

**Submission  
No 316**

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

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I would like animal experimentation to stop.

The use of animals in research, testing, training and education has long been considered a necessary evil. More and more, people now question the ethics of this approach. At the same time, the animal research community increasingly recognises the problems with animal research: it is costly, lengthy and not very effective - e.g. 92% of drugs fail in human trials even though they passed pre-clinical animal tests (Failures - c). Also, it may have held back the discovery of treatments and cures for humans because they did not work well in animals.

Governments, the scientific community and industry in EU countries and the US have taken the lead in collaborating to replace animal experimentation.

Unlike the US and the EU, the Australian government does not provide incentives for new animal-free methods.

We need urgent change.

The future lies in personalised medicine, regenerative medicine, precision medicine, biobanks and personalised drug screening:<sup>306</sup> “This new era is marked by a consideration of validity (e.g. reproducibility), by the use of human biomaterials (3D cell cultures, organoids and induced pluripotent stem cells (iPSC)), by the use of ‘high-content’ methods (e.g. Omics), by the combination of computer-based approaches, such as ‘read-across’ and ‘virtual organs’, and by miniaturisation technology (organ/human on a chip)”.

For industry, rather than academic institutions, e.g. Biotech and pharmaceutical companies, the advantages of new animal-free research methods are compelling – they are cheaper and faster than conventional methods, and more acceptable to customers.

With greater investment in innovative and promising animal-free methods, firm policy initiatives and robust collaborations of all interested parties, better treatments and cures for human diseases can be developed. This will also end the suffering of millions of animals.