



National Animal Ethics Advisory Committee

NAEAC is a statutory committee, established under the Animal Welfare Act 1999 and supported by the Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI). NAEAC's role is to advise the Minister for Primary Industries on welfare issues arising from the use of live animals in research, testing and teaching (RTT). Its other functions include giving advice on the codes of ethical conduct that govern live animal use in RTT and providing information to the bodies that administer the codes (animal ethics committees (AECs)). NAEAC holds four quarterly general meetings each year and special meetings when required.

Selected items discussed at the 18 August 2016 general meeting included the following:

- **Mini-tutorial:** NAEAC chairperson, Grant Shackell gave a presentation on production animals and the challenges AECs might face approving work involving them. The presentation touched on some of the idiosyncrasies between laboratory animals and farm animals such as: laboratory animals living in controlled environments and production animals living in nature and being affected by factors such as farm location, weather, shelter availability, and changing patterns of land use. Examples of research projects involving production animals included greenhouse gas emission, specific animal health issues, grazing behaviour, and residual feed intake. The costs associated with research gains involving production animals were also discussed.
- **Code of ethical conduct template:** The committee agreed that the revised NAEAC publication *Guide to the Preparation of Codes of Ethical Conduct* which included a new code template, be circulated to AECs for feedback prior to being finalised. AECs would be given three weeks to provide any feedback to the NAEAC secretariat.
- **NAEAC occasional paper series:** NAEAC member Bronwen Connor reported that she had completed her occasional paper on the topic of *resistance to changing existing models in experimental design*. At the meeting it was agreed to circulate the paper to the rest of the committee for comment, before submitting it to MPI for publication.
- **Emerging/new technologies:** The committee discussed some of the new technologies they had come across since the last general meeting. These included Lab-in-a-Box, a mobile science lab to help with teaching in rural schools; 3-D printing; and using drone technology for remote monitoring.
- **Recent presentations and attendance at conferences:** Grant Shackell reported he had attended the Australian and New Zealand Council for the Care of Animals in Research and Teaching (ANZCCART) conference in Australia. Some of the topics discussed at the conference had included: the ethics of animal use; development of concordat on openness on animal research in Australia and New Zealand; environmental enrichment; training; and the role of zoos in conservation.