

Submission
No 204

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

Name: Name suppressed

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Partially
Confidential

Hi,

I'm hopeful there will be many people, more eloquent than myself, writing to you about caged hens and their eggs. Having grown up on a rural property that had ~10 hens, I'm more familiar than most with what they can be like. There is no question in my mind that they are curious in nature. There is no question in my mind that they can experience pain and suffer.

I've found online that 'the body of evidence, scientific and philosophical, has proven beyond any doubt that farmed animals possess the same capacity to suffer as family pets – a confined pig feels the same frustrations, discomfort and pain as a dog would if kept similarly deprived of exercising natural instincts and behaviours. From animals seeking out pleasurable experiences, to recognising animals as empathetic and self-aware beings through their behaviours and body language, to exploring the rich emotional world of farmed animals – we know animals feel. The capacity to suffer is equal across all species and as such legislation should reflect recognition of such capacity.'

For that reason, and having seen first hand the experiences and the conditions of caged hens (my mother worked there), I hope that you consider the welfare of caged hens. Their fate is far worse than the worst prison you can imagine - cramped, dark, noisy places where they lack space, daylight, fresh air, opportunities to demonstrate their natural behaviours - like walking around or moving their wings or cleaning/preening themselves. Crammed into small spaces with a sole purpose to produce eggs before being disposed of because you no longer make enough profit.

As a first world country, as Australians, as individuals with empathy - we know we can do better. We must do better. Cheap eggs isn't an excuse for the willful harm that awaits caged hens.

I look forward to hearing the outcome of the committee in due course.

Thanks for your time.