

**Submission
No 199**

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

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I want to see an end to hens being confined to cages.

Why are we confining these beautiful, intelligent animals to a life in a cage? For their eggs? Eggs that we have no right to take. Eggs that we don't need to survive. There are so many cruelty free, healthy alternatives.

Put yourself in their place for a moment. Confined to a small space shared with many others. Unable to stretch out or exercise properly. Nowhere to lie down. Having to stand on a sloping wire floor. All for a short existence of 18 months. Then you get to experience fresh air and sunlight on the way to the slaughterhouse.

There are currently 11-12 million hens confined to small wire cages in Australia. The conditions they are confined to will cause them chronic pain from the development of lesions and other foot problems. Their restricted movement, constant exposure to a wire floor and lack of perches lead to serious bone and muscle weakness. They will suffer continuously the entire time they are confined in these cages.

This is NOT how we should be treating animals. We should treat the most vulnerable in our society the way we would want to be treated.