



humane research australia

MEDIA RELEASE

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## Taxpayer funded cruelty

To commemorate **'World Day for Animals in Laboratories'** Humane Research Australia is demanding answers as to why millions of animals still continue to suffer unnecessarily each year in Australia's medical and scientific research laboratories. And why hundreds of millions of taxpayer dollars are wasted annually on cruel, ineffective and unnecessary animal experimentation.

Australian taxpayers are inadvertently funding unethical and unnecessary animal experimentation. Every year the **National Health and Medical Research Council grant hundreds of millions of tax dollars** to numerous medical and scientific research facilities to conduct animal based research in the hope of finding breakthroughs for human illness and disease.

**HRA, CEO, Helen Marston** said today *"There is a long overdue need for research funding in Australia to be directed towards the development and validation of scientifically valid non-animal methodologies that will ultimately provide greater health benefits for humans, and in turn prevent the suffering of millions of animals each year. There's an urgent need for accountability and transparency to occur within this hidden industry. Everyday Australians have a right to know what is occurring within our medical and scientific research facilities as much of the research being conducted is taxpayer funded."*

### **Recent examples of taxpayer funded animal experiments include:**

- Invasive and distressing surgical procedures conducted on conscious greyhounds
- Cats killed in vision experiments
- Baboons killed to study the healing process of shoulder surgery
- Traumatic brain injury induced in rats
- Lambs shaken to death
- Pigs killed after silicone breasts implanted

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