



**MEDIA RELEASE**

**25<sup>th</sup> June 2017**

## **Your tax dollars – used for cruel primate experiments**

**Humane Research Australia is concerned that Australian Government funding is being allocated to researchers who use primates in their experiments. Government funding of animal cruelty and exploitation is unnecessary and no longer has a place in a modern, enlightened society.**

The Results of the 2016 NHMRC Grant Application Round were published on the NHMRC website late last year. It states, "To date, the 2016 NHMRC Grant Application Round has resulted in the commitment of more than \$828 million to fund health and medical research including 1056 new grants to universities, medical research institutions and hospitals across Australia."

Amongst the summary of results, two applications for Monash University and two for University of Melbourne were identified as potentially involving primates, receiving over \$2.3 million between them.

**Helen Marston, Chief Executive Officer:** *"Aside from the clear ethical dilemma of using animals with high cognitive abilities and well-developed social structures as mere 'tools for research', the use of primates has been found to be poorly predictive of human outcomes."*

*"Despite our similarity, the small genetic variation between human and other primates accounts for very significant differences in the way diseases affect the different species. Our valuable resources (ie tax dollars) would therefore be better spent on the development of humane and scientifically-valid non-animal methods of research. This occurs in many other countries but sadly there is no commitment by the Australian government to provide incentives for our researchers to develop these emerging technologies."*

See here for further details:

[http://www.humaneresearch.org.au/ban-primate-experiments/Your tax dollars used for cruel primate experiments](http://www.humaneresearch.org.au/ban-primate-experiments/Your%20tax%20dollars%20used%20for%20cruel%20primate%20experiments)

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