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

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Many years ago (in the late 1990s) I was the animal welfare representative on the NSW Animal Research Review Panel under the chair of Prof Margaret Rose. Most of the Panel was made up of scientists and academics.

I inspected a number of laboratories including lab in Surry Hills which contained over 100 rhesus monkeys. They were in horrific conditions in cages in inner city Sydney. Not far away another inner city laboratory i inspected belonging to contained larger primates also in revolting conditions with no play or exercise set up for them.

I put in complaints at the time which of course we're all ignored and I was also hamstrung by the fact I was not able to make public any of my findings. I was obviously on the panel to make up the numbers and satisfy the conscience of the scientists. If any questions were raised they could always say there was an animal representative on the panel.

There was another so called animal welfare representative on the panel with me representing the at the time and a person I felt was a very sympathetic ear for the scientists.

Animal experiments should be totally banned not only because of the outrageous cruelty involved but also because so many of the experiments undertaken do not relate to human beings which they so often claim.

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