

**PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE NO. 2 - HEALTH**  
**INQUIRY INTO USE OF PRIMATES AND OTHER ANIMALS IN MEDICAL RESEARCH IN NEW**  
**SOUTH WALES**  
**HEARING – 1 JUNE 2022**  
**SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTIONS TO DR PETER JOHNSON**

1. What welfare improvements do you think this Committee should be considering, to improve the treatment of animals used for research in NSW? What recommendations would you like to see from this inquiry in regards to animal welfare?

**Responses**

1.1 Understanding the numbers of animals used and the types of research in which they are used nationally in Australia has been difficult, as the various jurisdictions have differing reporting requirements. An annual reporting system standardised across jurisdictions would give a more accurate census of numbers of animals and types of research in which they are used.

1.2 Encouraging funding bodies to include a specific category for research into replacements for animal-based experiments may help advance replacement, reduction and refinement, particularly in those areas of research where the animals are used to model conditions in humans.

1.3 Regular external inspections by the regulatory authority, augmented by site inspection reports containing conditions and recommendations, provide animal research establishments and their AECs with clear objectives for achieving compliance with legislative requirements and benchmarks against which they can assess progress in the implementation of best practice. To maintain this important monitoring function, inspectors must be selected on the basis of appropriate qualifications. They must be trained, mentored and resourced to ensure rigor in the inspection process. They must be aware of both animal welfare and ethical issues and in particular, advances in research technologies that promote Replacement, Reduction and Refinement in animal-based research in accord with community expectations. What is the evidence that risk-based assessment is a sound alternative to this proven approach? After all, it depends upon what risks are being assessed and how they are rated, doesn't it?

1.4 The progress made through the monitored self-regulatory and inspection process has, in the past, been supported by the development and maintenance of evidence-based resources for the respective stakeholders. Maintaining these resources requires the ongoing provision of appropriately qualified and experienced departmental staff and sufficient guaranteed funding supporting the regulatory and resourcing framework.

1.5 Extensive research is being done to establish threatened and endangered native fauna species in captive breeding populations, for reintroduction to the wild. The protection and appropriate management of remaining wild habitats and the restoration of degraded ones is essential to the success of this work.