

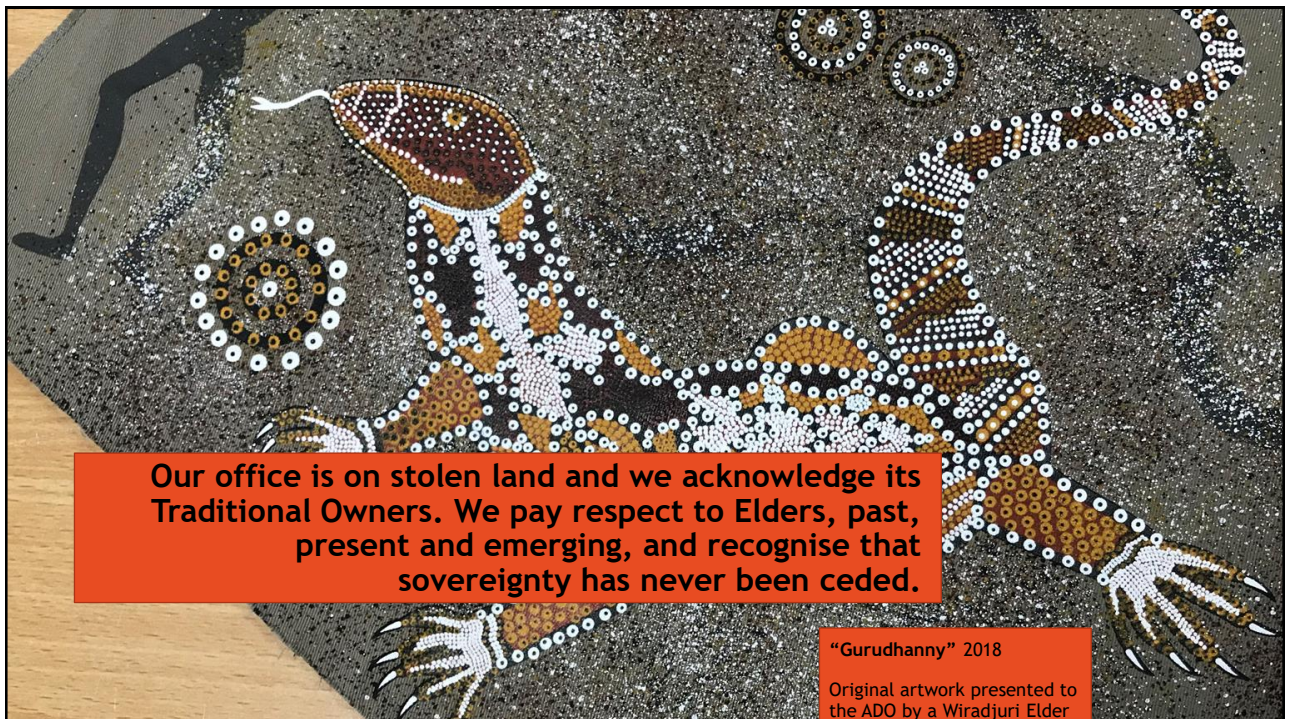
ANNUAL REPORT  
of the  
ANIMAL DEFENDERS OFFICE  
2023-24



Animal Defenders  
Office

*Using the law to protect animals*

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

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## 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.

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## Committee Report 2024

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 2024.
- 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 2023-24



### LEGAL WORK

- In 2023-24 ADO volunteers:
  - Logged 350+ inquiries and requests for help
  - Responded to 144 legal advice requests
  - Opened 12 new ongoing legal cases

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ACT Supreme Court



District Court of NSW



Supreme Court Victoria



ACT Civil and Administrative Tribunal



NSW Civil and Administrative Tribunal

ADO on the  
record in  
Courts &  
Tribunals in  
2023-2024

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**WIN! Appeal Tribunal orders dog breeder to pay damages and refund purchase price of puppy**



**WE WON! TRIBUNAL CASE TO SAVE DOG ON DEATH ROW**



**SUCCESS IN COURT**

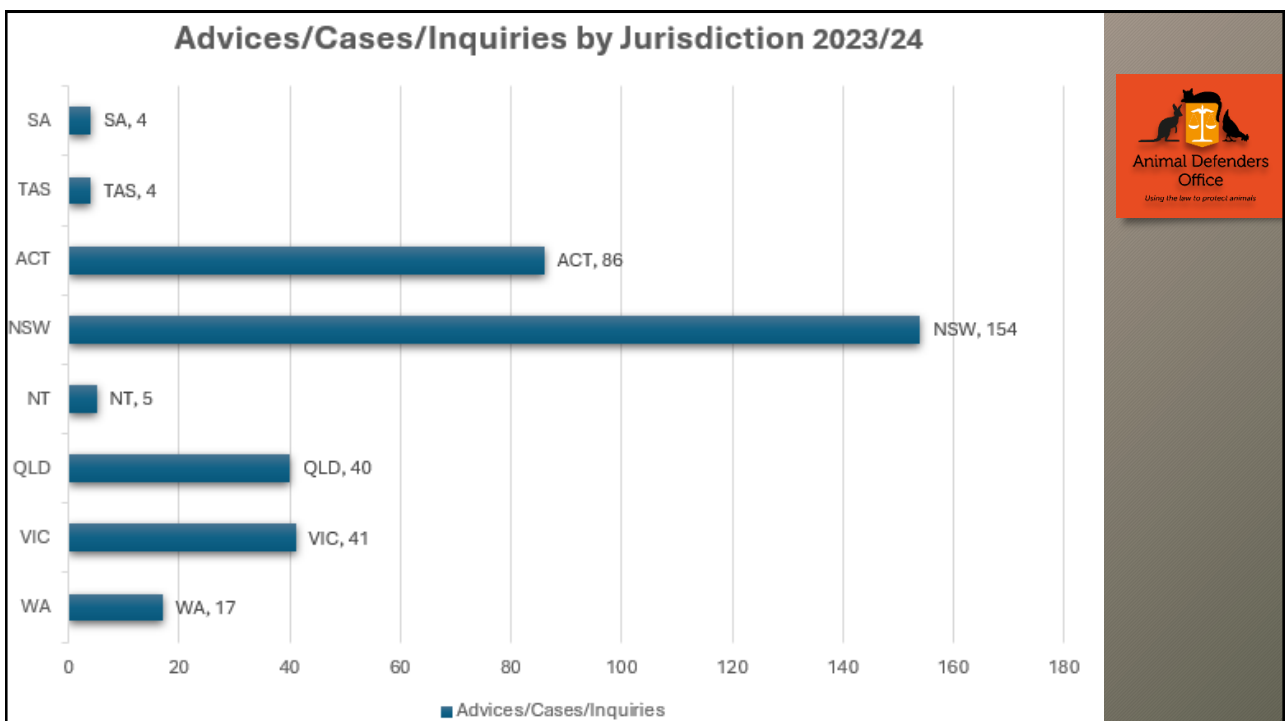
ACT SUPREME COURT SETS ASIDE DECISION TO CONFIRM DESTRUCTION OF DOG

## Representation caseload – key matters 2023-24



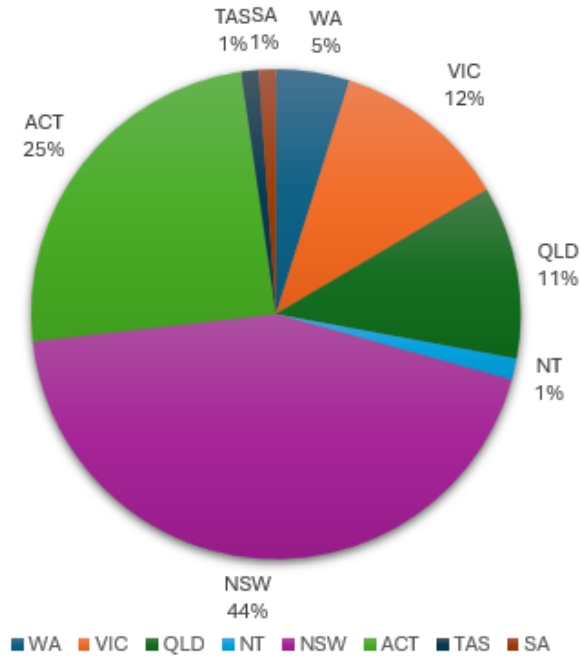
**Animal Defenders Office**  
Using the law to protect animals

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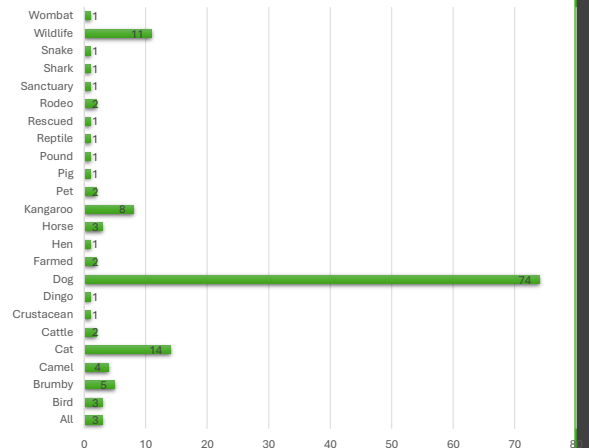
## Advices/Cases/Inquiries by Jurisdiction 2023/24



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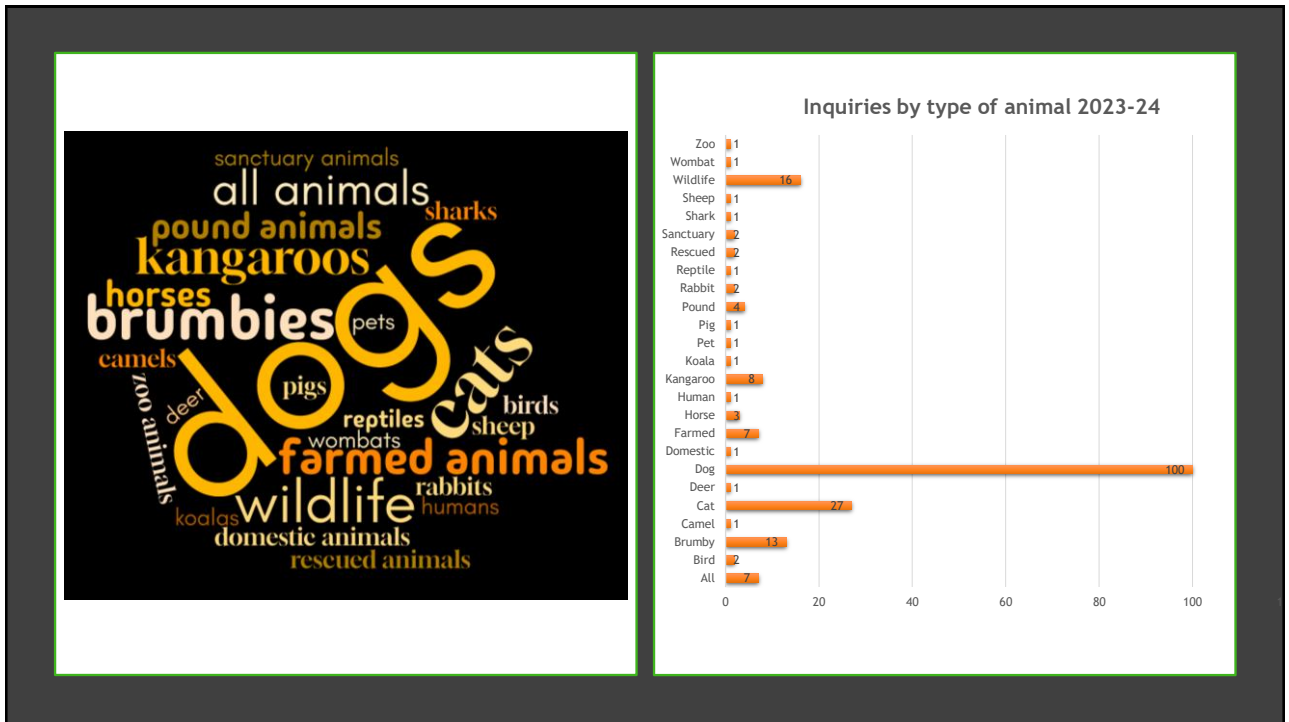


## Advices By Type of Animal 2023-24




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## In 2023-24 the ADO made written submissions to:



1. DA-202341697 - Ginninderry Conservation Corridor re impact on wildlife esp. wombats (ACT)
2. Government public consultation re NSW rental laws and pets (NSW)
3. Australian Senate inquiry into bill to ban the export of greyhounds for racing (CTH)
4. Parliamentary inquiry into pounds (NSW)
5. Government proposal to amend Kosciuszko National Park Wild Horse Heritage Management Plan (NSW)
6. Parliamentary Inquiry into proposed aerial shooting of Brumbies in Kosciuszko National Park (NSW)
7. Independent review of the Commonwealth Government's National Legal Assistance Partnership (CTH)
8. Inquiry into Agriculture and Fisheries and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2023 (QLD)
9. Parliamentary inquiry into Pig Welfare in Victoria (VIC)
10. Review of the Code of Practice on the Humane Treatment of Wild and Farmed Australian Crocodiles (CTH)
11. Parliamentary inquiry into the operation of the approved charitable organisations under POCTA Act 1979 (NSW)
12. Inquiry into Petition 17-23: Indian (Common) Myna Control (ACT)
13. Draft Animal Care and Protection Bill (VIC)
14. Inquiry into the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Amendment (Virtual Stock Fencing) Bill 2024 (NSW)
15. Public consultation on adding public interest exceptions to the *Surveillance Devices Act 2007* (NSW)
16. Inquiry into the Animal Welfare Draft Bill (SA)
17. Draft Dog and Cat Management (Breeder Reforms) Amendment Bill 2024 (SA)
18. Australian Government's public consultation on renewing the Australian Animal Welfare Strategy (CTH)



This Photo by Unknown Author is licensed under CC BY-SA

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## In 2023-24 the ADO gave evidence at 5 parliamentary inquiries in 3 different jurisdictions



NSW Pounds Inquiry 14/11/2023



QLD Inquiry dangerous dog laws



ADO @ NSW Parliament inquiry into aerial shooting of brumbies in Kosciuszko National Park 18/12/2023



NSW inquiry into approved charitable organisations under POCTAA 26/4/2024

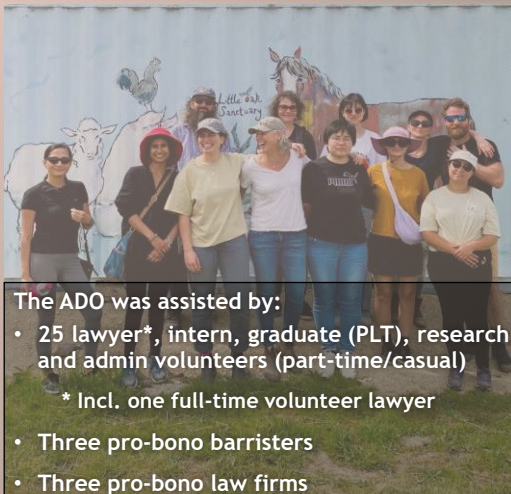


"As lawyers, we know that ACT law imposes a duty to care for the physical and mental welfare of sentient animals, and that includes myna birds"

Inquiry into Indian (Common) Myna Control - ACT Legislative Assembly 23/04/2024

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## The ADO: volunteers in 2023-24



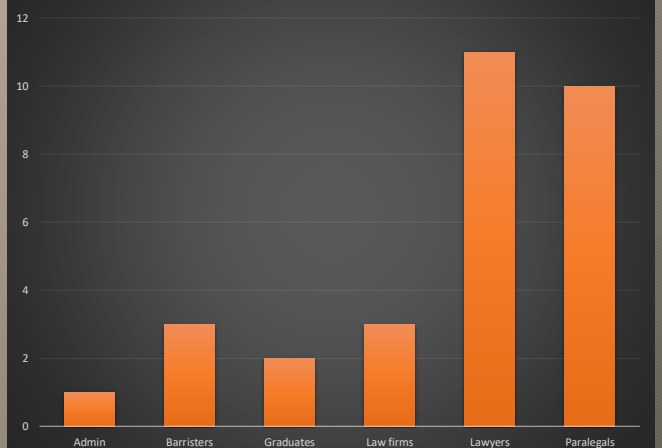
The ADO was assisted by:

- 25 lawyer\*, intern, graduate (PLT), research and admin volunteers (part-time/casual)

\* Incl. one full-time volunteer lawyer

- Three pro-bono barristers
- Three pro-bono law firms

Volunteers 2023-24



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**Webinar speakers**

**Tara Ward**  
Managing Solicitor  
Tara is the co-founder and managing solicitor for the ADO. She will be discussing recent cases with a focus on external advocates.

**Alex Vince**  
Co-founder  
Alex will be sharing a little from his role as an upcoming advocate about Australia's most renowned legal predators, the dingos.

**Mick & Tracey**  
Animal Defenders Office  
Mick and Tracey will be talking about how they are breaking the cycle of abuse for children and animals.

6:30 PM | 13 JULY | ZOOM

**Animal Liberation**

Thanks again so much ADO. I know I was one of 65 other people who hung off your every word. I learned so much as did we all! Webinar participant

**ANIMAL LAW**  
An Introduction  
University of New South Wales  
Course lecturers: Sarah Malik & Tara Ward  
Saturday 16 September 2023

*"A law school should have and communicate to its students a keen concern for those on whom the law may bear harshly."*

Animal Law @ UNSW taught by ADO volunteers, 2023 T3

**ANIMAL: WORKER WILD EXTINCT**

Lecture to UNSW humanities course, 2024 T2

**Animals in the Law**

PRESENTED BY:  
Tara Ward  
Managing Solicitor (Volunteer)  
Animal Defenders Office  
& Convenor, Animal Law UNSW

ARTS2244  
20 JUNE 2024

**Don't miss these talks**

Animal Law @ UNSW taught by ADO volunteers, 2024 T2

Pets and Wildlife Safety Day 2024, ADO presentation: 'Injured animals and the law - what you should know'

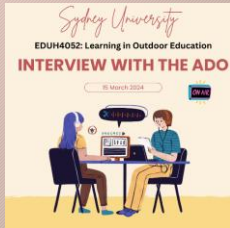
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# ADO & the media 2023-24



'I just wanted to thank you again for doing an interview with us. We presented today in class and everyone loved it and thought the interview was very informative!!'  
Student interviewer



'Thank you so much for your time and incredible insight, it was truly valuable. I have such admiration for the work you're doing.' Interviewer

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**one question**

On 14 October 2023!

A Proposed Law: to alter the Constitution to recognise the First Peoples of Australia by establishing an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice. Do you approve this proposed alteration?

**Chapter IX — Recognition of Aboriginal and Torres Peoples**

229 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice

In recognition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the First Peoples of Australia:

(i) there shall be a body, to be called the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice;

(ii) the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice may make representations to the Government of the Commonwealth on matters relating to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples;

(iii) the Parliament shall, subject to this Constitution, have power to make laws for the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice, including its composition, functions and powers.

**one section**

**one page**

YouTube

Noel Pearson and Prime Minister Anthony Albanese visit Summer Hill, Sydney and join with ADO Lawyers Sarah and Tara

Wells for The Voice Sydney & Canberra 17/09/2023

YES to LISTENING

DO NOT KNOW? FIND OUT!

**STEVEN WISE 1950-2024**

VALE The world's most inspirational animal lawyer

**ADO & social justice on socials**

Animal Defenders Office

Using the law to protect animals

Violent killing of native wildlife endorsed by kangaroo cull review and ACT Environment Minister.

'Violence is the last refuge of the incompetent'

Isaac Asimov

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### Residential Entry Powers (NSW)

When can authorities enter homes and seize an animal in care?

**NSPCA, AWEL & NSW Police**

Authorized officers from the Royal Society for the Protection of Animals (RSPCA), NSW Animal Welfare League (AWL), NSW Police and NSW Police can enter:

- with a warrant, or
- if there are reasonable grounds to suspect an animal has suffered, or is in imminent danger of suffering, a significant physical condition, or has a threatening condition that requires immediate veterinary treatment, and it is necessary to enter the premises to prevent further injury or provide veterinary treatment (in an emergency).

**Additional NSW Police powers to enter:**

- if the officer believes or suspects that a person has committed, or is committing, a criminal offence.
- if a breach of the peace is or is likely to be committed, or
- a person has suffered significant injury or there is imminent danger of this.

**NSWLRC**

Wildlife Information Rescue and Education Service (WILRES) officers have the power to enter residential premises and seize animals without the consent of the occupier. They can report suspected animal cruelty to NSW Police/RSPCA/AWL.

**Local Council**

A council officer cannot enter any part of a residential premises unless the occupier consents or a search warrant is issued. They may enter external areas of the premises (e.g. back yard and side passage).

**Right of occupier**

If an authorised officer wants to enter premises where an animal is, a person occupying the premises can:

- Request identification and proof of authority from the officer.
- Ask for the purpose of the entry.
- Request a warrant if a warrant has been issued by a court.
- If a warrant has been issued, the officer must follow the directions and make a complaint afterwards.
- NSW is not a member of a state or territory that has a notice to leave. Authorisation officers to enter premises and facilities controlled by the owner to care. This condition must be complied with.

### Indigenous Voice to Parliament: A Guide to the Arguments

The document on the Voice to Parliament is filled with competing arguments and claims to authority. This guide provides a summary of the key arguments and claims to authority, and offers a guide to the arguments.

**No Argument Archetypes**

**1. The Liberal Democratic Cases**

The first liberal democratic case is that the Voice is a threat to the separation of powers. The second liberal democratic case is that the Voice is a threat to the rule of law. The third liberal democratic case is that the Voice is a threat to the federal system. The fourth liberal democratic case is that the Voice is a threat to the Australian people.

**2. The Pragmatic Cases**

The first pragmatic case is that the Voice is a threat to the Australian economy. The second pragmatic case is that the Voice is a threat to the Australian environment. The third pragmatic case is that the Voice is a threat to the Australian culture. The fourth pragmatic case is that the Voice is a threat to the Australian people.

**3. The Religious Cases**

The first religious case is that the Voice is a threat to the Australian religion. The second religious case is that the Voice is a threat to the Australian culture. The third religious case is that the Voice is a threat to the Australian people.

**4. The Regional Cases**

The first regional case is that the Voice is a threat to the Australian region. The second regional case is that the Voice is a threat to the Australian culture. The third regional case is that the Voice is a threat to the Australian people.

### Is it illegal for... unwanted working dogs on farms to be killed in NSW?

Like others in the community, we are distressed by the unfolding story of three young and healthy farm dogs who may be killed because they are "unwanted". The plight of these dogs, which according to many commentators is not uncommon, has led to much discussion as to the legality of killing unwanted farm dogs (also known as "working dogs"). Given the interest in this issue, our volunteer lawyers have looked at the relevant legal framework in NSW.

Under NSW's animal welfare law, killing an animal may be a criminal offence of animal cruelty if the killing is "unreasonable, unnecessary, or unjustifiable" (Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1879 (NSW) (POCTAA) s 4(2a) and 3). This applies to domestic and working dogs, and regardless of whether pain or suffering was caused in the process of killing the dogs. So if working dogs on a farm are killed because they are no longer wanted, but are otherwise healthy and of good temperament, and there are viable options to rehome the dogs, the killing could be regarded as "unreasonable, unnecessary or unjustifiable" and as such an unlawful act of cruelty.

However, if a free-roaming dog approaches farmed animals on certain land including private farms, and is killed by the occupier or their agent because that person reasonably believes the dog poses a threat to the farmed animals, the killing could be considered reasonable (this scenario is permitted under the Companion Animals Act 1998 (NSW) s 4(2)).

We also note that while "wild dogs are subject to biosecurity laws in NSW, these laws do not prevail over animal welfare laws (ie POCTAA: Biosecurity Act 2015 (NSW) s 389). Finally, we note that not all jurisdictions include killing per se as an animal cruelty offence. So for what it's worth, working dogs in NSW at least have that aspect of animal law going for them!

Animal Defenders Office  
Using the law to protect animals

Defending the defenceless. Protecting the protectors.

1,396 kangaroos to be killed in local nature reserves by ACT Government 10th - 31st 2024

### Lifting the veil: animal law explained

**ADO case note:**

Snowy Mountain Bush Users Group Inc v Minister for the Environment [2024] NSWSC 711 (14 June 2024)

"...the plaintiff seeks urgent interlocutory relief prohibiting the defendants from continuing aerial shooting of wild horses, and from continuing culling operations of any type, in the park in circumstances where it appears that this would reduce the numbers of wild horses in the park below 3,000."

# ADO publications 2023-24

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## ADO and the Community Legal Sector in 2023-24

Animal Defenders Office  
Using the law to protect animals

### National Accreditation Scheme for Community Legal Centres

**Phase 3 Continuous Improvement Plan**

**ANIMAL DEFENDERS OFFICE**

**Introduction**

This document is the Centre's Improvement Plan for Phase 3 of the National Accreditation Scheme (the NAS) and should be read in conjunction with the Preliminary Accreditation Assessment.

Independent Review of the National Legal Assistance Partnership 2020-25

CLCNSW AGM, 13 March 2024. ADO moved a motion of thanks to CLCNSW for its ongoing support for the ADO over the last 10 years.

Improvement Plan progress report for Phase 3 of the National Accreditation Scheme (NAS) for CLCs assessed as meeting the standards for NAS Phase 3.

The ADO took part in the Independent Review of the National Legal Assistance Partnership 2020-25, August 2023.

Online cross-checks with Principal Lawyers from NSW CLCs 28 September 2023.

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## TESTIMONIALS 2023-24



'I would like to thank you again for all your work for me and everyone else you have helped along your way, you have mine and all of my people the utmost respect, thank you very much. you are one in a million you helped me when no one else would, you saved my dogs life's and mine, I only wish you all the best and other people respect the hard work you do.'

First Nations case client

'Thank you ADO, to quote Morrissey "there's a light that never goes out". You are wonderful and behalf of all the animals, thank you for all your love for animals that underpins your dedication and devotion to securing their rights and protection as sentient beings Xx'

Advice client

'Thank you so much for all of your help and hard work. [Animal] would likely not have been saved without you.' Case client

'ADO your assistance is very appreciated - I'm not sure where we would be without you!' Advice client

'Thank you so much for your assistance in this matter, we are so very appreciative and value the work that you and the other volunteers do. This has been a stressful and difficult time for us and your expert advice and guidance has been so appreciated.'

Advice client

'Thanks for all your help with this matter, it was a lifeline.'

Advice client

'Thank you so much, I feel better already. You're very very good at what you do. Very clear. Succinct.'

Advice client

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## (MORE) TESTIMONIALS 2023-24



'Thanks so much for your advice and work, it is much appreciated it that are beautiful people like you taking the time to help our furry loved ones and care about cases like this.' Advice client

'We all thank you deeply for the extraordinary amount of work you have put into doing absolutely everything possible to cover us. Saying thank you seems slight but it comes from the bottom of our respective hearts.'

Organisation client

'Thanks to you [animal] is home. You jumped in to help and pushed through your workload to do an amazing job. At every point I felt confident and fully supported. A wonderful outcome.'

Case client

'Thank you so much. I really appreciate all of your good advice and taking the time to explain.'

Advice client

'Thank you so much for your help in the application, very useful information as usual. You have no idea how appreciative we are.'

Self-representing clients

'Thank you ADO for being there. It was a blessing finding you. Thank you for all you've done.'

First Nations case client

'You are a God send. We have hope. Thank you so much.'

Advice client

'Amazing call. Thank you so, so much for your time. Thank you I really appreciate it.'

Advice client

'You have helped us immensely. I had stopped eating for 4 days. My body was shutting down. You have listened to us.'

Advice client

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# Net profit or loss 2023-24



## 2023-24 Financial statement

### Statement of Assets and Liabilities as at 30 June 2024

Opening balance (1/7/2023)	20,615.27
Excess of receipts over payments	7,495.99
Closing balance	<b>28,111.26</b>

#### Represented by:

Cash at Commonwealth Bank of Australia	28,229.26
Cash in hand	250.00
Outstanding bank deposit	0.00
	<b>28,479.26</b>

#### 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 2024 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: 8/11/2024

### Animal Defenders Office Statement of Receipts and Payments for the year ending 30 June 2024

	2023-24 \$
<b>Receipts</b>	
Donations	9,094.90
Membership	35.00
Grants	0.00
Awards	11,000.00
Fund raising	270.00
ADO goods	358.34
Interest	0.00
Cases	4962.55
Other	0.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>25,720.79</b>
<b>Payments</b>	
Stalls/ Room hire	150.00
Registration/ Fee/ Assessment	0.00
Stationery/ Printing/ Postage	981.57
Computing/ Internet	2,212.42
Court costs / Disbursements	7,602.44
Accommodation	0.00
Electricity	375.10
Office/ Rent	3,706.93
Insurance	2,893.52
Bank fees	6.80
Donations	0.00
Travel	148.00
Other	148.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>18,224.80</b>
Excess of receipts over payments	<b>7,495.99</b>

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## Funding highlights 2023-24



Celebrating  
**20 YEARS**  
of animal protection

## Wild Horses

**Animal Defenders Office**

The Animal Defender's Office uses the law to advocate for the protection of brumbies.

Join our community.  
Learn more at [voiceless.org.au](http://voiceless.org.au)

**voiceless**  
the animal protection institute



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## Committee Members 2024-25



The incoming ADO Committee for 2024-25 is:

- Yana del Valle, Director
- Angela Pollard, Director
- Dr Jon Rosalky, Treasurer
- Mike Rosalky, Director
- Farnham Seyedi, Director\*
- Tara Ward, Secretary

\* New committee member

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## Volunteers & Sponsors 2023-24



### PARALEGALS & INTERNS

Sebastian Adams  
Lauren Atkinson  
Oliver Blyth  
Casper Chow  
Jake Fitzgerald  
Jack Li  
Sharon Liu  
Siyi Liu  
Heyma Nahar  
Wenjie Zhang

### PRACTICAL LEGAL TRAINING GRADUATES

James Burford  
Toni Narciso

### RESEARCH OFFICERS

Dr Serrin Rutledge-Prior

### ADMIN

Monique Bordignon

### LAWYERS

Andrew Joyce  
Naaman Kranz  
Vaishnavi Pappu  
Ken Powell  
Angela Radich  
Mike Rosalky  
Tania Scott  
Farnham Seyedi  
Michael Sosower  
Vicki Stylianou  
Tara Ward

### BARRISTERS

Paris Hart  
Bridie Nolan  
Peter Singleton

### LAW FIRMS

Hall & Wilcox  
Lawyerbank  
Squire Patton Boggs

### ORGANISATIONS

Animal Justice Foundation  
Voiceless

### SPONSORS\*

Gabriel Budilova  
Wing Cheung  
Kate Harriden  
Deborah Lancaster  
Shannon Prior  
Mike Rosalky  
Gail Ward

*Thank you!*

\* Recurring and major donors

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