



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 February 2016 general meeting included the following:

- **Election of deputy chairperson:** The Animal Welfare Act 1999 requires NAEAC to elect one of its members as its deputy chairperson, at its first meeting each year. Professor Craig Johnson, the New Zealand Veterinary Association nominee on the committee, was elected to the role of deputy chairperson for 2016.
- **New strategic and operational plans:** The committee adopted an updated strategic plan for 2014-2019 and operational plan for 2016. The operational plan details how the committee will progress its objectives for the current year.
- **NAEAC guidelines and policies:** At its meeting, NAEAC agreed to update its policy titled *Which AEC should assume the approval role* to: clarify the restrictions on RTT involving animals as defined under section 82 of the Animal Welfare Act 1999; and to also include guidance about animal use overseas.
- **NAEAC occasional paper series:** NAEAC's statutory role includes providing information and advice to AECs that approve and monitor projects using animals in RTT. One of the ways in which NAEAC does this is by publishing 'occasional papers' on topics of relevance to AECs and their work. NAEAC member Bronwen Connor agreed to draft a paper on the topic of *resistance to changing existing models in experimental design*.
- **NAEAC Three Rs award:** 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. An update on planning for the 2016 award, including sponsorship, was discussed.