

Sharon Small Submission

Draft NSW Volunteer Wildlife Rehabilitation Sector Strategy: Public consultation

19/04/2019 10:01:42 PM

I have only recently been directed to this document.

I live in Victoria and hope that the work that has been done to create this document is replicated in our state. All that I have read; systems of accreditation, standard training for volunteers, consistent standards, codes of practice etc, are all desperately needed in Victoria. I am excited about what you are doing and hope that it proceeds well.

I have been caring for wildlife for 16 years and have endeavoured to research, consult and share knowledge. Learning from other carers has often been our only resource, however, often the knowledge shared is incorrect. We have been lucky to have incredible veterinary support and university educations assisting our ability to research and network.

There are many carers who do not feed their animals the correct diet, keep animals in suburban homes until it is too late for a successful release, keep domestic pets with the native wildlife they are caring for and dismiss guidance from experts. Thus creating a huge group of conflicted volunteers and animals that receive poor care.

Your document illustrates the dire need for accreditation.

Thank you.

I hope that when Victoria do decide to tread a similar path they do not waste time re-inventing what you have already completed and hopefully NSW and Victoria can work together.