The number of animals used for scientific research is enormous: about 115 million each year worldwide and over seven million in Australia (Buttrose & Merkes, 2014).

Public attitudes about animal research are changing. Some people feel we have no right to subject sentient beings to painful and lethal procedures to advance knowledge or find cures for human diseases. Others have come to the conclusion that animal models fail to predict human response (Buttrose & Merkes, 2014).

The United Kingdom is, again, leading the way with a policy of eliminating testing of household products on animals. It has also a stated commitment to reducing the numbers of animals used in scientific experiments. In contrast, the only major initiative in this area in Australia has been a Green’s private member’s bill earlier this year to ban the largely discontinued practice of animal testing for cosmetics (Buttrose & Merkes, 2014).