

Queensland Fertility Group  
225 Wickham Terrace  
Brisbane Q 4000

October 24, 2005

Committee Secretary  
Senate Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Committee  
Department of the Senate  
Parliament House  
Canberra ACT 2600

### **Submission: National Animal Welfare Bill 2005**

We are an IVF Clinic, using mice on a weekly basis to quality control our embryo culture systems for human use. On a weekly basis we sacrifice ten pregnant mice, harvest their embryos, and use them within our quality control systems. The mice are bred by and supplied commercially by the University of Queensland Central Animal Breeding House. These activities are supervised by:

- Our own Queensland Fertility Group Institutional Ethics Committee
- The University of Queensland Animal Ethics Committee
- The Queensland Government through licensing with, and reporting to, the Department of Primary Industries which operates an inspection mechanism of facilities.

Costs of this testing and licensing are passed on to patients of the clinic.

The mechanism which seems to be proposed in the bill is largely a duplicate of the Queensland Department of Primary Industries. It is my submission that:

- Animal experimentation users such as ourselves are already highly and adequately supervised by other bodies.
- The purpose of the bill is already satisfied by state legislation.
- The duplication of these license and reporting requirements at a Federal level will impose unnecessary time and cost burdens on users such as ourselves.
- This duplication, which will inevitably come with license fees, will simply add to consumer costs – in our case to patient healthcare costs – without any added benefit to the community.

Keith Harrison  
Scientific Director

Ph: 0412 487814  
keith@qfg.com.au