



MEDIA RELEASE

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Generous donors urged to express caution when donating to charities this Christmas

Christmas is a time of giving, and during this time of year many people make donations to their favourite charity. However many popular health charities fund animal research, often without making it clear to the public. As a result, the public continues to donate money with the best of intentions to medical and health charities not realising that they may actually be funding unnecessary animal experiments.

Helen Marston, CEO, Humane Research Australia: *“People donate to health and medical charities in good faith – wanting to contribute to finding genuine cures, yet many would be appalled to learn that their generous contributions might actually be funding cruel animal experiments.”*

“There is now a growing awareness that animals are not good models on which to base human research. We therefore need to invest in the development of non-animal methods of research – methods that are ‘human-relevant’ and therefore more likely to result in genuine medical progress.”

The [Humane Charities List](#) is a list of health and medical research charities which have advised HRA that they do not fund animal-based research. This means that you can safely make a donation to these organisations knowing that you are not financially supporting cruel and unnecessary animal experiments. The list now stands at 97 and includes many well-known charities such as [HeartKids](#), [Beyond Blue](#) and the [Fred Hollows Foundation](#).

The list provides some ease for people who, when solicited for donations can now ask “Are you on the Humane Charities List?” making it much easier to express their disapproval of animal experiments.

For more information, visit www.humanecharities.org.au

Ends