



Protesters give an inside view of battery hens' life

By LIBBY BINGHAM



BATTERY hen protesters staged a caged sit-in in the Devonport mall yesterday and were getting plenty of petition signatures and support to get the practice banned.

Shane Dalglish, 27, of Brisbane, said the travelling protest called Human Battery Cage, began in Sydney a month ago and will end in Canberra in September with the petition presented to Parliament.

"We've had a mainly positive reaction apart from a few egg farmers who disagreed with us," he said yesterday.

Mr Dalglish is vice-president of the Queensland Vegan Society and has been involved in campaigns that included illegally entering battery hen farms to photograph the conditions of caged hens.

He said recent research on the issue indicated that 80 per cent of Australians think it's wrong to keep hens in cages.

Mr Dalglish said they took the gentle approach to protesting in a bid to engage with more people.

Tasmania has the highest percentage of non-cage egg production in Australia at 52 per cent against about 16 per cent nationally.

The Tasmanian Government supports conventional layer hen cages being phased out on a national basis.

EMPATHISING: Battery hen protesters (from left) Drew Fryer, of Sydney, and Heather Blyth and Shane Dalglish, both of Brisbane, all cooped up in the Devonport Mall yesterday. Picture: Katie McDougall.