



## 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 19 May 2015 general meeting included the following:

- **New NAEAC Chairperson:** Grant Shackell has been appointed chairperson of NAEAC to replace Virginia Williams when her term expires at the end of October. He attended the meeting as an observer.
- **Review of NAEAC wiki page:** In light of the Animal Welfare Amendment Act (No 2) that came into force on 10 May 2015, NAEAC agreed to update its wiki page in order to capture the changes made to Part 6 of the Animal Welfare Act 1999.
- **Review of animal ethics committee (AEC) induction pack:** Committee members conducted their annual review of the AEC induction pack and concluded that while all the information in the pack was useful, the material did not need to be read in one go. This would be communicated to AECs in the next AEC newsletter.
- **NAEAC guidelines on application templates used by AECs:** NAEAC resolved to amend its guidelines on application templates used by AECs. The changes related to project description – justification for the need for animals including consideration of suitable alternatives and previous relevant studies; and animals, husbandry and welfare – specific requirements of animals bred with potential for compromised welfare.
- **NAEAC secretariat:** The findings of a piece of work undertaken by a graduate, into whether the committee required additional resourcing was discussed at the meeting. It was agreed that the secretariat provided administrative and logistical support, general advice, an ability to interpret legislation and had institutional knowledge. The areas of technical advice and coordination were perceived to be lacking. In order to gauge how the committee was functioning, it was agreed to survey AECs to ascertain how they perceived NAEAC was performing.
- **Mini-tutorial:** Peter Davie, from Massey University provided a mini-tutorial to committee members on the sentience of fish. The presentation focused on whether fish detect noxious stimuli and how New Zealand legislation deals with fish and human interactions with fish.
- **Attendance at meetings:** The chair of NAEAC attended a meeting with the New Zealand Board of the Australian and New Zealand Council for the Care of Animals in Research and Teaching (ANZCCART) to talk about the regulatory system governing animal use in RTT. Some of the topics which emerged from the discussion included: skill levels within research organisations relating to manipulations; employment of animal welfare officers in research organisations; knowledge of accredited reviewers; monitoring and commercial sensitivity.