

**Submission
No 305**

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

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I write this submission as an Australian citizen and a resident of NSW, to express the grave concerns my husband and I have regarding use of animals in trials and experiments for human beings.

We were shocked and disgusted to learn that NSW, the State we call "home", uses in excess of two million animals a year in human-relevant research. Two MILLION animals... Two million animals deprived of the natural company and reassurance of others of their species. Two million animals confined in cages and restraints. Two million terrified, abused, hopeless creatures subjected to painful procedures and death-inducing treatments. Two million lives treated as so much discardable waste.

And to what purpose? How many earth-shattering breakthroughs have resulted from all the animal bodies dumped in the bin? How much has all this carnage contributed to our medical knowledge, to our ability to understand and manage the conditions and infections that plague the human race? The actual percentage of success is so small as to be embarrassing. And yet the killing continues.

It should have been evident decades ago that to successfully treat human beings for human-related conditions, trials must be conducted on human beings -- not on pigs or primates or companion animals. Such is the nature of human anatomy and human biology. But science, it would seem, is a slow learner.

As well, we have, in this 21st century, so many other alternatives available to scientists and researchers who wish to conduct experiments around human-related conditions, or teach medical students methods and procedures, including in-vitro methods; computer modelling; studies with human volunteers; virtual reality; and others. This is, after all, the electronic age and the industry is justifiably proud of its wizardry in replicating anything you can imagine, in as many dimensions as you can imagine it. There is, quite simply, no need to exploit animals for these purposes.

Continuing to use animals in human-related research must end. It is cruel and unnecessary, it is spectacularly unsuccessful in its stated aim, and it cannot be tolerated in a so-called enlightened age and society such as ours. Let us use, instead, the many tools we have access to, and not the animals we have no right to exploit.

Yours sincerely,

Wendy Taye