

Submission

on the

Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Amendment (Prohibition of Live Imports of Primates for Research) Bill 2015.

Submitter: Ms Georgia Blomberg, S.A. 5211

Date: 30th November 2015

Dear Senator Rhiannon and to the full Senate,

Thank you for this opportunity to make a submission about this most important Bill.

Ever since early high school to the present day, I have been informing myself about experimentation on non-human animals and have been opposed to it on ethical grounds. Over more recent years I have learned about how the animal “model” has never been scientifically validated (hence use of the quotes) and yet continues to be used, as a tragic legacy of slow, change-resistant legal and political systems. So my deep conviction that we must cease all experimentation on non-human animals to predict outcomes for humans has been further strengthened by this knowledge.

As a long-term member of Humane Research Australia I have learned about the very positive direction science has taken with new methods of research that have been validated in their methodology and ability to deliver reliable results for humans. Some of these are cited in Senator Rhiannon’s speech, Thursday, 17 September 2015. It is time for our legal and political systems to catch up with the science.

Using non-human animals as research subjects we are holding ourselves back in medical advances, jeopardising human health and also we are behaving in a way that is unethical and unacceptable to most humans who know about these practices. I believe we are harming ourselves spiritually and emotionally also, as these practices cause many people great grief, myself included.

I fully support this Bill, as a step toward achieving unlawfulness of any research on non-human animals, to make it unlawful for Australia to import live non-human primates for the purposes of research. However, I would suggest an amendment in that I propose it be made more specific in the Bill to include both “live” and “deceased” non-human primates because I anticipate that a market may persist for recently killed and/or preserved monkeys to be used for tissue etc. such is the voraciousness of suppliers.

I wish to thank Senator Rhiannon for continuing with this issue, one that has been raised in our houses of our parliament before; it’s not going away; people care about this. People care about the animals we live amongst and depend upon for our very lives and we all know have to stay ahead of the diseases that affect us using the best methods we have.

I trust my submission has been helpful to the Senate process and that this Bill will be passed successfully into law.

Yours Sincerely

Georgia Blomberg