

Planning rule dogs vet



AAPS President Megan Seccall with her dog Basil who was rescued from the shelter.
Picture: JASON SAMMON

Adult shop OK but no-go to run popular community clinic

Jon Andrews

A QUIRKY planning zone prevents an animal charity from operating a vet clinic at its new temporary headquarters — but permits an adult sex store.

The Keysborough Australian Animal Protection Society has now lost its key source of income because of the council rule.

The group wanted to run its popular discount-price vet service from the new shelter but was told it can't do that in an industrial 2 zoned area.

Frustrated AAPS president

Megan Seccall said it was a bizarre regulation "where you can't have a cinema, place of assembly or vets yet can have other things like an adult shop".

The AAPS has moved from their Keysborough site to a temporary one on Bangholme Rd, Dandenong South while a bigger, permanent home is being built in Dandenong.

The group, who rescue and rehome over 2500 cats and 800 dogs each year, packed up their Homeleigh Rd home late last month after the land was acquired by the

Education Department for a new school.

Their former vet clinic, which provided heavily-discounted surgery, consultations and medications as well as emergency assistance, supplied a crucial income for the not-for-profit organisation's shelter.

"We understand the rules but ask for a bit of leeway so we can continue our good work for the community," Ms Secall said.

"We are just asking for those in power to look at the bigger picture,

show a bit of compassion."

Greater Dandenong city, planning, design and amenity acting director Peter Shelton said the society knew of the zone restrictions before moving in.

He said they would work with the group to assist where they could, but ruled out any direct change to allow them to run a public clinic in an industrial 2 zone.

State Government spokesman Crys Ja said they couldn't help, as it was up to Dandenong Council to submit a planning scheme

amendment which State Government would then consider.

If the charity doesn't get an exemption, Ms Seccall said another option was to set up a new mobile vet clinic — which costs extra money they didn't have.

The group has set up a GoFundMe page and has asked the public for help in getting a mobile vet up and running.

 Visit: gofundme.com/ausanimalprotectionsetupvetfacility to help with a mobile clinic



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