

**Submission
No 282**

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

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Parliamentary Inquiry into all medical experimentation on animals

There is much that disturbs me about the use of animals in experimentation.

The sheer volume - due to under-reporting by the federal government (there are only incomplete figures from 2018), over 10 million animals, that are burned, crippled, cut open, fed toxic substances - just some of the procedures that these poor creatures are subjected to in the name of scientific research. The really shameful, heartbreaking fact is that it's practically all for nothing. The physiological differences between animals and humans makes experimentation useless. Studies show that at least 90% of animal experimentation fails to translate to therapies for humans.

In addition to the obvious cruelty, it's a complete waste of taxpayers' money. Breeding, feeding, housing and disposing of animal is costly and this money could be better used by being channelled into more ethical lines of research that can bring about a much higher chance of success for humans that animal experimentation is clearly failing to do. So many major breakthroughs in science have been achieved through other avenues that don't involve the abuse and exploitation of creatures, who have no say in how they're treated.

Animals are supposed to be protected during the experimentation process, but the industry is for the most part self-regulated. Where are the independent authorities to monitor all aspects of the research? I've read that animal research is a very profitable industry – a multi-billion-dollar business. Where is the transparency? I can't tell you how disgusting it is to think of so many institutions, that are government sanctioned, all profiteering from the suffering of innocent beings. Their short lives, lived in misery in the name of research, in conditions that, outside the research field, would be considered animal cruelty and punishable under the law. Their only release is death, as very few will go on to be re-homed and if they are lucky enough to have a life outside of experimentation, at what cost to them psychologically.

It's very well known that there are humane and scientifically superior alternatives that would result in a far better outcome for humans and animals alike. In the past, when little was known of animal sentience, you could argue that researchers were involved in this industry through ignorance. That viewpoint is no longer acceptable or viable. In developed countries like Australia, we have to question the motives of a government and their institutions to perpetuate this industry. There are so many in the medical field that are opposed to animal experimentation. It's time they were heard.