

**Senate Community Affairs Committee**

**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

**HEALTH PORTFOLIO**

**Supplementary Budget Estimates 2013-14, 20 November 2013**

**Question: E13-198**

**OUTCOME:** 1 – Population Health

**Topic:** Non-Human Primates in Experiments

**Type of Question:** Written Question on Notice

**Senator:** Rhiannon

**Question:**

- a) How many primates are currently being held in each of the government-funded non-human primate breeding facilities?
- b) For each facility, please provide current information for each species: numbers; ages; sexes; state of health.
- c) What are the costs to the Commonwealth per facility?
- d) Please provide the history of births and deaths in these primate facilities including, but not restricted to (please date all information):
  - i. number of births per species and by sex;
  - ii. number of deaths per species and by sex; For each death please provide: species, date, age, sex, attributed cause of death and please provide the documentation associated with the death
- e) What is the range of causes of death of primates in the facility?
- f) How many of the primates in the facility are used for research or any related purposes?
- g) What is the number of research protocols each animal has been subjected to?
- h) How many of the deaths are as a result (direct or indirectly) of research procedures? For each death please state:
  - i. the history of procedures that the animal underwent?
  - ii. What was the species; age; sex; date of death; attributed cause of death.
- i) Are any primates being used under licence (or any other method) for research (or any other purpose) by bodies other than Commonwealth agencies, authorities, companies or departments?
- j) What are the names of those bodies and their locations?
- k) How many primates are held by each body and at which location?
- l) Please provide the history of births and deaths while at these facilities including, but not restricted to (please date all information): number of births per species and by sex; number of deaths per species and by sex; for each death please provide: species, date, age, sex, attributed cause of death.
- m) What is the range of causes of death of primates in the facility?

**Answer:**

a) and b)

The National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) provides an annual contribution towards funding the infrastructure for these facilities to provide non-human primates for medical research within Australia.

Responsibility for regulatory oversight of the care and use of animals in these facilities rests with the relevant state government.

c) The NHMRC makes annual contributions to two facilities to ensure that high welfare standards are maintained and to support the supply of animals for NHMRC funded research. The annual contributions are \$500,000 for the National Non-Human Primate Breeding and Research Facility and \$195,000 for the The National Baboon Colony.

d) to m)

The NHMRC does not have access to this information. Responsibility for regulatory oversight of the care and use of animals in these facilities rests with the relevant state government.