



Be Cruelty-Free Australia



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MEDIA RELEASE

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Australia's Seven Leading Animal Charities Urge Government to Ban Cruel Animal Tested Cosmetics

Humane Society International, Humane Research Australia, Animals Australia, World Animal Protection, International Fund for Animal Welfare, Voiceless the animal protection institute, and Choose Cruelty Free write urgent letter

Seven of Australia's leading animal protection organisations have written to Australia's Minister for Rural Health, Senator Fiona Nash, urging the government to bring forward meaningful legislation to ban animal testing of cosmetics and the sale of cosmetics newly animal tested abroad. In November 2014, the Australian Senate passed a cross-party motion in support of ending animal testing of cosmetics, co-sponsored by representatives from the Liberals, Greens, Labor, Nationals, Palmer United Party, and Independents. This was followed by a similar cross-party motion moved in the House of Representatives by Government MP Jason Wood in September last year. Now it's time for action, say the animal protection groups.

Read the letter in full at:

http://www.humaneresearch.org.au/bcf/Animal_Group_Letter.pdf

Humane Society International and Humane Research Australia from the [#BeCrueltyFree campaign](#), [Animals Australia](#), [World Animal Protection](#), the [International Fund for Animal Welfare](#), [Voiceless the animal protection institute](#), and [Choose Cruelty Free](#) have united in their call for Australia to follow the lead of the European Union, Norway, Israel and India by banning cosmetics animal testing and the sale or import of cosmetic ingredients tested on animals elsewhere in the world. With legislative proposals under consideration in the US, Canada, Taiwan and Brazil and a partial ban on cosmetics animal testing having been adopted recently in New Zealand, the time is right for Australia to respond to citizens' wishes by taking action to ban cosmetics cruelty.

Together, the organisations represent more than 4 million people around the world who - rightly - believe that such suffering cannot be justified for the sake of a new cosmetic ingredient when thousands of safe ingredients are already in use both here in Australia and in other "cruelty free" markets across the world. In their joint letter the groups sent to Minister Nash, they wrote:

"Prohibiting animal testing for cosmetic purposes through combined test and sales bans is fast becoming a global trend. Toxicity testing on live, sentient animals causes suffering and death in procedures that are increasingly recognised to be both outdated and unreliable predictors of human safety. It is entirely possible to produce innovative and safe cosmetics using existing ingredients without recourse to new animal testing, as demonstrated by the hundreds of beauty brands that manufacture cruelty-free products,

including popular Australian brands such as Lush Australia, Natio, Australis, Natures Organics and Sukin.

The EU, India and Israel have banned cosmetic animal testing as well as the sale or import of cosmetics ingredients tested on animals elsewhere in the world. Similar legislation is under consideration in Brazil, Taiwan, Canada and the United States. As more and more nations recognize the moral and scientific imperative to end cosmetics animal testing and promote the development and use of more modern, reliable test methods those countries that continue to allow animals to suffer for the sake of beauty products will appear increasingly isolated.”

In cosmetics tests, rabbits, guinea pigs, mice and other animals can have chemicals dripped in their eyes, spread on their skin, or force fed to them in massive doses. Pain relief is rarely given, and the animals can endure symptoms ranging from swollen eyes and bleeding skin, to organ damage and death. Although it is claimed that animal testing in Australia is rare or non-existent, such claims are impossible to confirm, and there is no legislative ban on the practice, highlighting the importance of introducing a combined test and marketing ban in Australia.

There is overwhelming public support for an Australian ban. In 2013 a Nexus Research poll showed that 85% of Australians oppose animal testing for cosmetics, and both the Greens and Labor have initiated action on this topic. Indeed, as the letter to Minister Nash points out, last year's Labor Party public consultation, which received over 13,000 submissions, found that 92% of respondents supported a full combined test and marketing ban on cruel cosmetics.

The organisations praised Minister Nash for her interest in this issue and for supporting the Senate motion, and have urged her to take the next step by proposing a combined cosmetic animal test and sale ban for Australia.

Read the letter in full [here](#).

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