

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH PORTFOLIO

Budget Estimates 2014 - 2015, 2/3 June 2014

Ref No: SQ14-000527

OUTCOME: 1 – Population Health

Topic: Animal Testing

Type of Question: Written Question on Notice

Senator: Rhiannon, Lee

Question:

How many animals does Australia use in experimentation each year?

- a) How does this compare with other countries?
- b) Is there any commitment by the Australian government to reduce this number?

Answer:

- a) The National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) does not have access to information on the number of animals used in experimentation in Australia each year, nor a comparison of the number of animals used in Australia to the number used in other countries. State and territory governments are responsible for collecting information on the number of animals used in experimentation in their respective jurisdictions.
- b) NHMRC requires all institutions receiving NHMRC funds to adhere to the *Australian code for the care and use of animals for scientific purposes* (the Code). The Code is developed by NHMRC and variously adopted in all state and territory legislation. The Code requires the replacement of animals with other methods, and the reduction in the number of animals used where possible. The Code states that:
 - methods that replace or partially replace the use of animals must be investigated, considered and where applicable, implemented; and
 - the number of animals used in a project must be the minimum number necessary to achieve the proposed aims and to satisfy good statistical design.