

# Can pets save our public health system?



Every pet owner makes an impact on the bottom line

Australians go to the doctor

6.2

times a year



Pet owners go to the doctors

11%

less than non-owners



That's a saving of

\$700

in doctor visits and related costs per person

- \$218 saved by primary health care (e.g. doctors)
- \$72 saved by other health services (e.g. patient transport, aids and appliances)
- \$87 saved on specialist appointments
- \$327 saved by hospitals



## Why do pet owners visit the doctor less?

MORE EXERCISE



SLEEPS BETTER



FEELS HEALTHIER



and

MORE COMPANIONSHIP



FEELS FITTER



FEWER DOCTOR & HOSPITAL VISITS

and

FEWER DAYS OFF SICK FROM WORK

and

LESS MEDICATION USED

Figure 1. Hypothesized potential mechanisms as to why companion animal ownership may lead to fewer days off sick from work and fewer visits to the doctor. (From Headey et al., 2008.)



With 49% pet-loving households in Australia, this can add up to a big impact

Pets prevent

2.8 million

doctor visits every year



Non-pet owners visit doctors

122 million

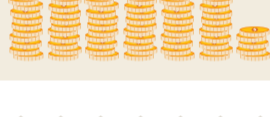
times every year



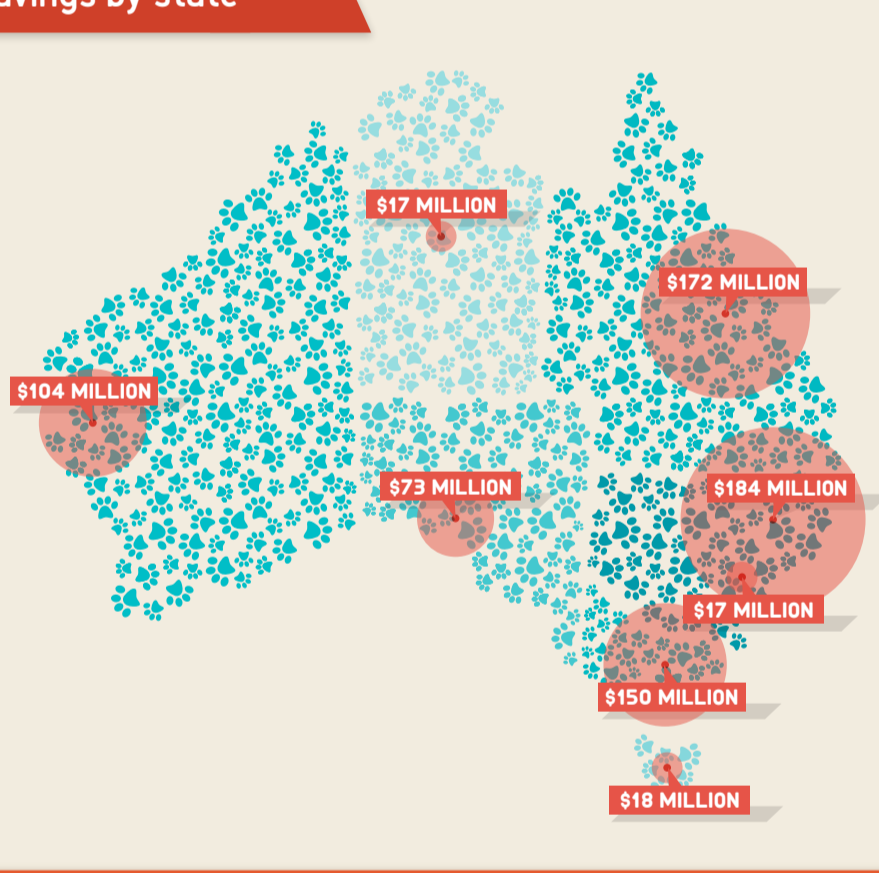
Federal Government saves

1.25 billion

per year



## Public health system savings by state



Pets are saving \$2 BILLION from Australia's public health system



Government spending on healthcare has increased by close to 10% over the 10 years

## What would happen if pet ownership increased?

10% more pets will save our health system

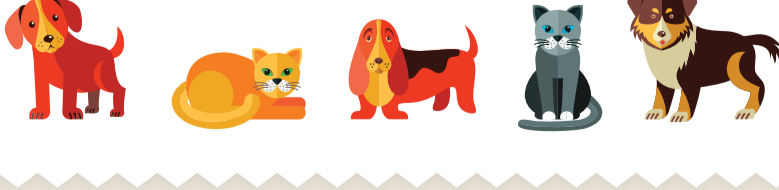
\$202 million per year

Or \$1 billion extra saved over five years!



Wouldn't you like to save a billion dollars?

Would you like to see a pet tax credit?



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