

## Responding to claims made in the media

Recently Dolphin Marine Magic has been targeted by an extremist activist group that has made a series of claims about our animal care and facilities.

The positive welfare of all the animals in our care is our top priority, and we have professional staff that look after them daily and a veterinary specialist as part of our team.

However, when these allegations were made, we wanted to ensure that we could respond in the most transparent way possible. For this reason, we had an independent veterinary service formally assess the health and welfare of our dolphins. This found them all to be in good condition, and that their participation in interactive sessions during the day constituted “enrichment activities for the dolphins”.

Specifically in relation to our 46 year old male Bucky taking part in presentations, he was assessed as being;  
“more than capable of keeping up with his current schedule; indeed he is given a choice and not forced to take part, and to exclude him from activities would possibly be detrimental to his mental health.”

Bucky has been treated for, and is in remission from cancer. The level of ongoing monitoring of his health was found to be “comprehensive”.

In relation to the facilities at Dolphin Marine Magic, our pools are maintained daily to ensure they provide a positive home environment for our dolphins, seals and other animals.

In NSW, animal care facilities are subject to regulations overseen by the Department of Primary Industries (DPI). These include detailed specifications for dolphin pools. After a recent site inspection and survey of our pools, DPI issued formal advice that: “The primary pool volume at Dolphin Marine Magic ... complies with the requirements for six (6) dolphins prescribed by ... the Standards for Exhibiting Bottle-nosed Dolphins (*Tursiops truncatus*) in New South Wales.”

Dolphin Marine Magic is deeply committed to providing dedicated and professional care for our animals throughout their lives. The experiences we offer to our guests are designed for people to learn more about dolphins as a fascinating and precious species meriting our care and affection.

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