

# Heidi Victoria MP

Member for Bayswater District

Parliamentary Secretary to the Premier & Assisting the Premier with the Arts

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## Local organisations benefit from Animal Welfare Fund

The first grants from the Victorian Coalition Government's Animal Welfare Fund have begun to flow, Member for Bayswater, Heidi Victoria announced today.

Mrs Victoria said the \$1.6 million fund would provide grants over four years to assist eligible not-for-profit organisations with infrastructure works, programs and activities that improve the welfare of companion animals.

"I am pleased to announce that Paws for Purrfect Patient Therapy, based in Bayswater, has been successful in their application to the Animal Welfare Fund, and has received a grant of \$10,000 to provide a rehoming support service for individuals who are no longer able to take care of their pets, due to mental illness; and to support a visiting program to Psychiatric wards and hospitals to provide therapeutic value to their hospital stay and recovery." Mrs Victoria said.

"It is important that we ensure local animals are protected from neglect and abuse.

"For 11 years Labor failed to answer calls from the community to go further in ensuring companion animals are protected from harm.

"The Coalition Government made an election commitment to ramp up animal welfare efforts and it is pleasing to be able to announce these local grants today."

For more information on the Animal Welfare Fund, visit [www.dpi.vic.gov.au/pets/animal-welfare](http://www.dpi.vic.gov.au/pets/animal-welfare)