



Be Cruelty-Free Australia



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MEDIA RELEASE

21 September 2015

Australian House of Representatives Motion Against Cosmetics Animal Testing Welcomed by #BeCrueltyFree Campaigners

A motion in support of ending cruel animal testing for cosmetics has been moved in the House of Representatives by Government MP Jason Wood. The cross-party motion was seconded by Liberal MP Steve Irons, with the support of Labor MPs Kelvin Thompson and Melissa Parke, and Greens MP Adam Bandt. The motion was drafted following discussions with #BeCrueltyFree Australia, the leading campaign for a ban on cosmetics animal testing, which has welcomed the initiative.

Hannah Stuart for #BeCrueltyFree Australia, said: *“Testing the ingredients of cosmetics like mascara and shampoo on living creatures is a completely unnecessary cruelty and it’s time Australia joined a growing number of countries by banning it. So we welcome this motion as an encouraging sign that our call for an Australian ban on cruel cosmetics is gathering pace, marking another important step towards achieving our goal. We look forward to working with the Government and all parties to develop meaningful legislation that bans both animal testing and the sale of cosmetics products and ingredients tested on animals abroad, and in so doing puts Australia on the map as a country that says NO to cosmetics cruelty.”*

“Without a legal ban there is nothing to prevent cosmetics animal testing taking place here in Australia, or overseas during development of products sold in our shops. Such bans are already in place across the European Union, Israel and India, and there is now growing worldwide momentum towards ending such cruelty. A similar ban in Australia would be good for animals, consumers and science, and it’s what the overwhelming majority of Australian citizens want.”

The House Motion is the latest in a series of positive actions by Australian MPs to address the issue of ending cosmetics cruelty. The Australian Senate passed a similar motion in support of ending cruel animal testing for cosmetics in November last year, while Green party Senator Lee Rhiannon also introduced the End Cruel Cosmetics Bill in March 2014. The Labor party also concluded a public consultation in September last year, which found that 92% of respondents supported a ban on cruel cosmetics. National polls have similarly indicated high levels of public support, with a 2013 Nexus Research poll showing 85% of Australians opposing animal testing for cosmetics.

Member for La Trobe, Liberal MP Jason Wood, said: *“I was very happy to put forward the Private Members Motion on animal testing. Cosmetic testing on animals is wrong, it is barbaric, it is cruel and it is no longer necessary. This Motion is a sign that the times are changing, and that Australia no longer supports this unnecessary cruelty. I strongly encourage the Australian government to end this practice.”*

Member for Fremantle, Labor MP Melissa Parke, said: *“It is clear that many in the Australian community care deeply about animal welfare, with consumers increasingly putting their money towards ethical and humane alternatives. Animal testing for purely cosmetic purposes is barbaric and archaic. Science has come so far, yet we continue to inflict unnecessary cruelty on animals. This motion gives us the opportunity to make a sensible and humane change.”*

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 the 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 (Global) - 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.

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Notes:

Motion:

(1) The House notes that the:

a) majority of Australians believe the use of animal testing to evaluate safety of cosmetic products and ingredients is unnecessary; and

b) regulatory framework in Australia for chemicals, including cosmetics, is complex.

and

(2) moves to phase out the unnecessary developing, manufacturing, selling, advertising or importing into Australia of cosmetics, or ingredients in cosmetics, which have been tested on lives animals to evaluate the safety of those products and ingredients.

A public opinion poll conducted in May 2013 by Nexus Research on behalf of Humane Research Australia found that 85% of Australians 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 three features looked for by Australian female consumers when buying cosmetics.