

**Submission
No 188**

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

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From a young age I have been well aware that animals used for entertainment whether it be in a circus or at a marine park is cruel and archaic.

I have seen Lions changed up on the grass by the circus tent in Tempe, when they should be in the wild. I've seen Dolphins free and happy in the ocean, where they should be. I've never visited a marine park to witness the cruelty of dolphins held in captivity and forced to perform.

The use of wild animals in circuses is cruel and inhumane and has been banned in over 40 countries. Aside from the stress of transporting the animals in small cages to each location, they are forced to perform meaningless tricks for the public. They are forced by being beaten and shouted at. These animals live in confined cages with no opportunity to socialise or roam. These conditions do not provide these exotic animals with their basic physical and psychological needs.

Dolphins are highly intelligent mammals who belong in the ocean, swimming 100 kilometres. Dolphins who live in captivity are forced to perform for crowds who are quite often loud and noisy, which can create stress for the dolphin. Studies have shown that the stress results lead to loss of appetite, ulcers and increased susceptibility to disease due to changes in their social grouping. The confined area of the chlorinated tanks simply does not meet the requirements for the dolphins physical and psychological needs.

In closing, I strongly believe that the use of exotic animals and cetaceans as entertainment in circuses/marine parks should be banned immediately in NSW, this includes breeding animals/cetaceans into captivity.