for legal assistance from organisations in our community who demonstrate a genuine need for pro bono legal support. For example, the firm has an ongoing relationship with **Animal Defenders Office**, a national community legal centre based in Canberra providing advice and assistance in the niche area of animal law.

Griffith University Law School Candidate for Doctor of Philosophy, Companion Animal Law INTERVIEW WITH THE ADO

30 January 2023

DAILY TELEGRAPH INTERVIEW WITH THE ADO

RE INQUIRY INTO MANAGEMENT OF CAT POPULATIONS IN NSW, 5/5/26



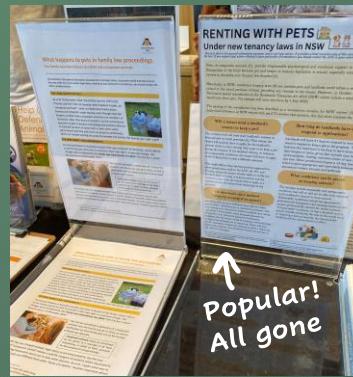
'A sincere thank you for your valuable time participating in our documentary.'

Documentary maker

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ADO new publications 2024-25

FACT SHEETS:
Live Export of Sheep by Sea
Family Law Act and pets: new laws
New NSW laws on renting with pets



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TESTIMONIALS 2024-25

'Thank you for being such a solid calm support. Along with the Judge, you provided me with a supportive calm environment so that I could relay accurately my thoughts and emotions. Thanks for your patience and support. It means so much to me that ADO have stuck by me.'

Case client

'Thank you so much, this is absolutely amazing. You're a superstar.'

Organisation client

'Thank you so much for your time, I appreciate your time and generous help immensely. I'm glad there are still good people like you in this world.'

Case client

'Thank you so much for this information. I really appreciate it and the time you've taken to help answer my questions.'

Advice client

'You have been very patient & understanding. You have my whole hearted thanks.'

Advice client

'It is incredibly important that we address the weak points in our current legislation in order to protect animals from cruelty and reduce the risk of harm to children and the community. I thank the Animal Defenders Office for its legal expertise and review of the bill.'

NSW MP, Hansard

'Thank you again for everything. Your amazing.'

Case client

'Thank you so much for writing this, brilliant. Thankyou thankyou thankyou so much. Xxx.'

Case client

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(MORE) TESTIMONIALS 2024-25

'I wish there were more people like you, thank you for all you do really from the heart.'

Advice client

'Thank you so much. What a great relief. I really can't tell you how much I appreciate you helping me with this one.'

Case client

'Thanks again for all of the advice and compassion, it means a lot.'

Advice client

'Thanks for your help with this - your service is filling a much needed niche for people.'

Referral service

'Thank you for your support. I really couldn't have got it done without your assistance.'

Advice client

'As always, so very grateful to ADO's wonderful volunteer lawyers.'

Organisation client

'I just want to add my deepest gratitude for all that you both do. I simply do not know at times where we would be without your agency, your talents, generosity and commitment.'

Organisation client

'Thank you so much for your support during this turbulent time and also for all that your team are doing for animals.'

Advice client

'That's awesome thanks so much you've got no idea how much this means to me.'

Case client

'Thank you so much for the opportunity to volunteer with the ADO! It's really been an inspiring experience.'

Volunteer intern

'Thank you most sincerely for preparing the [documents]. Thank you again for all your advice and invaluable assistance.'

Organisation client



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Net profit or loss 2024-25



2024-25
Financial
statements

Statement of Assets and Liabilities as at 30 June 2025

Opening balance (1/7/2024)	28,229.26
Excess of receipts over payments	3,513.09
Closing balance	31,742.35
Represented by:	
Cash at Commonwealth Bank of Australia	31,742.35
Cash in hand	250.00
Outstanding bank deposit	0.00
	31,992.35

AUDITOR'S REPORT

I have examined the accounts, books and vouchers of Animal Defenders Office Incorporated as presented to me for the year ended 30 June 2025 and have received satisfactory answers to any questions I have asked, and it is my opinion that the Statement of Receipts and Payments and Statement of Assets and Liabilities are properly drawn up so as to exhibit a true and fair view of the Association's affairs.

Signed: *Walter Kudrycz*
Dr Walter Kudrycz
Date: 10/11/2025

Animal Defenders Office Statement of Receipts and Payments for the year ending 30 June 2025

	2024-25 \$
Receipts	
Donations	\$6,171.96
Membership	\$0.00
Grants	\$0.00
Awards	\$0.00
Fund raising	\$2,741.16
Goods	\$0.00
Interest	\$0.00
Cases	\$9,094.20
Other	\$190.00
TOTAL	\$17,936.32
Payments	
Stalls/ Room hire	\$65.00
Registration/ Fee/ Assessment	\$934.38
Stationery/ Printing/ Postage	\$0.00
Computer/ Internet	\$2,967.13
Court costs / Disbursements	\$6,069.04
Accommodation	\$0.00
Electricity	\$441.04
Office/ Rent	\$3,533.08
Insurance	\$379.50
Bank fees	\$12.69
Donations	\$0.00
Travel	\$0.00
Other	\$21.37
TOTAL	\$14,423.23
Excess of receipts over payments	\$3,513.09

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Committee Members 2024-25



During 2024-25 the ADO Committee ('the Board') was made up of the following members:

- Yana del Valle, Director (retiring)
- Angela Pollard, Director
- Dr Jon Rosalky, Treasurer
- Mike Rosalky, Director
- Farnham Seyedi, Director
- Tara Ward, Secretary

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Committee Members 2025-26



The incoming ADO Committee for 2025-26 is:

- Angela Pollard, Director
- Dr Jon Rosalky, Treasurer
- Mike Rosalky, Director
- Farnham Seyed, Director
- Tara Ward, Secretary

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Volunteers, Pro-bono Supporters, and Sponsors in 2024-25



PARALEGALS & INTERNS

Sebastian Adams
Lauren Atkinson
Jackson Bradney
Jake Fitzgerald
Charlotte Hoey
Siyi Liu
Heyma Nahar
Victor Ni
Rania Saud
Sahana Sriharan

PRACTICAL LEGAL TRAINING & GRADUATES

Serena Abrahams
Sel Burek
James Burford
Ghazal Farshchian
Xioran Liu
Fang Yuan
Monique Bordignon

LAWYERS

Will Barr
Emma Bennet
Rachel Dance
Cameron Kiely
Lucinda Knapp
Naaman Kranz
James Niederle
Vaishnavi Pappu
Ken Powell
Angela Radich
Mike Rosalky
Tania Scott
Farnham Seyed
Michael Sosower
Vicki Stylianou
Tara Ward
Gary Wright
Charlie Yeates

BARRISTERS

Justin Castelan
Lisa De Ferrari
Paris Hart
Eloise Kneebone
Peter Singleton

LAW FIRMS

Lawyerbank
Limber
Rose Legal Costing
Squire Patton Boggs

SPONSORS

Kate Harriden
Shannon Prior
Mike Rosalky
Gail Ward

Thank you!

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