**APPENDIX B**

**Equal Consideration of Interests**

The equal consideration of interests is a utilitarian moral principle that states the following:

* all affected interests should be taken into account when calculating the rightness of an action, and;
* all affected interests should be considered equally.

Peter Singer in Practical Ethics formulates the principle as follows:

The essence of the principle of equal consideration of interests is that we give equal weight in our moral deliberations to the like interests of all those affected by our actions. This means that if only X and Y would be affected by a possible act, and if X stands to lose more than Y stands to gain, it is better not to do the act.

We should bear in mind that the principle functions as a right and is perhaps best understood as the right to equality, meaning the right to the equal consideration of interests.

It follows from this that the balancing of rights, which are often in conflict, is a primary concern and that when paying attention to the principle we should give due regard to our own bias. In particular we should ensure that the demands or claims of either ourselves or of established interests are carefully examined but not treated differently to the claims of any other interests.