



MEDIA RELEASE

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MORE THAN 14,000 AUSTRALIANS CALL FOR AN END TO THE IMPORTATION OF PRIMATES FOR RESEARCH

A petition circulated by Humane Research Australia, calling for an immediate ban on the importation of primates for medical and scientific research purposes has been submitted to House of Representatives Standing Committee on Petitions. The submission of more than 4,000 petitioners joins more than 10,000 previously lodged in 2011.

HRA Chief Executive Officer, Helen Marston: *“Australia is already home to three government-funded facilities where primates are bred specifically for research – macaques and marmosets in Churchill, Victoria and baboons in Wallacia, NSW. Yet despite this “ready supply”, nine permits have been granted since 2000, to import primates into Australia for research.”*

Data obtained from CITES (Convention on the International Trade in Endangered Species - to which Australia is a signatory), has shown that between 2000-2015, Australia has imported:

- 331 pig-tailed macaques from Indonesia
- 250 crab-eating macaques from Indonesia
- 71 owl monkeys from the United States
- 37 marmosets from France.

Humane Research Australia has campaigned against this cruel trade for many years.

November 2011, 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.

In November 2015 the bill was re-presented and has been referred to inquiry by the Senate Environment and Communications Committee.

“Until Australia imposes a complete ban on the importation of primates for research purposes, it is only a matter of time until another import permit is granted thereby subjecting more innocent animals to the traumatic and distressing process of importation”

“Primates are already subjected to highly invasive experiments. Gruelling long distance transportation adds even further stress and suffering to these sentient and highly cognitive animals. This is our chance to convince the Australian government to end the trade” **Ms Marston concluded.**

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