

Submission
No 267

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

Name: Yelena West-Dorfliger

Date Received: 4 January 2020

To whom it may concern,

Sorry for my email coming in so late, with all these bush fires around us I completely forgot about writing this email and just got a reminder today.

My name is Yelena West I'm 5th Generation Circus performer born and bred here in Australia. My family own and operate Stardust Circus, the last Circus in Australia with Lions.

Exotic animals in a circus environment have an extremely good life, They have 24 hour care, our enclosures exceed legal requirements, lengthy interaction time each day with their trainer, not to mention the importance of up holding hundreds of years of tradition.

It should be noted that no Animal in any Australian Circus has been taken from the wild since 1963, in fact Stardust combined with other circus families have had very successful breeding programs in this country.

The current legislation I think is sufficient, Australia has strict regulations and a code of practice with regards to keeping exotic animals in Circuses and Marine Animals in Marine parks.

Enclosing I would like to say (our industry) Circus and Marine parks have for many years been the victim of false allegations, lies, harassment and abuse from many anti animal groups including PETA and the Animal justice party who have made outrageous claims about the welfare and keeping of our animals. If any of these accusations were true our businesses would no longer be in operation.

Stardust Circus is now an "A" rated animal facility following recent audits by the department of exhibited animals and the department of primary industries.