

**Submission
No 274**

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

Name: Ms Clare Mann

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Inquiry: Use of Primates and Other Animals in Medical Research in NSW

Submission to the Inquiry

From: Clare Mann, Psychologist & Managing Director

My Background:

I am both an organisational and counselling psychologist, have written numerous books on human behavior and regularly advise organisations on ethical leadership and social change. I was awarded Fellowship of the Australian Human Resources Institute and advise on policy and practice in the Australian workplace.

Having practiced for over 30 years and previously held an academic position in a British university, I am well informed of the relationship between how we treat animals and how we treat each other. I am also clear on the empirical evidence that psychopaths and dysfunctional adults who enact violence on others have often begun their cruel acts on animals.

I am formerly the Editor in Chief of the digital business magazine, Ethical Futures: Skills for Conversations that Matter which champions corporate and SME organisations that are profitable and successful, without abusing people, the environment or animals.

My Professional Concern

I am deeply concerned about the efficacy of using animals and how we extrapolate findings to human health as well as the increasing commercialisation and corporatisation of biomedical research.

Animal experimentation is not only unethical, it is inhibiting funds being directed to finding solutions from research that have direct bearing on human health. The reality that approx 94% of all animal experiments yield research findings which have no direct application to understanding human health is indefensible in terms of the treatment of animal and humans who suffer illnesses, many of which are caused by lifestyle choices and diet. Alternative valid methods to animal experimentation is clearly explained by Humane Research Australia should be seriously considered by the government.

I am aware that xenotransplantation, the transplantation of cells, tissues or organs from non-humans to humans is still taking place at the Sydney University (Royal Prince Alfred Hospital and Westmead Hospital) and has been done for over two decades. The unethical treatment of primates and other animals – baboons and pigs involves creation in a laboratory of hybrid primate-pig organs to be grown in surrogate genetically modified pigs. This involves intense suffering and serious questions and concerns about cross-species contamination since such research crosses a species barrier which has taken millions of years to evolve. In Australia our country has been brought to its knees during the 2020-

22 public health initiatives and surely such research has massive concerns regarding future pandemics?

Why is such research being conducted? It is for the transplanting of deficient or diseased organs in humans with human-pig hybrids, largely necessary because of diseased organs which arise from an individual's lifestyle choices and diet. It is unethical to corporatise the solution for profit with transplants rather than education about lifestyle and diet change. The unimaginable suffering of our fellow species (primates and pigs) causes me deep concern as a psychologist. Not only does psychological research support a clear relationship between how violence towards other humans and violence enacted on animals eg. family pets, it also sends a strong message to a society of what a government believes is acceptable behaviour to other living creatures. If we are shown that it is acceptable to enact such cruelty on primates and other animals, then directly and subliminally it sends a message that it's ok to treat other humans like this.

When people expose such cruelty towards animals they are often called terrorists. As a country, we must ask why we are penalising people who expose such cruelty and label them as 'green collar criminals?' Why would these individuals put their liberty at risk if practices they expose would be considered humane and acceptable to the average Australian? Why aren't the industries willing to put CCTV into these research establishments, monitored independently to show the public that people who stand outside research institutions or enter them to expose current practices, are unnecessary and therefore a nuisance?

It is my opinion that the average Australian would be horrified at what is legally enacted on animals for research purposes and few would be willing or able to see documentaries like *Dominion* or *Hidden Crimes* in their entirety. Animals are not the only victims of research labs with evidence that PTSD, substance abuse, anxiety and self-harm is often similar to that experienced by slaughterhouse workers. Closing the door on exposing animal cruelty is therefore also detrimental to people because of the link between animal cruelty (whether legal or not) and perpetration of violence upon humans.

A government which allows animals to be used in research when it is unnecessary as approx 94% of all animal experiments yield research which has no direct application to understanding human health, reflects a leadership that only indicates deeply unethical principles that say "it is ok to pursue profit at any cost". It would also say that whistle blowers who bring to light cruel acts behind closed doors are not valued in our society.

Such a solution avoiding animal advocates entering industrial establishments (research labs financed by corporate sponsorship) would be unnecessary were CCTV installed in all animal testing facilities. However, such CCTV would have to be independently monitored by a body not allied to the industry being monitored. We have seen that industry self-regulation does not work when profit is the only benchmark of performance.

Such legislation would also have far reaching consequences for Australia and other areas in which we rely on whistle blowers to bring to light unethical and unchecked exploitation of vulnerable people or animals. When whistle blowing/obtaining of photographic or video footage is made a criminal offence because it interfere with pursuit of profit in any commercial industry, consider the deleterious effects it has.

Overall

It is my professional opinion that use of primates and other animals in medical research in NSW is leading Australia in the direction of moral decline. If not replaced by non-animal experimentation such as that explained by Humane Research Australia, it means the Australian government is not only allowing corporations to profit from research that has such little value to understanding human health, but allowing indefensible torture or sentient creatures we share this planet with.

If animal experimentation is not rapidly phased out it will reflect the total lack of moral integrity of this nation and Australia would be further down the line of a country without any conscience or decency. In addition the public's disregard and trust of government is at an historical all-time low and for many Australians, this trust would further deteriorate.

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