



Animal Defenders Office ACT

Using the law to protect animals

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MEDIA RELEASE

For Immediate Release: 16 December 2013

NEW ACT COMMUNITY LEGAL CENTRE FOR ANIMALS WINS GRANT

Two local ACT animal lawyers are setting up Australia's first 'Animal Defenders Office' right here in Canberra. Shelley Landmark and Tara Ward are establishing the Animal Defenders Office as a community legal centre that will focus on animals, and on those who seek to defend them.

The Office's main goals are to provide advice and assistance to individuals and groups wishing to protect animal interests, and to advocate for law reform.

Tara Ward, Executive Director of the Animal Defenders Office, said: 'Environmental Defenders Offices have been established in Australia for decades now, with the worthy goal of defending the environment. For a long time we've wondered – why isn't there an equivalent for animals? Well now there is! And Australia's first Animal Defenders Office is being established right here in the ACT.'

Shelley Landmark, Principal Lawyer of the Animal Defenders Office, added: 'Our mission is to use the law to protect animals. We do this by offering free advice and representation to anyone who wants to protect animals, and by delivering community education that is designed to increase awareness and interest in animal protection matters. So if anyone wants to find out how the law affects animals – whether it's their own pet, or a wild animal or farm animals, they should get in touch!'

Last week the founders of the Animal Defenders Office received a 2013 Grant from Voiceless, Australia's renowned animal protection institute. Ms Landmark said: 'This grant will help us get the message out to the community that we're here to offer help to anyone wanting to use the law to protect animals. We're very grateful to Voiceless for their support in these early days of the Animal Defenders Office.'



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