



Committee Secretary  
Senate Standing Committees on Environment and Communications  
PO Box 6100  
Parliament House  
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Sir/Madam

Thank you for the opportunity to appear at the public hearing on 5 February 2016 for the Environment and Communications Legislation Committee inquiry into the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Amendment (Prohibition of Live Imports of Primates for Research) Bill 2015*. Following my recent review of the Hansard record, I wish to bring to your attention an area of the record that does not read clearly.

During the hearing, I was asked by Senator Anne Urquhart if there was any research that is undertaken in Australia that involves primates that would not require the approval of the NHMRC (Hansard, Page 24). I answered no to this question; however, I wish to clarify my response to say that research involving the use of non-human primates that is undertaken in Australia does not require NHMRC approval. Under state and territory legislation, any research involving the use of non-human primates must be approved by an institutional animal ethics committee.

NHMRC funds research involving the use of non-human primates. However, this funding is approved by the Minister for Health following consideration of recommendations from NHMRC. Not all research involving the use of non-human primates in Australia is funded by NHMRC. For example, an owl monkey breeding facility in Queensland is not funded by NHMRC and NHMRC does not fund research projects involving the use of owl monkeys.

I trust this clarifies the situation regarding the use of non-human primates in Australia.

Yours sincerely

Professor Anne Kelso AO

Chief Executive Officer

10 May 2016