

Submission
No 314

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

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A great many animals languish in pain and loneliness, locked in barren cages in laboratories, waiting in fear for the next terrifying and painful procedure that will be performed on them by an efficient laboratory worker who sees them not as sentient living creatures, but as nothing more than an object. Some animals develop neurotic behaviours such as rocking back and forth, incessantly spinning in circles, or even pulling out their own fur or biting themselves, as a result of the misery and stress of living in an environment lacking in any form of enrichment. After enduring a life of pain, loneliness, and terror, most of them are killed.

Many of these experiments are unnecessary. In many cases, technologically advanced test methods can be used in place of animal testing. Such test methods are more humane and have the potential to be cheaper, faster, and more relevant to human health. Sophisticated tests using human cells and tissues, advanced computer modelling techniques and studies with human volunteers are all viable alternatives to animal testing. These methods are not hindered by species differences that make applying animal test results to humans difficult or impossible, and they usually take less time to complete.

Medical experimentation is one of the most secretive industry uses of animals - despite using public funds, the NSW Government never reveals how much taxpayer money goes to this industry and what kind of experiments it funds. This, in itself, highlights what the Government expects the public reaction would be to this vile industry. It is beyond time that viable alternative methods are utilised for this research, and funding turned toward progressing scientific research, so that millions more animals aren't subjected to this torture.