

## A SHAMEFUL BETRAYAL

Most people are shocked and in disbelief when they learn that primates are used for research purposes in Australian laboratories. "Surely that's a thing of the past" or "we wouldn't do that in this country" are very common responses from the general public when they discover the facts relating to primate experimentation.

Unfortunately their responses couldn't be further from the truth; Australian medical and scientific research facilities routinely subject these highly intelligent beings to distressing and invasive procedures, including being infected with deadly diseases.

**Breeding** Australia is home to three federally funded primate breeding colonies; the National Marmoset and Macaque Facilities at Churchill, Victoria, and the National Baboon Colony in Sydney, all of which breed primates specifically for the purpose of being used in research. The Churchill breeding centres are hosted by Monash University Animal Services. The Sydney breeding colony is directly funded through the Sydney Local Health District. The primates being held and bred at these facilities are also made available for use at various universities and hospitals in Australia for experimentation purposes.

**Experimentation** Recent Australian research involving primates includes:

- Infecting macaques with HIV before removing and studying their genitals.
- Inducing preeclampsia in pregnant baboons, resulting in the death of one baby and one mother baboon.
- Overdosing baby marmosets with opiates.
- Studying the cerebral cortex of macaques and marmosets resulting in their brains being removed and examined.
- Infecting owl monkeys with malaria.
- Subjecting 8 adult female baboons over 15 years of age to experimentation where their shoulder tendons were cut and then repaired. The baboons were killed up to 16 weeks after surgery.

This is only a small sample of what occurs in Australian research facilities. Primate experimentation is shrouded in secrecy for a reason; the people and institutions involved in this highly unethical practice do not want the majority of Australians to know what's really going on in our research facilities - perhaps because they fear a response of outrage and condemnation. If using primates in research is so essential to providing life-saving medical outcomes for humans, why then do we not hear about the remarkable medical break-throughs that have eventuated from such research? In the years 2007-2011 statistics reveal that Australia has used 2188 primates for medical and scientific research purposes. Please note: the actual number is likely to be higher as not all states have provided statistics.

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**Importation** Between the years 2000 and 2009, more than 640 macaques (both pig tail and crab eating) have been imported into Australia from Indonesia for research purposes. Despite there being a ban on the use of wild-caught macaques (both in Australia and Indonesia), an undercover investigation by the British Union for the Abolition of Vivisection (BUAV) revealed that Indonesia is misrepresenting the source of many thousands of macaques being exported from the so-called "breeding islands". Not surprisingly, the investigation concludes that the ban on wild-caught macaques is a sham.

In 2011, on behalf of HRA, Labor MP Mike Symon presented a petition of over 10,000 signatures to the House of Representatives calling for a ban on the importation of primates for research. In November 2012, Greens Senator Lee Rhiannon introduced a private members bill to the Senate.

The Australian Government refuses to investigate the evidence and allegations highlighted in the BUAV report which undoubtedly reveals macaques are being captured from wild populations and imported illegally.

**Time for Change** Supporters of Humane Research Australia will not need convincing that the time has come to end the unethical and unnecessary practice of subjecting primates - our closest relatives, creatures with incredible intelligence, whom in their natural environment live in complex social networks - to lives that amount to nothing more than permanent incarceration, induced illness and pain, and undeniable mental anguish and fear.

With your help we can create the change that will eventually see primate experimentation consigned to the scrapheap of human wrongs, where people look back on this dark chapter in medical and scientific research and wonder just how on earth such behaviour was ever considered acceptable or necessary.

**HRA is calling for an immediate blanket ban on the use of all primates in medical and scientific research.**

### What you can do

Please write to, phone or email the following contacts to call for ban on the use of primates in research.

**The Hon Tanya Plibersek,**  
Federal Minister for Health,  
PO Box 6022, House of Representatives,  
Parliament House, Canberra ACT 2600.  
Phone: 02 9379 0700  
[Minister.Plibersek@health.gov.au](mailto:Minister.Plibersek@health.gov.au)

**Warwick Anderson CEO**  
National Health & Medical Research Council  
GPO Box 1421 Canberra ACT 2601  
Phone: 1300 064 672  
[nhmrc@nhmrc.gov.au](mailto:nhmrc@nhmrc.gov.au)

**Vice-Chancellor Professor Ed Byrne,**  
Monash University, VIC 3800  
Phone: 03 9905 4000  
[kemie.edwards@monash.edu](mailto:kemie.edwards@monash.edu) (PA to professor E Byrne)

- **Become a member of HRA.**
- **Become a monthly donor or make a donation**



Recent image of the Macaque breeding facility in Victoria.  
Courtesy of Justin McManus/Fairfax Syndication.

### 1 Name and contact details

Name:

Address:

Postcode:  Email:

Phone:  Mobile:

### 2 Payment details

I am paying by: ☐ Cheque/Money Order ☐ Mastercard ☐ Visa

Number:

Expiry Date:  CCV No:

Name on card:

Signature:

### 3 I would like to make a regular monthly donation of:

☐ \$100 ☐ \$50 ☐ \$25 ☐ Other per month until further notice.

*I understand that this payment can be stopped by me at any time.*

### 4 I would like to make a once off donation of:

☐ \$100 ☐ \$50 ☐ \$25 ☐ Other \$.....

### 5 I would like to become a member: ☐ \$25



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