

Playing possum a costly business

Kelly Ryan

THEY don't eat it, bury it, or burrow under it — or even hide it in a hairy pouch.

But Victoria's injured, orphaned and sick wildlife cared by hundreds of volunteers sure know how to devour dollars.

State Government grants will help carers of our native animals meet the never-ending costs of rescuing, feeding, treating, housing, rehabilitating and then releasing these animals back to the wild.

Independent carer Michele Phillips said she was delighted with her \$2000 grant. "Every animal costs their own amount, based on how much care they need and every cent is gratefully received," she said.

There are 361 authorised wildlife shelters in Victoria.

Environment and Climate Change Minister Gavin Jennings said the grants would help.

"Wildlife rehabilitators are unsung heroes who volunteer their time and money to care for sick and injured wildlife. These grants reward and help sustain their efforts," Mr Jennings said.



Cash: this ring-tailed possum will benefit from new grants. Picture: CRAIG BORROW