

## MEDIA RELEASE

For immediate release

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### **"Andrews Government Fails Again to Stop Companion Bird Abuse."**

Avian Behaviourist Paris Yves Read is frustrated with the continuing bird abuse at Bird sales in Victoria.

A recent petition to save birds signed by Victorians has been ignored, once again, by the Andrews government and his ministers.

“Since I complained to the Victorian government in 2014, Victorian bird groups have had 3 years to ‘ruffle their feathers’ and get their act together regarding bird welfare- but the conditions have not changed- in fact they have become worse,” Yves Read said.

Bird groups and the Victorian government have done nothing to show that they are listening to Victorians who want urgent attention to bird welfare, and bird sales and breeding banned.

The reality is that Companion Birds are in the stranglehold of the flourishing black market- the Victorian government has failed to encourage wide public consultation from experienced and empathic companion bird behaviourists, to meet the urgent welfare needs of companion birds. It has been more focussed on meeting the financial needs of the bird breeders and sellers via the Victorian Avicultural Council and other state and national stakeholders- who wilfully ignore the welfare of birds by conveniently failing to admit that birds who are all intelligent have highly sensitive behavioural and physiological needs

The urgency for bird welfare is reflected in the bird caring and ethical education available overseas, especially in the USA and Europe- whilst the Australian bird breeding industry and especially the tertiary education system chooses to ignore anything related to bird emotions and bird psychology.

“This makes no sense to me when I know that there are thousands of Victorians (and Australians) who are anxious to protect the mental and physical health of birds and eager to change laws to help birds live in safe and loving environments and fly free! Yves Read says.

So where is the disconnect?

Why does the Government not acknowledge that they have not produced a good welfare outcome for our highly intelligent birds?

This shows once again that the Andrews government has no empathy toward bird welfare.

The bird sale last Sunday 28 May at Skye, confirmed the ongoing abuse birds experience at the rough and non-compassionate hands of breeders and sellers.

The sellers' constant look of suspicion as they exchanged cash for their birds that they just snatched out of the small boxes and handed over to the buyers with small carry boxes to further confuse and terrify the birds.

No gentleness or smiles or empathy from the buyers or sellers to the birds.

The birds were treated as non-feeling things- a commodity.

*Cash for commodities.*

Yet birds have the behaviour and psychology of a child- and adult. And birds would never treat another living being as cruel as bird sellers treat them. Birds have more love, sensitivity and empathy than the people who have enslaved them for money.

The government needs to consult with the genuine bird caring and empathic community regarding bird welfare and not leave the bird welfare decisions in the hands of the breeders and others who stand to gain financially from the breeding and selling of birds.

*"Birds have wings to fly. They must be allowed the freedom and choice to do so. We must stop treating them as commodities or playthings and consider their wellbeing," says Yves Read.*

It's not just a matter of acquiring a bird, leaving the bird in a cage and feeding him or her seeds/powders and cheap and unhealthy commercial foods that have saturated the avian food industry in Australia. Caring for a bird is similar to caring with love for a human."

A national petition launched by Yves Read is underway to raise further national and global awareness regarding the tragic ongoing bird abuse in Australia.



#### ***About Paris Yves Read***

Paris is a Holistic Counsellor, Film Maker, Bird/Parrot Behaviourist and a Companion Bird Welfare Campaigner. She lives with her supportive husband and feathered family, both caring for them 24/7. In this environment, Paris is constantly studying the behaviours of birds in addition to her continuous bird behaviour research and findings from literature and within her worldwide avian education network. An experienced media commentator, Yves Read is the voice of welfare and legal rights for companion birds in Australia.

#### **About Let Companion Birds Fly**

Let Companion Birds Fly provides Bird Behaviour Counselling advice and holistic therapy for birds: [www.letcompanionbirdsfly.com.au](http://www.letcompanionbirdsfly.com.au)

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Images of abused/neglected birds can be viewed at [Media Images](#) and [Campaigns for Birds](#)

Petition [BAN Bird Sale!](#) 28 May 2017