

28th January 2016

Senator the Hon Fiona Nash
Minister for Rural Health
PO Box 6100
Senate, Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Minister Nash,

In September last year, a cross-party motion in support of ending animal testing of cosmetics was moved in the House of Representatives by Government MP Jason Wood. This followed the passing of a similar cross-party Senate motion in November 2014, co-sponsored by representatives from the Liberals, Greens, Labor, Nationals, Palmer United Party, and Independents. These motions are an encouraging sign that our collective call for an Australian ban on cruel cosmetics is gathering pace. But now it's time for action.

On behalf of Australian citizens as well as our combined 4+ million members and supporters around the world, we call on the Government to bring forward meaningful legislation that bans both cosmetics animal testing and the sale of cosmetic products and ingredients newly animal tested abroad. In so doing, the Government would put Australia firmly on the map as a country that says no to cosmetics cruelty.

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testing on live, sentient animals causes suffering and death in procedures that are increasingly recognised to be both outdated and unreliable predictors of human safety.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, while earlier this year New Zealand introduced a partial ban on cosmetics animal testing. As more and more nations recognise 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 2013 a Nexus Research poll showed that 85% of Australians oppose animal testing for cosmetics. Furthermore, a cosmetics and animal testing policy public consultation conducted in 2014, which received over 13,000 submissions, found that 92% of respondents supported a full ban on cruel cosmetics.

Given the strength of public opinion on this issue and the support already shown by legislators from across the political spectrum, we believe that change is inevitable.

It is time for Australian legislation to reflect the global trend of ending cosmetics cruelty, and the will of Australians who oppose using animals for the development of cosmetics. In that context, we are hugely appreciative of your interest in this issue and your support for the Senate motion. We now respectfully request that you initiate the next step towards ending cosmetics cruelty by bringing forward a proposal to ban cosmetics animal testing and the sale of newly animal-tested cosmetics.

Sincerely,



International Fund for Animal Welfare



humane research australia

