INQUIRY INTO EXHIBITION OF EXOTIC ANIMALS IN CIRCUSES AND EXHIBITION OF CETACEANS IN NEW SOUTH WALES

Name: Mrs Lisa Apostolides

Date Received: 15 October 2019

For far too long animals have suffered at the hands of humans. For this particular submission I will focus on animals exploited for human entertainment purposes. Various companies have hidden behind "rehabilitation" programs to justify the exploitation of the animals they are supposed to care for. No animal is meant to perform tricks and entertain humans. Not even dogs! However let us focus on larger animals such as dolphins, killer whales, monkeys, bears, seals, lions, tigers etc. The conditions which these animals have to live are often atrocious and go undetected by government standards. Behind closed doors all sorts of illegal activities occur also resulting in the cruelty towards the animal. To get an animal to "obey" and perform tricks they are abused in one form or another. They is a mountain of evidence gather by such organisations as Animals Australia, World Wildlife Fund, Animal Justice Party. Do you really need to see more to understand that we must change our practices immediately. Enough profiteering from these beings. I challenge you to imagine spending even a week trapped in a zoo, or at Sea World, in a circus denied all of your rights, made to perform again and again the same routine and if you resist you will be physically punished. Yes it does happen, when the audiences have left and the doors are closed. You have the choice to make the change. Companies can and will find other ways to make their income which honours the lives of the animals, allowing them to live as natural a life as possible, to reintroduce those who are able to their natural environment and where possible create more protected areas where they can live in peace. We owe it to them all.