

Submission
No 98

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

Name: Name suppressed

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Partially
Confidential

I am writing on behalf of all hens who are trapped in cages, just so that they can provide eggs in the most economical way for humans. If anyone who considers themselves a compassionate person, had to witness the cruel living situation of even one of these hens on a daily basis, I would be very surprised if they would not feel that this is very much an unacceptable way for these birds to be treated. We've all grown up eating eggs & chicken is also Australia's favourite protein/meat, so if you really do consider yourself an animal lover of ANY kind, you might realise that, just because this has been going on for all of your life (& mine), that doesn't make it "right". To try to put it in a way that's more "real" or confronting, I would like to paint a picture for you to visualise. I'm doing just that, in my mind while I'm writing this submission. First of all, consider how horrified we humans are when we hear of a young child being kidnapped & locked up, taken away from their family & possibly never seen again, or miraculously being discovered in an appalling state of distress years later. We know how much this impacts our thoughts in a negative way. It certainly upsets me! Even if this was not our own child, we feel so sad for the child who this happened to. If you aren't a parent yourself, think of a much-loved pet from your childhood for a moment. Let's consider a cat or a dog's life. Would you like to think of them being trapped in a tiny confined space, without even enough room to stretch out & be comfortable, for the entirety of their lives? This is the Life of a Hen used for the production of Cage Eggs! These hens have committed no crime, yet they're prisoners until they die! If you had to have the hen who was laying the eggs that you eat for breakfast, (or whichever other meal you're eating), right there in your preparation area (usually your KITCHEN) ...sitting there in their cage, which is no bigger than the size of an iPad, would you be able to ignore the plight of that bird (hen)? Here you are in your own kitchen. You spend time in this kitchen at least twice a day... so every time you go into your kitchen, that hen is still in its cage, providing you with your egg/s. This hen will continue to provide you with eggs until it no longer lays them anymore. Many hens are also de-beaked without any anaesthetic. If you doubt any of this is true, please do some research online. Articles & video footage of the dreadful treatment of hens is easy to access. Be informed. Don't ignore the facts just because this is common practice. Please make a stand for these gentle creatures who can't stand up for themselves. I implore you to do the right thing. I'm not suggesting that anyone stop eating eggs or chickens. I eat them myself! Let's just allow these hens a decent existence while they're still alive. That's what I'm asking for you to put forward. They're not machines. They're living, breathing, thinking birds. Thank you for considering the day-to-day life of these gentle hens. Don't just open your carton of eggs as if it is a packet of cereal. The suffering of the hen trapped in the cage, to produce those eggs, is VERY REAL & it's relentless. You wouldn't treat your pet this way. I know you wouldn't.