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Dear Sir/Madam

I am writing on behalf of the Research Centre for Reproductive Health regarding the latest proposed National Animal Welfare Bill. The Research Centre for Reproductive Health is a group of approximately 100 significant researchers who between them have two NHMRC Program Grants, comprise at least six NHMRC Fellows and have a budget of around \$7,000,000. We are one of the leading groups in the country in reproductive health research at a level of both human and animal health. We are very dependent upon animals for our experimentation in making new discoveries that will be of application to human health.

We feel that the ethical use of animals in medical research is essential to understand ongoing disease and health in reproduction. While there are many experiments and studies that can be done in the human male and female, there are others in which the use of animals is completely unavoidable. We do use tissue and cell culture extensively to avoid animal research but at the end of the day, some studies cannot be done without the use of animal material.

It is essential that those who have to use animals for research are not entwined in laws that make it impossible to perform studies. This includes identifying, through a licence, the names of people using animals for research.

We do not believe that there is a sufficient problem in the use of animals under the current legislation and codes that warrants a substantial change. There is a risk that this Bill, although well intentioned, will do significant damage to research efforts to improve human health, as well as that of its animals.

With best wishes

Yours sincerely

**ROBERT J NORMAN**  
Director  
Research Centre for Reproductive Health