

New Zealand Three Rs Programme Strategic Plan

2010 - 2015

Introduction

The NZ-3Rs Programme was established specifically to promote the understanding, application and development of the Three Rs in New Zealand through encouraging information sharing, funding and collaboration in Three Rs initiatives between research organisations, industry, government and related organisations around New Zealand and internationally.

The Three Rs is a concept developed by Bill Russell and Rex Burch and first published in their book *'The Principles of Humane Experimental Technique'* in 1959. Essentially, it is about making science more robust and humane by minimising harm to animals. The three 'R's are:

- Replacement – do animals have to be used at all? If so, can less-feeling animals be used?
- Reduction – if animals have to be used, what is the smallest number needed?
- Refinement – for the animals that are used, how are pain and distress to be minimised?

Programme strategic priorities:

1. To promote understanding and application of the Three Rs in New Zealand
2. To encourage new Three Rs developments in New Zealand
3. To profile New Zealand's Three Rs contributions nationally and internationally
4. To network and liaise with other Three Rs centres internationally

Planned actions to achieve the priorities:

1. To promote understanding and application of the Three Rs in New Zealand

- (a) Develop a domestic network of Three Rs 'Champions' to act as contacts for information sharing, beginning with "key opinion leaders" identified in the MAFBNZ-funded tissue sharing study.

MAF – November 2010

- (b) To promote general awareness of the Three Rs by developing a one-page statement about the Three Rs, mentioning the NZ Three Rs Programme and its participating organisations, to be available on participants' websites as a download and/or links to full text.

MAF to coordinate – October 2010

- (c) To provide an update on the Programme and national and international Three Rs developments in every issue of Welfare Pulse magazine

MAF to coordinate – ongoing

- (d) Develop a website as an effective and independent communication vehicle; include links to participants' websites and sources of further information about the Three Rs.

Massey, to link the website to all participants' websites – January 2011

- (e) Identify most common uses of animals in RTT in New Zealand to allow targeting of future communications, outreach and other activities.

MAF – November 2010

- (f) Develop a list of examples of the 3Rs, for use in future communications, outreach and as a resource for Champions, NAEAC, ANZCCART, and other participants.
MAF – November 2010 / ongoing

2. To encourage new Three Rs strategies in New Zealand

- (a) Write to all New Zealand funding bodies to encourage specific allocations to support the development and application of new Three Rs strategies, including new ways of replacing animals
NAEAC lead (already a function) – January 2011
- (b) Present a paper to the Animal Behaviour and Welfare Consultative Committee on the need to support Three Rs initiatives, including explaining why the Three Rs are important for 'NZ inc.'
MAF to coordinate (K Littin) – first meeting of 2011
- (c) Facilitate information sharing by the network of Three Rs Champions.
MAF to circulate a list of contacts (anonymised if necessary) to Champions, once identified – January 2011

3. To profile New Zealand's Three Rs contributions nationally and internationally

- (a) Draw to the attention of participants up-coming national and international Three Rs fora by regular updates on in Welfare Pulse or direct communication where appropriate, and where necessary, coordinate New Zealand involvement in international fora.
MAF – ongoing
- (b) Encourage participants to attend, contribute to and, where possible, plan national and international Three Rs fora to create opportunities to profile New Zealand Three Rs contributions.
MAF – ongoing
- (c) Continue to profile New Zealand Three Rs achievements and contribution to fora in Welfare Pulse.
MAF to coordinate update for every issue of Welfare Pulse – ongoing
- (d) Circulate press releases on Three Rs Awards to appropriate international organisations and publish details in Welfare Pulse
MAF / NAEAC – ongoing

4. To network and liaise with other Three Rs centres internationally

- (a) Keep abreast of international developments in the Three Rs through monitoring literature, attending appropriate fora and links with other organisations
MAF to request updates from all champions and monitor international 3Rs organisations for Welfare Pulse updates – ongoing
- (b) Maintain a relationship with international Three Rs organisations by identification of appropriate contacts, information sharing and, when opportunities arise, personal visits by Champions and others.
MAF – ongoing