

**Submission  
No 279**

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

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## **Submission in favour of the Inquiry into the Use of Primates and Other Animals in Medical Research.**

My comments on our society and our unwitting or deliberate cruelty to animals:

The secrecy behind Animal Experimentation shows we are far from civilised: Australia still lives in a magical reality, a quasi-colonial past, when what was done to 'the other' was irrelevant, because they were lesser beings and therefore expendable (and incapable of the awareness that 'we' hold).

We all know that animal experimentation has been shrouded in secrecy. This is an industry without transparency or accountability, and in personal experience, lacking ethics. It needs independent, rigorous scrutiny to be shone into every laboratory and establishment involved. It beggars belief that we can all keep domestic animals, yet allow deprivation and appalling horrors to be visited on captive creatures. These 'other' creatures are also sentient; they also feel and think and experience.

We need this Inquiry to show:

- what is going on with animal experimentation, no matter how confronting this will be.
- what operations our tax dollars are funding in the name of big science and big money, without having to wait for the next expose from assorted media or another under-funded, minor political party.
- how medical research can become a wholly honest practice.

We need this Inquiry to explore:

- The lack of transparency and accountability in an industry funded by taxpayers. My taxes should not be supporting cruel animal experiments!
- Reasons why animals are not rehomed after experimentation. Numerous domestic animals like cats and dogs should not be 'euthanised' when they could be adopted out.
- The hideous, and numerous reports about the cruelty of some of the experiments such as near-drowning and forced smoking, and experiments on primates.
- The huge range of humane and evidence-based alternatives: Government must explore investment into these options.

Jill Brigden