

**Pets  
& Positive Ageing Inc.**  
*Keeping older pet owners and pets together*

# “And my dog comes too...”

Wednesday 26 April 2017, 9.00 AM—11.00AM  
Reception Room, ACT Legislative Assembly, Civic

## new approaches to living with our pets

Chair: Mary Porter AM, Patron of Pets and Positive Ageing Inc

- 0900 - 0905 **Welcome** - Mary Porter AM
- 0905 - 0920 **Making Canberra even more pet friendly** - Meegan Fitzharris MLA, Minister for Transport and City Services and Minister for Health
- 0920 - 0940 **Why can't my dog come too? The case for a more pet-friendly Australia** – Tammy Ven Dange, CEO, RSPCA ACT
- 0940 - 0950 **Europeans do it better: a personal perspective** - Jan Phillips, President, Pets and Positive Ageing Inc
- 0950 –1000 **Opening more doors for Canberra's pets: the community benefits** - Kate Cvetanovski, Executive Director Community Services, Northside Community Service
- 1000 - 1010 *Tea and coffee*
- 1010 –1020 **Opening more doors for Canberra's pets: a veterinarian's perspective** - Dr Alison Taylor, BVSc (Hons), Kippax Veterinary Hospital
- 1020 - 1035 **Issues to consider: responsible pet ownership** - Stephen Alegria, Director, City Presentation
- 1035 - 1055 **Moving Forward** - Questions and Panel discussion: Chaired by Mary Porter AM
- 1055 - 1100 **Wrap up and Close** - Mary Porter AM

Bookings for this event can be made through Eventbrite or [secretary@petsandpositiveageing.com](mailto:secretary@petsandpositiveageing.com)

# Information on Speakers

**Meegan Fitzharris MLA:** Meegan is Minister for Higher Education, Training and Research, Minister for Transport and City Services and Minister for Health. Prior to being elected she worked in the Office of Chief Minister, Andrew Barr and held several other positions including in the Commonwealth Attorney-General's Department and the Australian Federal Police. She was a Tutor at the University of Auckland and the University of Otago. Her community involvements include Gungahlin Community Council, Gungahlin Regional Community Service Board, Mother Teresa Early Learning Centre Parent Committee, Mother Teresa School Community Council; John Paul College Establishment Committee; UN Association of Australia and AUSSI Masters Swimming (ACT Branch). Relevant to this session, Meegan's portfolio responsibilities cover animal welfare, city services and hospitals.

**Tammy Ven Dange:** Tammy has been the CEO of RSPCA ACT since February 2014. She worked for NASA, the US Air Force and as a Peace Corps volunteer in Africa. She has also worked for global companies, an Australian-owned business, owned three companies herself and helped found two not-for-profits. Tammy has been on the board of five other not-for-profit organisations, including as president for two of them. Tammy has a Bachelor's Degree in Business from Northern Arizona University and a MBA from Cornell University. Her areas of speciality include strategic planning, raising revenue, operational improvement and in leading teams towards big goals. As a teenager she worked for an animal clinic in a small town in New Mexico, USA and she is passionate about animal welfare, a passion she has brought to her role heading the RSPCA ACT.

**Jan Phillips:** Jan is President of Pets and Positive Ageing. Jan started Pets are Wonderful Support (PAWS) and when franchisee of The Body Shop Canberra ran this for over 12 years as a community project. The service was for the elderly and those living with a serious illness in the ACT and Queanbeyan. Jan and her PAWS volunteers walked dogs for people who could not do it themselves. PAWS also fostered out a dog or cat when the person went into hospital or respite and found new homes for their pet if they died or went into full-time care. More recently Jan has assisted and supported the establishment of the Northside Pet Assistance and Wellbeing Assistance Service (PAWS) and is a volunteer with PAWS. She also runs the PAWS Dog Café during canine events such as the Million Paws Walk; runs Scottie Rescue for Australia and The Scottie Group in Canberra; and is a funeral celebrant.

**Kate Cvetanovski:** Kate is Executive Director of Community Services at Northside Community Service, where she works with an exceptional team of volunteers and staff to provide services and support to members of the community who for whatever reason find themselves in challenging circumstances and need some additional support. Kate is an active member on the board of Homelessness Australia the peak national body advocating for an end to homelessness in Australia. Kate also represents the ACT on the Council of Homeless Persons Australia. Before moving to Canberra, Kate was one of the first cohort of justice convenors in NSW facilitating mediation and conferences between victims and offenders in the court system. Kate is proud mum of two humans Jackson and Rohan and the slave to furry family members, Indiana and Jones. She has overall oversight of Northside's Pet Assistance and Wellbeing Assistance Service (PAWS) and will be speaking about this program today.

**Dr Alison Taylor BVSc (Hons):** Alison is a partner at Kippax Veterinary Hospital. She began her career in mixed animal practice in Gerringong before moving to England. She worked there in small animal practice for four years. She moved to Canberra in 2004 and has been at Kippax Veterinary Hospital since 2006. During this time she has done further study in radiography, ultrasonography and management of radioactive substances allowing the use of radioactive iodine to treat cats with hyperthyroidism. For her veterinary work in indigenous communities she was a finalist in the 2016 ACT Australian of the Year awards. In conjunction with Canberra Pet Ambulance, Kippax vet has instituted a pick-up/delivery service, to assist clients who find it difficult to physically get themselves and their pet in to see the vet, which is highly relevant for older pet owners. For more details: [info@kippaxvet.com.au](mailto:info@kippaxvet.com.au)

**Stephen Alegria:** Stephen is the Acting Director of City Presentation having previously worked as the Executive Manager of the National Arboretum Canberra. In his current portfolio, Stephen oversees the Transport Canberra and City Services Directorate's City Presentation business unit which has responsibility for Domestic Animal Services, City Rangers, maintenance of public open space including mowing and cleaning of public places, management of the urban forest and facilitating the commercial and community use of public land. Stephen has been involved in the planning and drafting of the Animal Welfare and Management Strategy currently circulating for public comment and is a Deputy Registrar of Domestic Animals. With Stephen is Sean Sloan, the Senior Manager responsible for Domestic Animal Services, City Rangers, Land Use Licensing and an Investigations Unit. Sean has implemented many compliance and regulatory strategies and practices to ensure rigorous decision making and brings a strong customer focus to compliance and enforcement activities.