

**Submission
No 180**

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

Name: Sandra Finn
Date Received: 20 November 2019

To Whom It May Concern.

NSW cannot allow wild animals including lions, monkeys and dolphins to be imprisoned and forced to perform for human entertainment.

I have deep concerns regarding the welfare of exotic animals exhibited in circuses in New South Wales, including how forcing these animals to perform is not in line with community expectations.

Over 40 councils across Australia have banned the use of animals in the circus.

There are no national welfare standards for circus animals, only guidelines. These animals are not protected.

Animals in circuses are routinely subjected to months on the road confined in small, barren cages.

Circus animals are forced to live in enclosures denying them every opportunity to express their natural behaviour and their training is often based on fear and punishment.

There is one remaining travelling circus in NSW exhibiting wild animals including Lions and Monkeys & that is Stardust Circus.

According to the DPI guidelines, the 6 Lions in Stardust Circus require only 70m² of space, which is equal to ¼ of a tennis court.

According to the DPI guidelines, the 4 Rhesus Macaques at Stardust Circus require only 12.5m² of space, which is equal to 3 king sized beds.

I don't understand why the welfare of cetaceans exhibited in New South Wales, including why keeping dolphins captive is not in line with community expectations. I give special mention to the death of Bucky and baby dolphin Ji-Ling at Dolphin Marine Conservation Park in Coffs Harbour.

As far back as 1985, the Australian Senate found dolphins in captivity suffer stress and behavioural abnormalities.

Space in dolphin tanks is severely limited, sparking aggression and frustration in dolphins - captive dolphins also often bear scars or rake marks, evidence of a clash with a tank mate. Many captive dolphins are regularly treated with ulcer medication or antidepressant medication to alleviate the frustration of captivity.

Dolphins in captivity often have severe dental issues as a result of frustrated chewing on their tank walls.

Because tanks lack the depth of the open ocean to permit deep diving, dolphins in captivity frequently experience overexposure to the sun, which can result in sunburn and blistering. Zinc oxide must be applied to their backs.

Tanks are often heavily chlorinated, burning the eyes of dolphins and causing permanent damage to eyesight.

Dolphins who participate in swim with interactions often have persistent wounds and abrasions from being handled by customers, their beaks raw from pushing guests through the water or being grasped for kisses and photo opportunities.

The breeding of exotic animals for use in circuses, and dolphins and whales for entertainment in marine parks should be phased out NOW..