



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 3 August 2015 general meeting included the following:

- **New NAEAC Chairperson:** Grant Shackell (NAEAC Chair Designate) attended the meeting as an observer.
- **NAEAC occasional papers:** NAEAC's statutory role includes providing information and advice to the 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. A paper titled: *The blind leading the blind: animal facility staff and researchers working together to reduce bias in animal facility research*, by Jack Rivers-Auty, will be published as the 12th paper in this series.
- **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. The subcommittee responsible for considering nominations for the award recommended a winner at the meeting. The award recipient will be announced in November.
- **New Zealand Three Rs:** MPI and the Australian and New Zealand Council for the Care of Animals in Research and Teaching (ANZCCART) are developing a series of publications which will highlight real life examples of the Three Rs (replacement, reduction and refinement). These are currently with ANZCCART for review.
- **NAEAC Research:** NAEAC is supporting a piece of research looking into how AECs go about making their decisions. A number of structured telephone interviews were conducted approximately 18 months ago, with individuals from different AECs. The qualitative results now need to be summarised.