

**Submission  
No 308**

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

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For many years I have been a strong believer that alternative models must be found and funded to replace animal experimentation that is becoming an increasingly crude and inaccurate method. Scientific and technological advances these days can provide alternative humane testing methods. These need to be fully supported and funded.

The suffering of animals, often immense suffering, is even more reprehensible when alternative humane and more accurate testing methods are not being fully investigated, and properly funded.

I have read the submission submitted by Humane Research Australia and cannot possibly better express the sentiments and recommendations contained in the HRA submission.

However I would like to say the for years I have been concerned by a number of issues

1. the lack of transparency and accountability by animal research facilities and animal researchers. Given they use live animals and receive a huge amount of funding this is unacceptable

2. the accuracy and therefore the relevance of animal testing given animals, including primates are sufficiently biologically different to humans as to make much data and research questionable.

3. the lack of adequate funding to explore and develop alternative models that do not use animals, particularly now that scientific and technological advances allow e.g. in-vitro methods; computer-based models and simulators to be used instead.

Animal sentience is becoming increasingly recognised and animal welfare has been strongly supported in Australia for a considerable period of time. Effective research and testing is the prime goal of improving human health and medical outcomes.

All this surely points to the need for a thorough investigation into the effectiveness and relevance of current animal experimentation.

Given that supposedly animal experimentation is only to be used if no alternatives are available, then it really is time to commit to fully explore and properly fund alternative research methods. Methods that are better equipped to deal with the biological differences between humans and animals. Methods that are better more accurate and also more humane

Thank you for reading this submission

Ines Raimondo