

**From:** Inquiry into the RSPCA Victoria [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 29 March 2017 5:00 PM  
**To:** RSPCA Victoria Inquiry  
**Subject:** New Submission to Inquiry into the RSPCA Victoria

Inquiry Name: Inquiry into the RSPCA Victoria

Mr Iain Wilson

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## **SUBMISSION CONTENT:**

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In 2010 the RSPCA (Victoria) was on top of the world! It had over \$30M cash and investments and plans for new offices. Now it is on the brink of insolvency!

When I look at the RSPCA (Victoria)'s finances, I see a slow motion train wreck. After having spent well over \$40M on new offices for its executives, it now has a deficiency of working capital (2015 Audited Accounts) in spite of the recent government grants for "puppy farms" \$2.25M. It may no longer be able to pay its debts as and when they fall due if its losses have continued.

From 2010 to 2015 the RSPCA (Victoria) has received \$8.25M in Victorian government grants. Its financial mismanagement should be a concern to Victorians. Please ask the Auditor General to examine the RSPCA (Victoria) in respect of whether their grant funding has been spent in accordance with the purpose of the grant and whether there has been financial mismanagement at the RSPCA.

The RSPCA (Victoria)'s 2015 audited financial accounts discuss whether it is still a going concern. It was deficient in working capital in the order of \$2.1M but they say (at 30th June 2015) it remained a going concern on the basis that it still has \$2M line of credit and other "smoke & mirrors". The RSPCA's financial problems are a result of (in my opinion) years of mismanagement. A comparison to the Lost Dogs Home (LDH) is insightful. With less income, the LDH cares for more animals and manages to break even financially. The number of animals taken in by the RSPCA is decreasing. On all measures, the LDH outperforms the RSPCA.

I think it is clear that the RSPCA (Victoria) is in its current financial position as a result of years of poor decisions and waste. It should not have any further taxpayer assistance without very strict controls over how taxpayers' money is spent.

The RSPCA's:

- Financial problems are self inflicted. They had over \$35M cash and investments in 2010;
- Costs are increase out of proportion to the number of animals in care which are decreasing;
- Management appears to me to lack competence (financial losses, operational waste, deteriorating benchmarks compared to the Lost Dogs Home)
- They no longer appear to be an animal welfare organisation, but an animal rights organisation; and
- Enforcement and prosecution is inefficient and may be invalid. Australia & NZ are the only countries in

the world where the RSPCA has legislated prosecution and enforcement privileges. The RSPCA should not have these powers.

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