

Addressing the concerns of some members

The Working Party consisting of myself, David Sales, Carol Eastley, Keith Irwin and Kerry Smith met after meetings in both the North and South. **This Working Party was appointed by the TCA Inc Council 22 October 2013 with Councillors from all regions present. Kathryn Hay was later invited to join the Working Party but declined the offer.**

The two northern meetings dealt with the standards for Domestic Animal Businesses and their submission was put to the Southern meeting. At the Southern meeting it was decided to have a fall back position the same as in Victoria that is where members of Dogs Victoria were exempted if they had nine or under fertile bitches, ten or more they were classified as a Domestic Animal Business.

The Working Party was tasked with producing one document that not only took into consideration the view of the members who attended either the meetings held in the north or south, but also those of the considerable number of members who sent their concerns directly to the TCA. Other than a couple of minor changes to wording the paper we submitted was that agreed to by the **Northern and Southern** meetings.

At no time was our position anything other than obtaining the same classification as working and hunting dogs - that is full exemption from being classed as a Domestic Animal Business.

In the initial meeting that Kathryn Hay arranged with Minister **Bryan** Green, the only one that members of the TCA Executive have been present at, he stated that it was highly unlikely that we would be granted such exemption as the two groups that had exemption were classified under the Dog Control Act and we were not.

In our meeting with members of Primary Industries we again stated our expectation of gaining exemption. **It was clearly indicated that unless Dogs Tasmania members gained appropriate recognition in the draft legislation there would be continued political agitation against the legislation.**

During the meeting with Primary Industries the introduction of a Quality Assurance program was discussed whereby we would be self regulating. If this is to be introduced we would require considerable changes to our Regulations and Code of Ethics. We are continuing down this path as we were assured that we would then be more likely to obtain the exemption we are seeking.

At this stage we have left all dealings with Minister Green up to Kathryn as she has the contacts and knowledge of procedure.

We have been granted a further meeting with Primary Industries after all submissions have been collated and their next draft is prepared. **With any luck all of the requests in our submission will be adopted meaning our work is done.**

As Parliament has risen for the year and there is to be an election next year we should start to meet with our local members and gain their support. **There seems to be a very good chance that there will be a new Government before any proposed legislation reaches Parliament.** Kathryn will be invaluable to the Association here with the best way to approach **politicians**, personally or as a party.

We still have a long road ahead of us and we need to be united. The Council is working on your behalf and will not do **anything** that would be detrimental to our hobby.

Elaine Job
President
TCA Inc

26 November 2013