

OAKLEIGH SOUTH

Animal carer's lament

COMMUNITY GRANT DENIED

Tim Michell

WILDLIFE carer Michelle Phillips has labelled Monash Council's decision to deny her a community grant "pathetic".

Ms Phillips, who runs Oakleigh South Wildlife Shelter, applied for \$3000 through the council's discretionary fund last month but was knocked back on insurance grounds.

She said she was "disgusted" by the decision, after receiving similar help from neighbouring Glen Eira Council.

"I live in Monash and the shelter is in Monash, so you'd like to think they'd provide the same support," Ms Phillips said.

Ms Phillips said she was told to take out extra public liability insurance to be eli-

gible, which would cost almost \$1000. "What's the point of me applying for a grant when most of it would be taken up by insurance?" she said.

Ms Phillips runs the shelter from her home, which she said was already insured.

She said most of her money was spent on petrol, food and milk for animals. She spends about \$400 each week feeding and sheltering injured animals.

Mayor Stefanie Perri recently said Ms Phillips' application had been denied because of "outstanding documentation". "Council officers followed this up with Ms Phillips but the required documentation was not received," she said.

Ms Perri said the shelter had previously received council funding.



Michelle Phillips, who Monash Council refused to assist, with a possum.

Picture: EUGENE HYLAND N11WG221