

# ENHANCING THE QUALITY OF LIFE

**AGEING TOGETHER – PEOPLE & PETS**

Animal Welfare League Australia  
**awla**

October 2018



# WHO WE ARE

- AWLA IS A NATIONAL NOT-FOR-PROFIT AND REGISTERED CHARITY.
- WE ARE THE NATIONAL REPRESENTATIVE BODY OF SIX COMPANION ANIMAL WELFARE CHARITIES WHO CARE FOR MORE THAN 55,000 COMPANION ANIMALS ACROSS AUSTRALIA EVERY YEAR.
- MEMBER SERVICES INCLUDE RESCUE, SHELTER, REHOMING, FOSTER CARE, HEALTH AND VETERINARY CARE, ENRICHMENT & POLICY INPUTS.





# AWLA & PETS IN AGED CARE

## OBJECTIVE?

- KEEP OLDER AUSTRALIANS TOGETHER WITH THEIR PETS.

## HOW?

- GRANTS
- RESOURCES & ADVICE
- RESEARCH
- ENDORSEMENTS
- PARTNERSHIPS WITH KEY STAKEHOLDERS



# WHY YOU NEED TO ACCOMMODATE PET OWNERS



# Because ... WE LOVE OUR PETS!

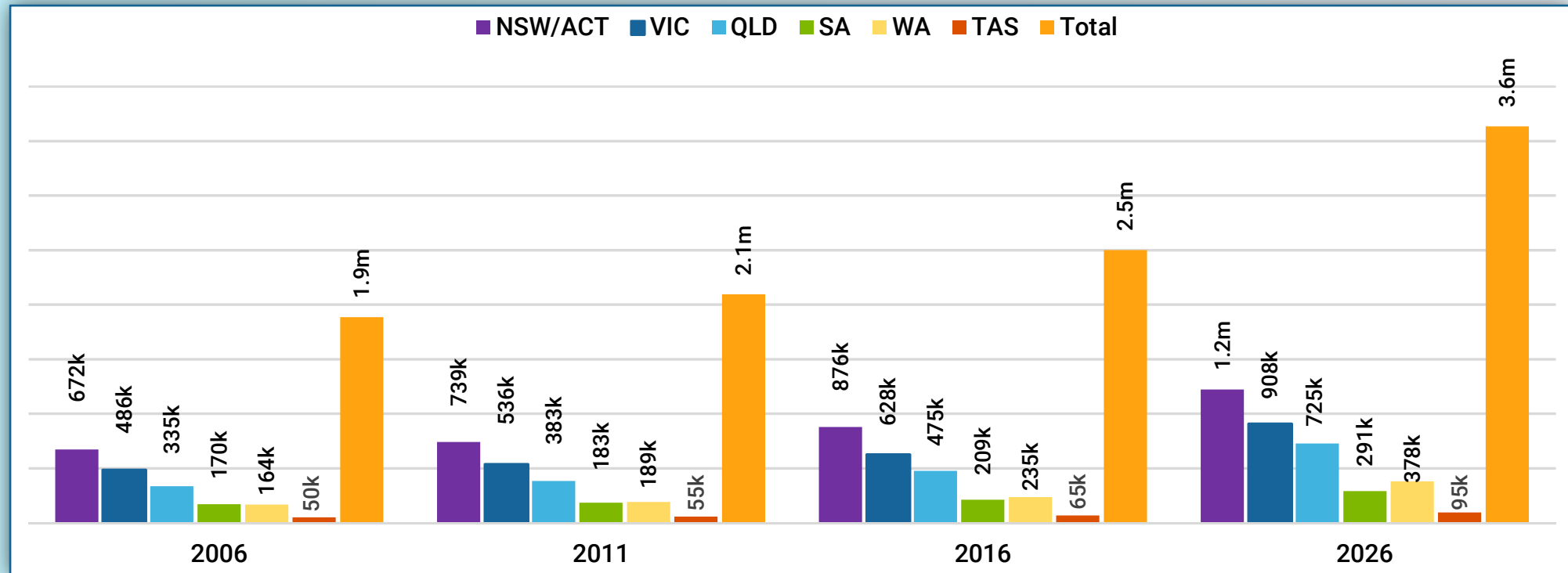
- Australia has the third highest rate of pet ownership in the world (63%)



Estimated Pet Ownership by State, Pet ownership in Australia 2013, p11, Animal Health Alliance

# Because ... EVOLVING DEMOGRAPHICS

## ➤ Australia has an ageing population



Population growth in persons aged over 70 (2006-2026), Sources: ABS, Census of Population & Housing 2006 2011; Australian Demographic Statistics 2016; ABS Population Projections by Region 2026

# Because ... IT'S GOOD FOR YOUR BUSINESS ... & OURS!

- ACHIEVES BETTER HEALTH OUTCOMES FOR OWNERS & PETS.
- EASES TRANSITION TO AGED-CARE SETTINGS.
- ENCOURAGES UP-TAKE OF RESIDENTIAL CARE.
- ENCOURAGES UP-TAKE OF IN-HOME CARE.
- DIFFERENTIATES YOU AS A SERVICE PROVIDER.
- REDUCES ANIMAL SURRENDERS.
- YOU ARE KNOWN FOR SUPPORTING PET OWNERS.



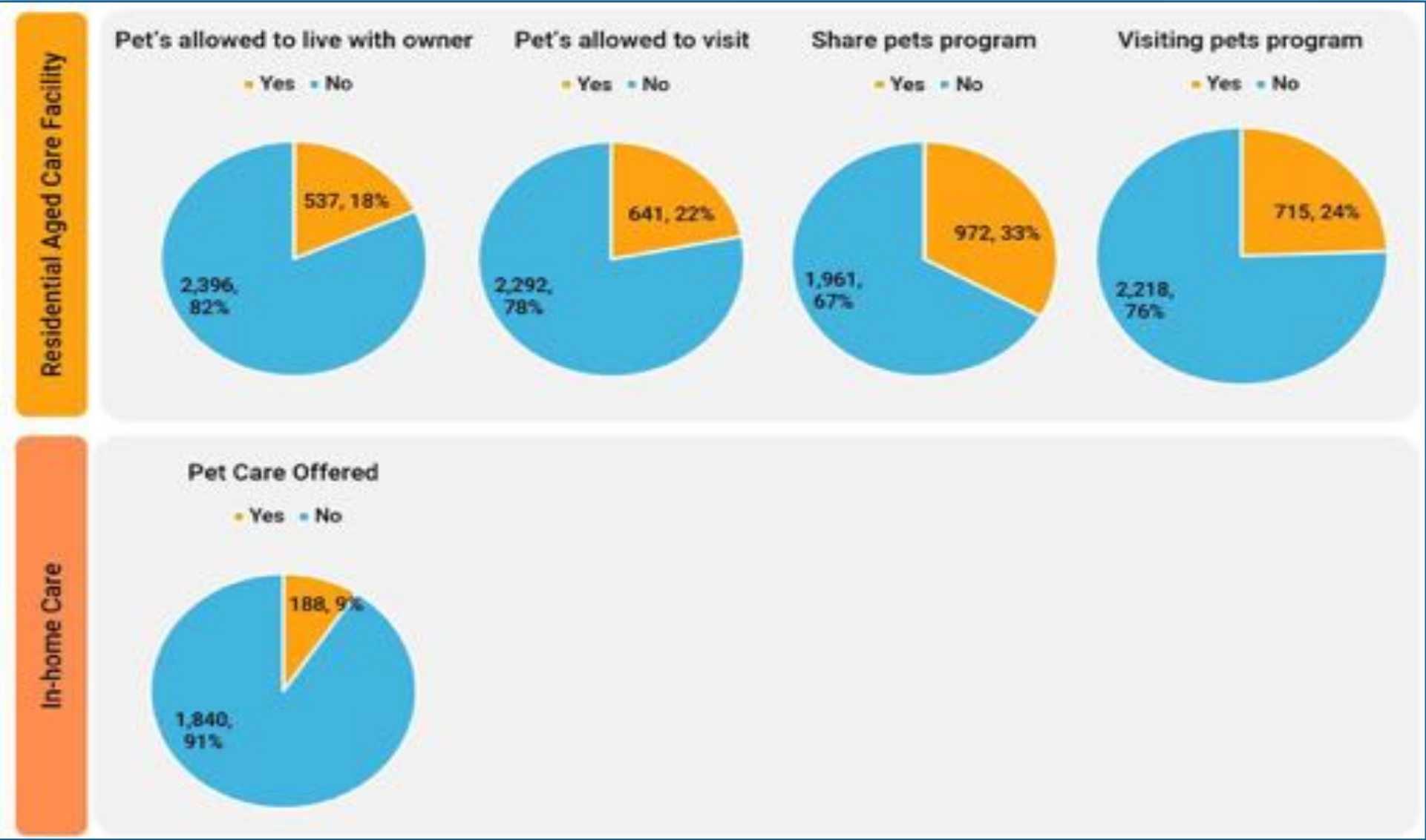


# BUT ... PET OWNERS NEED MORE SUPPORT

■ YES

■ NO

Audit, Pets in Aged Care  
Snapshot, AWLA 2017





# PETS IN AGED CARE SNAPSHOT

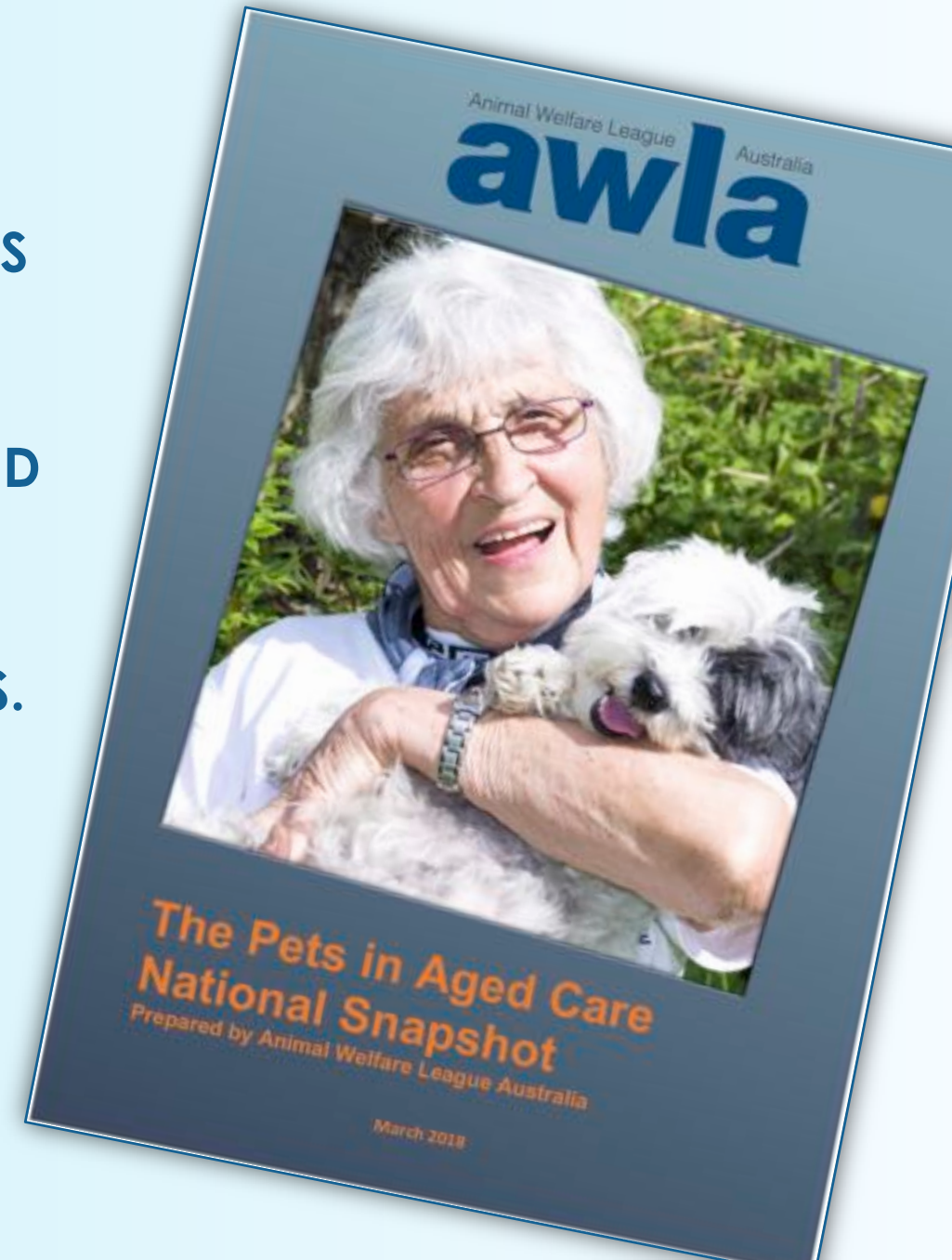
**18%** FACILITIES CONSIDER ALLOWING RESIDENTS TO KEEP A PET.

**22%** RESIDENTIAL FACILITIES ALLOW FAMILY AND FRIENDS TO BRING PETS FOR A VISIT.

**33%** RESIDENTIAL FACILITIES HAVE SHARED PETS.

**24%** RESIDENTIAL FACILITIES OFFER A VISITING PETS PROGRAM.

**9%** IN-HOME CARE PROVIDERS OFFER A PET-FRIENDLY SERVICE.



# OTHER FINDINGS OF THE SNAPSHOT

**7%** OF PET SURRENDERS ARE ELDERLY-RELATED.

## **SURRENDER REASONS INCLUDE**

- OWNER HEALTH OR DEATH.
- UNSUITABLE PET ACCOMMODATION AT HOME.
- FAMILY UNABLE/UNWILLING TO CARE FOR PET.
- LACK OF FINANCIAL MEANS.

## **WHY SERVICE PROVIDERS CAN'T BE PET-FRIENDLY**

- INABILITY TO FUND PROGRAMS.
- LACK OF SUPPORTIVE EMPLOYEES/VOLUNTEERS.
- WORKPLACE HEALTH & SAFETY ISSUES.
- FINANCIAL OR LEGAL CONCERNS.



# How to be pet-friendly

- PET POLICY
- PET APPLICATION & AGREEMENT FORMS
- HEALTH CHECKS/BEHAVIOURAL ASSESSMENTS
- ENVIRONMENTAL/DESIGN CONSIDERATIONS
- PREVENTATIVE HEALTH CARE
- ONGOING MANAGEMENT
- SUPPORT PET SERVICES





## Need help?

- **APPLY FOR AWLA'S PETS IN AGED CARE ENDORSEMENT.**
- **PROMOTE THE HUMAN-ANIMAL BOND.**
- **LOBBY FOR SUBSIDISED PET-CARE SERVICES.**
- **SURVEY CLIENT DEMAND FOR PET-FRIENDLY SERVICES.**





**THANK YOU!**