

From: Carolyn King [ceking@cyllene.uwa.edu.au]

Sent: Friday, 11 November 2005 12:46 PM

To: RRAT, Committee (SEN)

Subject: National Animal Welfare Bill

To whom it may concern,

I am deeply concerned about the proposals for inclusion in the national animal welfare bill. Particularly distressing are the suggestions to list names and addresses of licencees on a public database and the publication of applications in newspapers. It would be naive to assume that this information will not be used by extreme animal lobbyists to launch campaigns against individual scientists. I am in close association with a young paraplegic lady who was recently asked to participate in a debate about the use of animals for research. She obviously has a very important reason for supporting animal research but following the (televised) debate, she received numerous death threats and feared for her life. This situation is disgusting and it should never be allowed to happen.

Extremists do not care that scientists must adhere to very strict guidelines nor that animals receive the highest standards of care.
The proposals are very dangerous and would be catastrophic for research in this country.

A further concern is the requirement to disclose commercial interests. Scientists very rarely receive any financial returns for their findings. Furthermore, government funding is now so difficult to harness that we must look elsewhere, often to industry, to fund our research. This proposal would, again, be another kick in the teeth for overworked and underpaid scientists.

We need a bill that is fair, representing the needs and concerns of both scientists and the public.

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