

Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications
Legislation Committee
Answers to questions on notice
Environment portfolio

Question No: 30
Hearing: Additional Estimates
Outcome: Outcome 1
Programme: Wildlife Heritage and Marine Division (WHM)
Topic: Primates imported from facilities and not the wild
Hansard Page: N/A
Question Date: 19 February 2016
Question Type: Written

Senator Urquhart asked:

How does the Government ensure primates imported are taken from breeding facilities and not the wild?

Answer:

The National Health and Medical Research Council's (NHMRC) policy on the care and use of non-human primates for scientific purposes requires that non-human primates imported from overseas for use in NHMRC-funded research (including breeding colonies) must not be taken from the wild.

Under section 303CG of the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*, live non human primates may be imported for eligible non-commercial purposes, including scientific research purposes. Imported animals must be accompanied by an import permit issued by the Department and an export permit issued by the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) Management Authority of the exporting country.

The primary source of information on the origin of an animal is the export permit issued by the CITES Management Authority of the exporting country. If further information is required on any aspect of an export permit, the Department will contact the CITES Management or Scientific Authority of the exporting country to seek verification of the permit information.