

**Inquiry into the Animal Care and Protection Amendment Bill 2022**

**Submission No:** 867  
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**Submitter Comments:**

RSPCA inspectors should not have to rely on phone calls from the public and other on-the-ground government bodies for cases that are well known to be repeated e.g. hoarding is known to be a mental health condition and are well known to be repeated living conditions if the person does not receive help. For these circumstances, Inspectorate should be able to keep "tabs" for semi-regular check-ins unprompted by another person's phone call as, by then, the situation has usually become extremely out of hand and concerning for both animals and human/s. This is usually when overbreeding, living conditions, and intraspecies diseases cannot be kept up with welfare expectations which greatly impacts animal welfare as well as the health of the owner. RSPCA inspectors SHOULD also be supported financially by the government. It is not acceptable that animal welfare is expected to be carried out by massive fundraising efforts for donations from members of public especially as this means that resources are often stretched and limited. RSPCA inspectors should either be a Government body or receive funds that sufficiently cover Inspectorate resources which would enable more than 23 inspectors on the road, sufficient inspectorate coverage for all regions, and to expand this coverage to ensure all of Queensland has RSPCA Inspectorate support. Currently, not all of QLD is covered and the Department for Environment and Science is expected to step in which is confusing and resource-stretching for DES. Government funding of inspectors would also enable RSPCA to free up funds which would allow RSPCA to explore more programs that would reduce the number of notorious, regular cruelty calls such as assisting people temporarily with feeding underfed animals, treating illness/injury and housing for the vulnerable (and reduce abandonment calls) etc for those that are struggling to meet welfare expectations. Government funding should also be extended to HOW inspectors receive complaints as currently people can only submit an online enquiry or call. There should be funding available to enable other avenues to be explored to ensure that more people, especially those who are not able to call or email, are able to report welfare concerns they are witnessing.