

ROYAL SOCIETY FOR THE PREVENTION OF CRUELTY TO ANIMALS — 120TH ANNIVERSARY

Statement by Member for Jandakot

MR J.M. FRANCIS (Jandakot — Parliamentary Secretary) [12.54 pm]: The Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals in Western Australia has been rescuing and re-homing animals, preventing cruelty, and promoting animal welfare in the community for the past 120 years.

It was on 2 August 1892 when a group of four women, including Edith Cowan, were so horrified by the treatment of carriage horses on St Georges Terrace that they formed the Western Australian Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals. By January 1893, the cause of preventing animal cruelty and neglect had become so popular with Western Australians that there were 95 members on the books. The first president of the RSPCA in Western Australia was Chief Justice Alexander Onslow and the patron was the Governor of Western Australia, Sir William Robinson. Membership cost one shilling and the RSPCA operated from a small office on St Georges Terrace. It was not until 1914 that the society was recognised by England and royal patronage granted.

I place on record my thanks to all the staff who work and volunteer for the RSPCA, including the carers, inspectors, fundraisers, volunteers—the little old ladies—who run the op shops and everyone who works tirelessly for the RSPCA in Western Australia. I thank Lynne Bradshaw, who is not only the state president, but also the national president of the RSPCA, for her work. Lastly, I wish the RSPCA a very happy 120th birthday and congratulate it on a job very well done and wish it all the best for the future.