



NATIONAL COUNCIL OF WOMEN OF NEW ZEALAND

TE KAUNIHERA WAHINE O AOTEAROA

27 September 2013

S13.12

Submission to the Primary Production Select Committee on the Supplementary Order Paper No 341 to the Animal Welfare Amendment Bill 107

The National Council of Women of New Zealand (NCWNZ) is an umbrella organisation representing 47 organisations affiliated at national level and a further 41 organisations affiliated at branch level. It has 22 branches throughout the country attended by representatives of these organisations, as well as individual members. NCWNZ's function is to represent and promote the interests of New Zealand women through research, discussion and action. This submission has been prepared by the NCWNZ Family Affairs Standing Committee, the Parliamentary Watch Committee after consultation with the membership of NCWNZ.

NCWNZ is very pleased to have the opportunity to make a submission to this Supplementary Order Paper to the Animal Welfare Amendment Bill.

NCWNZ has, since its inception 117 years ago, advocated for the powerless and vulnerable in society, and has developed policy with the aim of helping to improve conditions and standards for all New Zealand families including the welfare of animals.

New Clause 31A

After *clause 31* (after line 20 On page 14), insert:

31A Section 81 amended (Effect of this Part)

After section 81(2), insert:

“(3) Notwithstanding anything in the Psychoactive Substances Act 2013, no animal shall be used in research or testing for the purpose of gaining approval for any psychoactive substance as defined in section 9 of the Psychoactive Substances Act 2013.”

Within the short time available of communicating with the NCWNZ membership, there is undoubtedly unanimous agreement that this new clause to the Animal Welfare Bill is strongly supported.

The Psychoactive Substances Act 2013 is designed to allow the control of sale of recreational drugs. They have no bearing on improving the health of our community or of benefit to users or the community. These psychoactive drugs do not promote better health or treatment or improvement to a medical condition. They are not helpful or essential to human survival.

It has been questioned if good quality scientific research would be able to gain measurable results of substance from animals after being injected with a psychoactive substance.

In the Animal Welfare Act 1999 – Part 6 – Use of animals in research, testing, and teaching.

Section 80 the Purposes states:

(1) The principal purpose of this Part is to ensure that the use of animals in research, testing, and teaching is confined to cases in which there is good reason to believe etc.....

The use of recreational substances is not mentioned.

NCWNZ membership was strongly of the opinion that there should be absolutely no testing of psychoactive substances on animals purely for recreational purposes. If a psychoactive substance cannot be approved without the use of animal testing, that product should not be approved for human consumption.

One of our members from a farming background stated and I quote:

“For us as farmers this is almost an issue that will affect our vote in the next election we feel so strongly about it and we believe it must be a conscience vote for all members of Parliament.”

Conclusion:

Recreational Psychoactive Substances are not essential to our health; they do not promote any medical advantage; they are not aimed at curing any medical conditions. Therefore testing such recreational substances on animals does not and will not benefit the community.

Thus, the SOP to the Animal Welfare Amendment Bill is strongly supported.

Barbara Arnold
National President

Billa Field
Family Affairs Standing Committee