

**Submission  
No 36**

**INQUIRY INTO USE OF BATTERY CAGES FOR HENS IN  
THE EGG PRODUCTION INDUSTRY**

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**Date Received:** 26 June 2019

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Right now millions of hens are permanently confined in cages where they have about the same amount of room as an iPad. This is not what Australians want to see and yet it's all over the media on everyday basis.

I am very concern about the entire egg industry because:

1. Male chicks can't produce eggs, so they have no value to the egg industry. On their first day of life at hatcheries, they are dropped into grinders or gassed to death. Sadly, this happens across the whole egg industry. This is very cruel and inhuman
2. Battery cages should never be used. Again cruel and inhuman
3. Their lives are two years of misery, starting right when they are born.
4. Chicks are born in large incubators And will never see their mothers
5. Rather than give them more room, farmers cut off a portion of their sensitive beaks without painkiller. A chicken's beak is loaded with nerve endings, more sensitive than a human fingertip. Many birds die of shock on the spot.
6. Five to 11 hens are crammed into tiny wire "battery" cages And the cages are put on top of each other which allows urine and feces to fall down onto birds in the lower cages.
7. Because of the terrible living conditions, chickens often die in their cages.
8. They are sometimes left to rot in the same space with living birds.
9. After about two years, those who have survived are sent to slaughter.
10. They are shackled and hung upside down, they are electrocuted and their throats are cut
11. During transport, chickens are roughly stuffed into crates and suffer broken legs and wings, lacerations, hemorrhage, dehydration, heat stroke, hypothermia, and heart failure; millions die before reaching the slaughterhouse.
12. At the slaughterhouse, most chickens bred for egg-laying are still conscious when their throats are slit, and their hearts are still beating as the blood drains out of their mouths. Millions of chickens worldwide are still conscious when plunged into the scalding tank for feather removal. They drown while being boiled alive.

Due to the egg industry's clever marketing and using words like "free-range" and "organic" the reality is the mass production is basically the same. This means consumers are cheated and do not know what they are buying.

Enough is enough. All the above are unacceptable. It's inhuman and cruel and unhealthy. It's about time the all egg industry is challenged.