



NON GOVERNMENT SCHOOLS ANIMAL ETHICS COMMITTEE

11 AUG 2014



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| Ack. | |
| Action Officers | 1 LH |
| Response due | |

8 August 2014

Hon Ian Hunter MLC
Minister for Sustainability, Environment and Conservation
GPO Box 1047
ADELAIDE SA 5001

Dear Hon Ian Hunter

I refer to your letter dated 1 August 2014 regarding the review of State Government boards and committees and thank you for requesting my input.

The Non Government Schools Animal Ethics Committee (NGSAEC) is currently responsible for monitoring Animal Welfare in Independent and Catholic schools in South Australia. The joint committee was formed in 2002 combining the Animal Ethics Committees (AEC) from the Independent and Catholic sectors as both committees had difficulty in meeting the internal and external membership and legislative requirements. This is still apparent today in regard to the category and gender balance requirements of AEC's.

In the years that the AEC has been in operation, according to our records which begin circa 1989, there have been no instances of animal cruelty.

Unlike the hospital and university AEC's, animals in schools are not subject to research or experimentation they are used for animal husbandry through Agricultural programs and for observation in Biology. In 2011 we instigated procedural changes to shift the responsibility for the care of animals to the Heads of schools. This applied to animals used for observational purposes only. It would be a common sense approach that this responsibility be extended for the use of animals in senior education subjects given that Heads of schools have everyday contact with staff and students.

It is inconceivable that any instance of animal cruelty would go unreported in a school. If staff did not pro-actively report any such occurrence the students certainly would!

Given the above, it would appear that the committees function can be made redundant.

If you have any further queries please do not hesitate to contact me on [redacted] or mobile [redacted]

Yours sincerely

Mrs Mandy Hore
Chairperson
Non Government Schools Animal Ethics Committee