

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH PORTFOLIO

Supplementary Budget Estimates 2013-14, 20 November 2013

Question: E13-199

OUTCOME: 1 – Population Health

Topic: Non-human primates in experiments

Type of Question: Written Question on Notice

Senator: Rhiannon

Question:

- a) How many grants have been made that involve using primates?
- b) Who/what body was the grant given to?
- c) What was the purpose of the grant?
- d) What was the dollar value of the grant?
- e) What is the purpose of the research or activity?
- f) What were the species, sex and numbers of primates used for each project?
- g) What projects that involve primates is the NHMRC currently considering funding? For each project please detail:
 - i. Who or what body or organisations?
 - ii. For what amount?
 - iii. What is the stated purpose of the research or activity?
 - iv. What are the numbers and species of primates proposed?
- h) Please provide names and numbers of relevant people if I need to obtain any further information on the above series of questions.

Answer:

- a) Over the previous 10 years, the National Medical Research Council (NHMRC) has offered grants for 60 applications that involved non-human primates.

b) and d)

Grant recipient	Number of grants	Value of grants
Australian National University	1	\$0.6 million
Centre for Eye Research Australia Ltd	2	\$1.7 million
Macfarlane Burnet Institute for Medical Research	1	\$0.5 million
Monash University	20	\$11.0 million
University of Adelaide	2	\$1.1 million
University of Melbourne	18	\$12.0 million
University of New South Wales	3	\$1.6 million
University of Queensland	2	\$0.7 million
University of Sydney	9	\$3.6 million
University of Western Australia	1	\$0.5 million
University of Western Sydney	1	\$0.5 million

c) and e)

Medical research including studies into hepatitis C and liver disease; neuroscience, vision, neurology and brain diseases; xenotransplantation, kidney disease and organ transplantation; immunology, virology, HIV and cancer vaccine development; heart disease and pulmonary vascular disease; prenatal and mother's health; and cystic fibrosis.

- f) The NHMRC obtained information relating to this question from the final reports provided by grant recipients at the completion of each project. Currently, final reports are available for projects awarded funding that commenced between 2005 and 2009. In these projects, 303 non-human primates were used including 209 marmosets, 51 macaques and 30 baboons, 13 of the reports did not specify the species. The NHMRC does not have data regarding the sex of the animals used.
- g) No research projects are currently under consideration. The 2014 research application process has begun, and applications close 5 March 2014. These will then undergo peer review, and recommendations for funding will be made in the second half of 2014. Following recommendations for funding, any non-human primate research will need to adhere to the NHMRC Policy on the care and use of non-human primates for scientific purposes.
- h) Requests for additional information, should be directed through the office of the Minister for Health.