



Animal Defenders  
Office

Using the law to protect animals

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# ADO Newsletter

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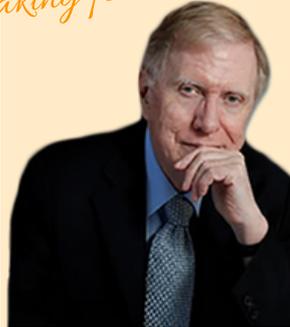
*ADO community stalls*

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**"There is nothing so powerful in the world as an idea whose time has come and animal protection is just such an idea."**

**Michael Kirby  
Former Justice of the High Court of Australia  
and Voiceless patron**



Tara and Scott representing the ADO at a parliamentary inquiry into Australia's domestic trade in elephant ivory and rhinoceros horn

## Animal law in *Parliament*

This year the ADO has made 10 written submissions to government and parliamentary law reform inquiries on social justice issues, ranging from the Draft Australian Animal Welfare Standards and Guidelines for Poultry to the use of wild animals in circuses on NSW council land. We also made submissions to Commonwealth and NSW parliamentary inquiries on the domestic trade in elephant ivory and rhinoceros horn, and on landowner

protections from unauthorised filming or surveillance. As a result of our submissions ADO lawyers were invited to give evidence at the public hearings. Our evidence and submissions were referenced throughout the committee reports, and in the case of the ivory and rhinoceros horn trade inquiry, even adopted as the committee's first recommendation.

Law reform can be slow, but we believe it is one of the key ways to make long-lasting, positive changes for animals.



Serrin, editor of the ADO newsletter, meeting with one of our "clients" in the office

# ADO at the Animal Activists Forum

ADO volunteers and supporters made the trip to Sydney on the weekend of 20-21 October for the annual Animal Activists Forum. The ADO's Director Mike Rosalky and Executive Director Tara Ward, delivered a presentation on laws that apply to animal activists. The session sought to empower activists to understand and assert their legal rights and

responsibilities and to prevent legal problems from arising.

This grassroots event was a great opportunity to meet and learn from others advocating on behalf of animals around Australia and the world.

We'll see you in Melbourne next October at AAF 2019!



## ACT Law Society commends ADO for Pro Bono work



The ADO was deeply honoured to be recognised by the ACT Law Society for our pro bono work at the Society's annual dinner and awards night. Our special commendation was presented by the ACT Attorney General Gordon Ramsay. We are thrilled and humbled to be recognised by our peers, and warmly thank the Law Society for its support of our fledgling community legal centre!

# Supporting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities

The ADO is founded on principles of social justice and fairness. We aim to pursue justice for all sentient creatures, but believe this can take place only in a country where justice has been achieved for its First Nations peoples.

Without achieving justice and self-determination for Aboriginal and Torres Strait

Islander peoples, we believe that other social justice campaigns will struggle to succeed.

This year we have made two submissions to the Parliamentary Committee on Indigenous Constitutional Recognition, in support of the recommendations made by the Uluru Statement from the Heart. In September we marked the 11th anniversary of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples by attending a screening of *After the Apology*, hosted by the ACT Human Rights Commission. This powerful and heartbreaking film shows how the number of Indigenous children removed from their families has skyrocketed in the period since the Apology to the Stolen Generations in 2008.

## Interview with *The Globalist*

The ADO spoke with *The Globalist*, a global radio station based in London, about kangaroos in Canberra. The interview canvassed attitudes towards kangaroos, the perception that they are over-abundant in the ACT, and the ethical and scientific issues surrounding the regular culls.

You can listen to the program (edition 1781) here:  
<https://soundcloud.com/monocle-24-the-globalist/tracks>



## Men Against Animal Cruelty

Recently, a number of men have publicly spoken out in support of a compassionate lifestyle and against the exploitation of animals in the meat industry. These men from all walks of life are united in their rejection of the link between masculinity and meat eating in so many cultures.

As one of the men said, "real men defend the weak and speak up for the voiceless". This inspiring group of men include vegan activist James Aspey (pictured) and ADO director Mike Rosalky. You can watch them on YouTube: <https://goo.gl/DRBQKp>.



# In the community...

## Animal Law Education Workshop (Sydney)

Alongside animal law teachers and PhD candidates from around the country, we spent a day in November at an animal law education workshop hosted by Voiceless: The Animal Protection Institute, and Maurice Blackburn Lawyers. The workshop focused on initiatives to teach, study and promote animal law. What an inspiring day!

## Presentation to Rotary Club

On 19 July the ADO had the great pleasure of giving a presentation to the Rotary Club of Canberra Burley Griffin (RCCBG) about 'Animals and the Law - Challenging Traditional Perspectives'. Thanks to the RCCBG for having us - it was wonderful to meet people so focused on helping others both here and abroad.

## Recent ADO stalls

### > Cruelty Free Festival (NSW)

Held on 11 November in Sydney, the annual Cruelty Free Festival was a great opportunity for the ADO to talk about animal law issues all day long, and meet with other wonderful animal advocacy organisations.

## Lucy's Project Conference

The human-animal bond took centre stage on the weekend of 22-23 September at the Lucy's Project Conference, which explored the links between family violence and violence towards animals. Vets, lawyers, social workers, animal welfare inspectors and law enforcement officers came together to listen and collaborate.



The ADO's Executive Director Tara with Nichola Donovan, President, Lawyers For Animals



The ADO's Carrie at the Cruelty Free Festival



Yana and Jon at the Living Green Vegan Market

### > Living Green Vegan Market (ACT)

There was lots of community support for our stall at the inaugural Living Green Vegan Market on 10 October in Canberra. The event featured stalls from ethical, environmentally-friendly and cruelty-free businesses.

Wednesday 6 February  
UC 0 Week Market Day

Sunday, 7 April 2019  
Living Green  
Vegan Market

Saturday, 13 April 2019  
Australian Running  
Festival - Walk, jog and  
run with Team ADO!

**Animal Defenders Office**

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See you at  
upcoming  
events