

INQUIRY INTO USE OF PRIMATES AND OTHER ANIMALS IN MEDICAL RESEARCH IN NEW SOUTH WALES

Organisation: NSW Cardiovascular Research Network

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Response to inquiry into the use of primates and other animals in medical research in NSW

Thank you for the opportunity to contribute to the new parliamentary inquiry into the use of primates and other animals in medical research in NSW.

We are pleased to provide the views of the NSW CVRN to this inquiry.

The NSW (CVRN) is a cross-institutional, multidisciplinary Network, established in 2005 to enhance and support cardiovascular disease (CVD) research in NSW through collaboration, innovation, and increased research funding. All major CVD research institutions in NSW are members of the CVRN. This currently includes: 14 Umbrella Organisations, over 50 subsequent affiliated institutions and all NSW Local Health Districts.

The NSW CVRN spans the entire research spectrum, from basic science to public health research, and related disciplines such as biomedical engineering and bioinformatics, and covers both cardiovascular disease and related and precursor conditions. The Network, therefore, brings together world renowned and emerging researchers and clinician-researchers working in the areas of vascular, cardiac, kidney disease, stroke and diabetes across the state. There are currently over 400 individual members of the NSW CVRN; almost 100 Senior Researchers and over 300 within the Rising Stars Network for Early and Mid-Career Researchers.

The life-saving research carried out in our member institutions spans the entire gamut of cardiovascular research, from fundamental molecular discovery science to clinical trials and implementation science. Animal research, including the use of primates, is a small but necessary part of the entire research spectrum. Without animal-based research, new treatments will not be proven effective, will not gain regulatory approval and will not progress to the clinic to save lives. Animal research is only undertaken when there is no alternative, under the principle of the 3R's (refinement, reduction and replacement). This research is begun only after approval by an animal ethics committee at Universities or Medical Research Institutes. Researchers adhere to the highest standards in animal handling and ethics.

We strongly support the submissions from AAHMS and AAMRI in all aspects of the inquiry. We cannot understate the importance of animal-based research in certain types of research that are necessary in improving and saving lives.

Professor Andrew Boyle
NSW CVRN Executive Committee Chair