



Drew Fryer, Heather Blyth, Shane Dalgleish and Jodie Barnett took their protest about battery hen cruelty to York Street on Tuesday.

## Graphic protest pushes the point

SPENDING six months in a small cage may not be everyone's top holiday destination, but that was the preference of four east coast activists.

The group came to Albany on Tuesday as part of a nationwide tour to educate people about the cramped conditions battery hens endure.

Reserve Bank trader Drew Fryer said their protest, where they sit in a cage in a public place all day, aimed to be artistic and passive instead of "shoving pamphlets in peoples' faces".

Fellow protester Heather Blyth agreed.

"A lot of the protests are just screaming at people but we wanted to do something people would relate to," Ms Blyth said.

"The feedback has been really positive," she said.

"It's only really egg farmers and people who don't want to pay extra for free range who have had a problem with it."

Ms Blyth said her family and friends had been supportive of the cause and her mum even sat in the cage when they were in Tasmania because she thought it was "novel".

Their petition against battery hens has already received 10,000 signatures and they

hope to see many more. The group will present the petition to federal parliament at the end of the protest in four months' time.

"Hopefully people will be more educated about how battery hens are treated and think about their decisions when they're in the egg aisle," Ms Blyth said.

"Each hen has about the size of three quarters of an A4 piece of paper, so it's pretty shocking," she said.

The nationwide tour is sponsored by Voiceless - the fund for animals, Animal Liberation and PAWS. For more information, visit [www.humanbattery.com](http://www.humanbattery.com).