



Media Release

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How will the Medical Research Future Fund affect animal experiments?

After much consultation, review and debate, the Medical Research Future Fund has cleared Parliament and the medical research industry now looks forward to the appointment of the Advisory Board and the disbursement of the first funds.

Humane Research Australia questions what this will mean for more than six million animals used in experiments every year.

MRFF is “slated to build to \$20 billion over the next decade, helping to secure funding for health and medical research into the future.” Its intent is to plug some of the gaps identified in the McKeon Review, to drive sustainability, innovation and commercialisation.

Humane Research Australia provided a submission to the McKeon Review. Essentially we raised concern about:

- The lack of health education and preventative medicine leading to a burden on our healthcare system
- Wastage of public funding on such research as [breast implants on pigs](#), feeding [junk food and marijuana to rats](#), administering [alcohol to pregnant sheep](#) and [shaking lambs to death](#) to look at shaken baby syndrome.
- The inefficacy of relying on data obtained from species which differ from humans in their anatomy, genetics and metabolism
- Lack of resources and incentive for the development of non-animal methods of research.

Copies of our submissions can be viewed at humaneresearch.org.au/submissions

Humane Research Australia CEO, Helen Marston: *“The news about the MRFF could go either way. It could provide further resources to waste on unethical and unscientific research that is based on species that have differing anatomies, genetics and metabolisms to us, or it could be a major opportunity to address the failure of animal experiments to predict human health and to provide incentive for the development of alternative methods of research. For the sake of animals, and for human medical progress, I am hoping the latter.”*

“It’s disappointing that Australia is the fourth highest user of animals in research – behind only China Japan and the United States. Let’s not waste this opportunity to improve our reputation and instead make Australia a world leader in ethical and groundbreaking research.” **Ms Marston concluded.**