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

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Partially Confidential

Animal testing has no place in modern society. It is unethical, outdated and unnecessary. There are much more reliable and ethical forms of science available now such as organs on chips, computer modelling and more, that save lives.

In her abstract on the Flaws and Human Harms of Animal Experimentation, Dr. Aysha Akhtar, MD., M.P.H. has stated, "....animal experimentation generally (and animal modeling specifically) raises important concerns about its reliability and predictive value for human outcomes and for understanding human physiology. The unreliability of animal experimentation across a wide range of areas undermines scientific arguments in favor of the practice. Additionally, I show how animal experimentation often significantly harms humans through misleading safety studies, potential abandonment of effective therapeutics, and direction of resources away from more effective testing methods. The resulting evidence suggests that the collective harms and costs to humans from animal experimentation outweigh potential benefits and that resources would be better invested in developing human-based testing methods." The Flaws and Human Harms of Animal Experimentation. Camb Q Healthc Ethics. 2015 Oct; 24(4): 407–419

It has been demonstrated time and again that one cannot extrapolate animal models to humans, yet animal testing, releasing drugs on the market that have proven safe in animals in laboratories and end up harming and killing humans. Many of these tests are abbhorent and would be considered animal cruelty if done to a companion dog or cat.

Civilised countries such as New Zealand and the UK have recognised living things other than humans as having sentience and feeling fear, pain and stress. We also know these animals are frequently 'disposed of' when testing is complete. Let's develop skills in modelling disease and drug reactions in ethical environments, and re-home all lab animals now. How would you like to spend your life in a cage having experiments done to you? The Jewish people weren't keen on Mengele in World War Two. You're doing the same thing to harmless and innocent creatures without thought for their lives and souls.