



# 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). NAEAC holds four quarterly general meetings each year and special meetings when required.

Selected items discussed at the 13 May 2014 general meeting included the following:

- **NAEAC guidelines on emergency management of animals used in RTT:** NAEAC resolved to adopt new guidelines on emergency management of animals used in RTT. NAEAC's advice included disaster management being incorporated into animal facility standard operating procedures.
- **Review of blood harvesting guidelines:** The blood harvesting guidelines are being reviewed and NAEAC anticipates asking users to contribute to the revised text. There is a possibility that the revised guidelines may be issued as a NAEAC occasional paper.
- **NAEAC Three Rs Award for 2014:** The NAEAC Three Rs Award is made annually to an individual or organisation who/which has excelled in the implementation of the principles of the Three Rs (replacement, reduction and refinement) in the use of animals in RTT. Applications for the award close on Friday 25 July 2014. The secretary provided an update to the committee on the number of applications received to date.
- **Mini-tutorial:** NAEAC member Malcolm Tingle (who is also a member of the Psychoactive Substances Expert Advisory Committee) provided a mini-tutorial on the history of psychoactive substance use in New Zealand; the development of the Psychoactive Substances Bill; and the limitations of both in-vitro and in-vivo testing.
- **NAEAC research proposal:** NAEAC is supporting a piece of research looking into how AECs go about making their decisions. A number of structured telephone interviews have now been conducted with individuals from different AECs. NAEAC member, Peter Larsen provided some feedback on the preliminary results. A further update will be provided at the next general meeting.