

**Submission  
No 511**

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

**Name:** Carolyn Drew and Sinem Ketenci

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## SUBMISSION

### on the Use of Battery Cages for Hens in the Egg Production Industry in Australia

We, Ms Carolyn Drew and Ms Sinem Ketenci, have concerns about the treatment of chickens and hens in egg production. The government and industry regulations are inadequate and fail to provide acceptable welfare standards for egg-laying hens in battery cages. Furthermore, day-old chicks continue to be grinded up alive.

Based on these reasons and the reports by Voiceless,<sup>1</sup> Animals Australia,<sup>2</sup> and RSPCA Australia<sup>3</sup> that expose inherent cruelties in egg production in Australia, we request the use of battery cages to be banned as soon as possible. The period of phasing out the use of battery cages should be as minimal as possible because current legal measures alone cannot and do not solve animal cruelty intrinsic in egg production, and because egg labelling does not reflect the correct production system.<sup>4</sup>

Consequently, we recommend the consumption of egg alternative (plant-based and vegan) products which are nutritiously adequate for human health and wellbeing.

Keeping hens in battery cages is inhuman and must be banned.

Kind Regards,

Ms Carolyn Drew  
Executive Director of Regions, ICAS  
Masters in Education

Ms Sinem Ketenci  
Director of Board Relations, ICAS  
Masters in Social Work

The Institute for Critical Animal Studies (ICAS) is an international organization which aims animal liberation through an intersectional, transformative, holistic theory-to-action activism to dismantle all systems of oppression, in hopes for a just, equitable, inclusive, and peaceful world.

[www.criticalanimalstudies.org](http://www.criticalanimalstudies.org)

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<sup>1</sup> Voiceless, 'Unscrambled: The Hidden Truth Of Hen Welfare In The Australian Egg Industry' (May 2017) (Online) <<https://www.voiceless.org.au/node/7683>>; Voiceless, 'Cruelties In Egg Production' (2019) (Online) <<https://www.voiceless.org.au/egginherentcruelties>>.

<sup>2</sup> Animals Australia, 'Battery Cages' (2019) (Online) <[https://secure.animalsaustralia.org/take\\_action/battery-cage](https://secure.animalsaustralia.org/take_action/battery-cage)>.

<sup>3</sup> RSPCA, 'The Welfare Of Layer Hens In Cage And Cage-Free Housing Systems (August 2016) (Online) <[https://www.rspca.org.au/sites/default/files/2016-08%20The%20welfare%20of%20layer%20hens%20in%20cage%20and%20cage-free%20housing%20systems-FINAL\\_0.pdf](https://www.rspca.org.au/sites/default/files/2016-08%20The%20welfare%20of%20layer%20hens%20in%20cage%20and%20cage-free%20housing%20systems-FINAL_0.pdf)>; RSPCA, 'What is the RSPCA's view on battery cages?' (1 May 2019) (Online) <<https://kb.rspca.org.au/knowledge-base/what-is-the-rspcas-view-on-battery-cages/>>.

<sup>4</sup> Christine Parker and de Costa, Josephine, 'Misleading the Ethical Consumer: The regulation of free-range egg labelling' (2016) 39(3) *Melbourne University Law Review* 895; Christine Parker, 'The Food Label as Governance Space: Free Range Eggs and the Fallacy of Consumer Choice' (2014) 35 *Recht der Werkelijkheid* 101.