



Be Cruelty-Free Australia



MEDIA RELEASE

15 Jan 2015 (originally released 25 August 2014)

Cruelty-Free Companies Urge Australian Government to Ban Cosmetics Animal Testing

Corporate support for *Be Cruelty-Free Australia* campaign

MELBOURNE (15 Jan 2015) – More than thirty cosmetics companies from across Australia have written an open letter to Health Minister Sussan Ley urging her to support a national ban on animal testing for cosmetics and the sale of cosmetics animal-tested abroad. Aussie brands backing the *#BeCrueltyFree Australia* campaign include KORA Organics, the cruelty-free range by model Miranda Kerr, as well as Australis, Natio, MooGoo, Lush Australia, The Body Shop and H&M.

THE OPEN LETTER CAN BE VIEWED AT:

www.humaneresearch.org.au/bcf/Australian_Cruelty-Free_Cosmetics_Open_Letter.pdf

Please see below for a complete list of corporate signatories to the open letter.

The open letter reads, “Banning animal testing of cosmetics inside Australia, as well as the sale of cosmetics newly animal-tested abroad, would be good news for our industry, and benefit consumers and animals alike. Our customers buy our products knowing that their safety has not been based on old fashioned toxicity tests on mice and rats that were developed more than half a century ago and are of questionable relevance to humans. Consumer safety can be better assured by utilising the thousands of existing cosmetic ingredients widely available with safe use histories combined with advanced, OECD-approved non-animal testing methods.”

#BeCrueltyFree Australia's campaign co-ordinator Hannah Stuart said: “It’s great to have support from Australia’s own cosmetics industry for an end to needless animal testing of beauty products. These successful companies are testament to the fact that in the 21st century, we don’t need to harm bunnies and guinea pigs to produce a new shampoo or lipstick. It’s time for Australia to join the growing number of countries around the world saying no to cosmetics animal testing.”

A public opinion poll conducted in May 2013 by Nexus Research on behalf of Humane Research Australia found that the overwhelming majority of Australians (85%) oppose using animals to develop cosmetics and 81% support a national ban on the sale of cosmetics tested on animals. Similarly, a July 2014 opinion poll by Roy Morgan Research showed that 'Not Tested on Animals' was one of the top 3 features looked for by Australian female consumers when buying cosmetics, ranking higher than anti-ageing benefits and sun protection factor.

Testing cosmetics on animals is still legal in around 80 per cent of countries globally, including Australia. Although such testing is believed to be limited in Australia, without a ban, the suffering can continue or even grow in future. Cosmetics tests involve animals having chemicals dripped in their eyes, spread on their skin or force fed to them in massive doses. Some of these tests were first developed in the 1940s and cannot be relied upon to guarantee consumer safety. Cruelty-free companies operate by combining use of long-established ingredients with modern, non-animal test methods that better predict human responses.

#BeCrueltyFree Australia – run by Humane Research Australia and Humane Society International - is part of the largest campaign in the world to end cosmetics animal testing. Globally there are *Be Cruelty-Free* campaigns in Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, India, Japan, Korea, New Zealand, Russia, Taiwan and the United States.

Australians can support #BeCrueltyFree Australia by simply visiting www.BeCrueltyFree.org.au, and voicing their support for a national ban on animal testing for cosmetics and the sale of cosmetics animal-tested abroad.

Be Cruelty-Free Australia would like to thank the following Australian cosmetics brands:

Adorn Cosmetics
Aromababy
Australis Cosmetics
Be Genki
Biologika
The Body Shop
Davroe
Eco Tan
Ere Perez
H&M
Inika
Innox
Kester Black
Kora Organics
Kosmea Australia
La Mav Organic Skin Science
Le Rêve
Living Nature
Lush Australia
Mode
MooGoo Skin Care
Mukti Organics
MV Organic Skincare
Nui International
Original & Mineral
Paul Penders
peachface
People for Plants
Pure & Green Organics
Purestuf Natural Skincare
The Purist Company
TriShave
zk'in

ENDS

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