

## **RSPCA Victoria announces independent review**

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RSPCA Victoria today announced an Independent Review into the RSPCA Victoria Inspectorate will be conducted by former Chief Commissioner of Victoria Police, Neil Comrie AO APM.

The community is invited to make submissions that will help the Senior Reviewer answer three key questions:

- What is the scale of animal cruelty in Victoria?
- What resourcing and approaches need to be put in place to ensure animal cruelty is being adequately investigated and prosecuted, and community expectations are being met?
- Are there any ways RSPCA Victoria could use the resources it has right now more effectively and efficiently?

Online submissions can be made from today and close at 5pm on Friday 8 July. Anyone wanting to make a submission can visit the RSPCA Victoria website and follow the links.

As Senior Reviewer, Mr Comrie will identify and lead a team of experts to provide him with advice and support as he considers submissions, collects information and prepares his report and recommendations.

All submissions will be received in confidence, to protect the privacy of individuals and ensure that people can be candid and open in the information that they provide.

Dr Liz Walker, CEO of RSPCA Victoria, assured Victorians that every submission received would be carefully considered by the Senior Reviewer.

“RSPCA Victoria looks forward to the final report, which will undoubtedly reflect the information expressed in a broad range of submissions,” she said.

“In September this year, we will release a report along with our public response to the review.”

Dr Walker said that it is some time since the Inspectorate function was last reviewed and that periodic reviews are essential to ensure that operational performance and efficiency are maximised and in line with current best practice.

“The reports we receive about animal cruelty are growing in number every year and, like all not-for-profit organisations, our resources are limited,” she said. “If we’re going to meet the community’s expectations of us in protecting animals, we need to have a very clear grasp of the scale of the problem and identify the mix of resources and approaches that will get the best results most efficiently.”

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**ABOUT US:**

*As Australia's leading animal welfare charity, The Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (RSPCA) works to educate the community about animal welfare and advocates for improved legislation. Across the state of Victoria, the RSPCA's community services include inspections, [animal shelters](#), [clinics](#) and [education](#). We operate nine animal welfare shelters providing refuge and care and strive to give more than 35,000 animals each year a second chance. Established in 1871, RSPCA Victoria is a not-for-profit charity that relies heavily on the support of Victorians to care for 'all creatures' great and small'. More than 90% of RSPCA's operating expenses are supported by the generosity of the Victorian community. RSPCA Victoria is a member of [RSPCA Australia](#) (the federation of the eight State and Territory RSPCAs in Australia). The RSPCA National Board consists of the Presidents of their nominees from each member Society, with the CEOs as advisors.*

For all the latest RSPCA Victoria news, visit [www.rspcavic.org](http://www.rspcavic.org) or follow RSPCA Victoria on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#)

For more information or an interview with an RSPCA Victoria spokesperson, please contact:

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