



The National Animal Ethics Advisory Committee

Aotearoa New Zealand Three Rs Awards

Terms of Reference

Preamble

Replacement, Reduction and Refinement (or the “Three Rs”) are the cornerstone for ethical use of animals in research, testing and teaching (RTT).

The Aotearoa New Zealand Three Rs Awards celebrate achievement in the implementation of the Three Rs principles and provide funding for a novel research project that targets the development, discovery or implementation of methodologies and/or technologies that specifically result in the reduction, refinement or replacement of animals used in RTT.

The scope of the awards will not be limited to animal researchers and organisations operating under a code of ethical conduct. Applications from New Zealand institutions or companies that can demonstrate a role in developing or implementing the principles of the Three Rs outside of animal-based research will also be considered.

The biennial awards, which replace the annual NAEAC Three Rs Award, are co-ordinated by NAEAC and funded by: AgResearch Ltd; the Australian and New Zealand Council for the Care of Animals in Research and Teaching (ANZCCART); Lincoln University; Manaaki Whenua Landcare Research; Massey University; the University of Otago; and Victoria University of Wellington.

Two Awards will be made in each award cycle.

- 1 The first award will be made to an individual, group or institution within New Zealand that shows great commitment to implementing the principles of the Three Rs.
- 2 The second award will provide a research grant to an individual, group or institution within New Zealand to underpin a research project that specifically targets at least one of the Three Rs principles.

Purpose of the awards

To reward and promote the implementation, discovery or development of methodologies and/or technologies that enhance Three Rs principles in RTT.

Publicity

- Applications and nominations will be sought by widely publicising the award deadline
- Media releases will be coordinated by the Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI) in consultation with the winner and their host organisation and should be treated sensitively
- Media releases will acknowledge all sponsors, unless the sponsors request otherwise
- Sponsors may adapt media releases for their own use where appropriate, after submitting such release to MPI for prior approval

1 The Aotearoa New Zealand John Schofield Three Rs Implementation Award

Application criteria

The applicant's work should meet one or more of the following criteria, against which they will be judged:

- Demonstrates great commitment to Three Rs principles
- Demonstrates innovative implementation of Three Rs principles
- Will help to promote awareness of Three Rs principles in RTT

Rules of the award

- Applications will be accepted from individuals, groups, or organisations within New Zealand
- Nominations will also be accepted for individuals, groups, or organisations within New Zealand, provided the nominee is consulted and consents to the nomination
- The application deadline will allow a minimum of two months to prepare an application
- Announcement of results will be prior to the anticipated presentation, to allow the winner time to prepare for attendance
- Past winners of the award are ineligible to contest the award for a period of three award cycles after winning

Application/Nomination process

- Applicants should use the application form for the Aotearoa New Zealand John Schofield Three Rs Implementation Award, which can be downloaded from the MPI website <https://www.mpi.govt.nz/protection-and-response/animal-welfare/animals-in-research-testing-and-teaching/the-3rs/> or requested from the NAEAC Secretariat naeac@mpi.govt.nz
- Unsuccessful applicants may, in the award cycle following their initial application, submit a short update (no more than one page), rather than a full application, in order to be reconsidered for the Award

Judging panel and assessment process

- The judging panel will be comprised of two NAEAC members and at least two nominees from among the award sponsors
- Members of the panel will each have appropriate expertise, and will elect one member as chair
- Other individuals may be seconded to the panel; for example to provide specific expertise
- Members of the panel will be selected to avoid potential conflicts of interest, or if this is not possible, conflicts must be identified and managed appropriately
- All members of the panel will read and rank the applications (taking account of any conflict as described above); the individual rankings will be discussed by teleconference or email, and a final ranking reached by consensus
- The ranked list will be provided to the NAEAC secretariat for ratification by NAEAC. The outcome will be communicated to all applicants, and the NAEAC secretariat will then arrange for awarding of the prize and publicity as appropriate
- The decision of the judging panel is final, and no correspondence will be entered into

Prizes

- The prize will consist of a certificate and a \$5,000 cash award
- The winner's costs will be paid if travel is required to attend a presentation function
- If necessary, funding from other sponsors will be sought to ensure continuity of funding for each award cycle

Conditions of acceptance

- External publicity of receipt of an award is a condition of entry and must be agreed to by the awardee and, if appropriate, her/his employer

2 The Aotearoa New Zealand Three Rs Research Grant

Application criteria

The application will describe a novel and innovative research proposal that specifically targets one or more of the principles of the Three Rs. The work is to be undertaken in New Zealand.

Rules of the award

- Applications will be accepted from individuals, groups, or organisations within New Zealand
- The application deadline will allow a minimum of two months to prepare an application
- Announcement of results will be prior to the anticipated presentation, to allow the winner time to prepare for attendance
- Past winners of the award are ineligible to contest the award to continue the project

Application process

- Applicants should use the application form for the Aotearoa New Zealand Three Rs Research Grant, which can be downloaded from the MPI website <https://www.mpi.govt.nz/protection-and-response/animal-welfare/animals-in-research-testing-and-teaching/the-3rs/> or requested from the NAEAC Secretariat naeac@mpi.govt.nz
- Unsuccessful applicants may, following their initial application, re-submit their proposal at the next award cycle

Judging panel and assessment process

- The judging panel will be comprised of not less than two NAEAC members and four nominees from among the award sponsors
- Members of the panel will each have appropriate expertise to evaluate a research project and will elect one member as chair
- Other individuals may be seconded to the panel; for example to provide specific expertise
- Members of the panel will be selected to avoid potential conflicts of interest, or if this is not possible, conflicts must be identified and managed appropriately
- All members of the panel will read and rank the applications (taking account of any conflict as described above); the individual rankings will be discussed by teleconference or email, and a final ranking reached by consensus
- The ranked list will be provided to the NAEAC secretariat for ratification by NAEAC. The outcome will be communicated to all applicants, and the NAEAC secretariat will then arrange for awarding of the prize and publicity as appropriate
- The decision of the judging panel is final, and no correspondence will be entered into

Prizes

- The prize will consist of a certificate and a research grant of \$50,000 to be presented at an appropriate venue. The winner's travel costs for attending the presentation function will also be included as part of the prize
- If necessary, funding from new sponsors may be sought to ensure continuity of funding for each award cycle

Conditions of acceptance

- External publicity of receipt of an award is a condition of entry and must be agreed to by the awardee and, if appropriate, her/his employer
- The recipient will be required to provide a final project report before the next award cycle; it is expected that the report will be of similar structure to a peer reviewed Journal article
- Any publication of the results of the research in the public domain must acknowledge funding provided by the Aotearoa New Zealand Three Rs Award and should include a link to the Award website address