

**Senate Community Affairs Committee**

**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

**HEALTH PORTFOLIO**

**Additional Estimates 2015 - 16, 10 February 2016**

**Ref No:** SQ16-000246

**OUTCOME:** 1 - Population Health

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

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

**Senator:** Urquhart, Ann

**Question:**

Why is it necessary for breeding facilities to import primates?

**Answer:**

While noting that the importation of non-human primates (NHP) presents particular concerns and that whenever possible non-human primates should not be imported, in order for the colonies to be sustainable into the future there may be times when some importation of NHPs is required to:

- i. maintain genetic diversity and avoid problems of inbreeding within small colonies
- ii. supply animals, or provide for rapid expansion of the colonies, to meet an urgent need, if one arises.