



Media Release

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NHMRC's public consultation is an opportunity to speak out against experiments on primates.

The National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) is revising its Policy on the care and use of non-human primates for scientific purposes (2003).

Humane Research Australia has just lodged its submission and urges others to have their say on how primates are treated in Australian laboratories. Submissions close this Friday (8th May).

On both scientific and ethical grounds, HRA is opposed to the use of primates for research purposes and considers that instead of updating policies, more emphasis should be placed on a commitment to sourcing non animal alternatives and phasing out the use of these animals.

In the interim however, the revision of guidelines should be an opportunity to introduce stricter requirements and policing of their use.

In terms of the draft policy, we urge the following actions:

- tighter regulation and monitoring of all primate research through creation of a national expert Animal Ethics Committee to ensure that there is no repetition and no alternatives to primate use
- a ban on the importation and exportation of primates for research purposes
- establishment of a retirement sanctuary for primates no longer required.

“As well as the unethical nature of using sentient and highly cognitive animals as research tools, reliance on data from animal experiments is dubious as they are insufficiently predictive of human outcomes. This in turn causes major concern for Australian health when we rely on these out-dated models for human ills” **Helen Marston, CEO of Humane Research Australia (HRA) said today.**

Copies of HRA's submission and Briefing Paper can be obtained by contacting info@humaneresearch.org.au.

Further information about the use of primates in research can be found at www.BanPrimateExperiments.org.au.
