



Hi

I am a member of RRANA wildlife care group and wish to make comment on the switch from Licensed group to Accreditation.

I am the groups bird carer coordinator with 13 yrs plus active involvement and caring with our group. I have written our groups bird care manual specific to the birds in our area. I conduct the bird care training, as is a license requirement for our group.

I have a wide variety of vets and other experienced people I network with and consult with for advice when needed.

On looking at the proposed strategy to accreditation I would hope the experience gained over years of dedication by our long standing members will have **recognition of prior learning** considered.

Most of the areas covered in the strategy proposal should prove to better the plight of groups such as us.

Areas of concern to me are:

Funding and funding applications.

Professional help is needed to apply for funding. Such funding needs to be for operational expenses, monies to pay for the food , general equipment of care, phone bills, petrol bills, advertising, rental of meeting place, a much needed web page, etc etc

This type of funding seems to be non existent. **Funding grants are more for large projects and not what an incorporated group is " already doing ".**

We need **funding for what we already do** in order to take the financial stress off the group and the essential need to conduct fundraising event and juggle between our small member group the demands of the animals we have in care/ call outs / roadside rescues.

We need to **make our work attractive to more volunteers** in a dwindling environment of volunteers nationally, in order to survive.

This is not helped by putting them amongst a small hand full of time poor mostly retired old people who form our rescue group, who are run ragged meeting the demands of caring overloads, manning our 24 hour phone service, fundraising efforts, and personal cost and contributions for food and care equipment, along with compliance with all the rules and regulations of govt. Departments.

Isolation and the vast area we need to service is another major factor needed for consideration. Personal holidays for our carers are sometimes impossible to arrange, and god forbid should we get sick need hospitalization.

Added to this the **mental stress** of dealing with sick and dying animals with the public expectation that you can perform a miracle and rehabilitate the animal they have handed in or reported.

We care because we truly love our native animals, feel a sense of privilege in what we do, and take delight in improving the plight of our animals. We do our very best and find reward in our successes.

I hope that this remains the focus of attraction to new members, and that accreditation requirements and other red tape don't swallow up new member enthusiasm.

Yours sincerely
Barbara Hands

