



ANIMAL WELFARE

National Animal Ethics Advisory Committee

Annual Report 1 January to 31 December 2016

National Animal Ethics Advisory Committee
C/- Ministry for Primary Industries
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New Zealand

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NAEAC

National Animal Ethics Advisory Committee

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Chairperson's Comment

This is my first comment as Chair of NAEAC. After a year in the position I have noted two features.

First, is the dedication and focus of the members of the committee. Each brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to the table, and all are passionate about achieving the highest standards of welfare for the animals that are used for the purposes of research, testing or teaching.

The second is the breadth, and complexity, of issues that animal ethics committees (AECs) deal with on an ongoing basis. Each year, NAEAC receives many requests for advice and guidance. The variety and detail of those requests is a strong indicator that AECs work extremely hard to ensure the very best welfare outcomes for the animals involved in every application that they consider.

A committee such as NAEAC cannot operate without a high level of support. As well the valuable contribution of individual committee members, Deputy Chair, Professor Craig Johnson, continues to undertake a significant amount of the extra work to ensure NAEAC's effectiveness. In addition, Linda Carsons and Paula Lemow from the Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI) play a huge role in ensuring that the committee stays informed, and runs smoothly.



Grant Shackell
Chair

Membership

Members	Expiry of Appointment
Mr Grant H Shackell Dip Ag, Dip Field Technology, Dip Grad, MSc, Retired scientist (Independent Chairperson)	31.10.18
Dr Karen Booth BSc, BVSc, Cert VR MACVSc, Manager Regulatory Affairs, Zoetis (nominated by Agcarm Inc)	31.10.16 (Retired)
Ms Leasa C Carlyon JP, Dip Bus, Judicial Justice of the Peace (nominated by the Ministry for Women)	31.10.18
Dr Bronwen Connor BSc, PhD, Associate Professor, Department of Pharmacology and Clinical Pharmacology, The University of Auckland (nominated by the Ministry for Women)	31.10.18
Ms Therese (Terry) M Fenn BSc (Hons), Dip Tchg, Learning Area Leader, Science, Onslow College (nominated by the Ministry of Education)	31.10.18
Dr Craig Gillies BSc PhD, Scientific Officer (nominated by the Department of Conservation)	31.10.18
Professor Craig B Johnson¹ BVSc PhD, Cert VA DVA Dip ECVA, Professor of Veterinary Neurophysiology, Institute of Veterinary, Animal and Biomedical Sciences, Massey University (nominated by the New Zealand Veterinary Association)	31.10.16 (Reappointed)
Mr Graeme A Nind MNZM, JP (nominated by the Royal New Zealand Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals)	31.10.16 (Retired)
Dr Malcolm D Tingle BSc (Hons) PhD, Associate Professor, Department of Pharmacology & Clinical Pharmacology, The University of Auckland (nominated by the Health Research Council of New Zealand)	31.10.16 (Reappointed)

In mid-December the Minister for Primary Industries appointed Dr Arnja Dale to replace Graeme Nind and Mr Robert Hazelwood to replace Dr Karen Booth.

¹ Professor Craig Johnson was elected Deputy Chair for 2016

Fees

Government policy requires disclosure of fees paid to members of statutory boards and committees. The daily fee paid to committee members during 2016 was \$400 for members and \$550 for the chairperson.

Members are paid the fee for attending meetings, with an allowance for preparation time. Members are also reimbursed for travelling expenses. In addition, the chairperson and, on occasion, other members may be paid additional fees for representing the committee at other meetings or for carrying out significant extra work on the committee's behalf.

The table below lists the fees paid during 2016.

Member	Fees paid during 2016 (gross)
G Shackell	\$11,200.00
K Booth	\$2,900.00
L Carlyon	\$3,500.00
B Connor	\$3,300.00
T Fenn	\$3,200.00
C Gillies ²	\$0.00
C Johnson	\$4,000.00
G Nind	\$600.00
M Tingle	\$3,600.00

² Public servants do not receive meeting fees.

Meetings with the Minister

NAEAC met twice with the Minister for Primary Industries, Hon. Nathan Guy, during 2016. The committee met the Minister to introduce the new members of the committee and discuss several issues. The Minister also attended the opening session of the NAEAC AEC Workshop, held in Wellington in November. The Minister officially opened the Workshop, and presented the 2016 Three Rs Award.

Animal Ethics Committees

One of NAEAC's primary functions is to provide information and advice to AECs that will promote and assist with good decision-making. Apart from responding to specific requests for advice, activities in this area in 2016 included:

- **AEC visits** – Once a year, NAEAC visits AECs in a regional location. In 2016, those visits were made in the Hamilton area and included:
 - University of Waikato;
 - DairyNZ Ltd;
 - AgResearch Ruakura; and
 - Anexa Animal Health.

Where and when possible, NAEAC members also attend AEC meetings in their area in an observational role.

- **AEC newsletters** – Two newsletters from the Chair were sent out during 2016. These included advice and comment on issues that had been raised during the year.
- **AEC Chairs meeting** – During 2016 a meeting of AEC Chairs was hosted by NAEAC. This will be ongoing in the year between biennial AEC workshops. Several issues pertinent to AEC decision-making were discussed.
- **AEC Workshop** – NAEAC hosted its biennial AEC workshop in November. Although the Wellington earthquakes altered the travel plans for some, attendance was at similar levels to previous workshops. A selection of speakers addressed:
 - ethical decision-making;
 - marine research;
 - improved outcomes from using animal models in neuro-research;
 - compassion fatigue; and
 - progress with upcoming regulatory changes.

In a departure from previous years, only two breakout sessions were scheduled. These targeted euthanasia, and impact grading, (both of which had been identified by previous attendees as topics of interest). The two sessions were repeated, so that all attendees could participate in both.

- **Survey of AEC members** – One of NAEAC's statutory functions is to provide information and advice to AECs. A survey of AECs was conducted in April 2016 to evaluate how NAEAC was performing its role in relation to this function.

The survey was completed anonymously on-line. A total of 46 responses were received, representing 23 committees. Almost 50% of respondents were statutory AEC members, and the average length of service was 7.2 years. More than 95% of those who completed the survey were aware of NAEAC and its role. More than 85% indicated that they have ready access to information on NAEAC's functions. While a couple of individual responses rated NAEAC's advice as poor, most respondents were happy with the service provided to them by the committee.

Code of Ethical Conduct (CEC) Reviews

NAEAC reviewed two CECs during 2016. One was a renewal of an existing code (Alleva Animal Health), and the other was a new code (Wellington SPCA). In addition, a third code was reviewed following a merger of two organisations, which resulted in a corporate name change and some minor amendments to the existing code (Toi Ohomai Institute of Technology).

CEC Template

There are currently 26 approved CECs, all of which are reviewed by NAEAC before they are approved by the Director-General of MPI.

While CECs are prepared following published guidelines and legislation, they are often presented in entirely different formats by the individual organisations that draft them.

To standardise the presentation of a code, and therefore streamline the review process, NAEAC has developed a template, which ensures that all the required information is presented in the same context. Most of the work developing the template was undertaken by Dr Karen Booth, whose term on the committee ended during the year, and before the template was completed. Karen undertook to finish the template after she had retired from the committee, and NAEAC is indebted to her for finishing this project.

The template has been circulated to code holders whose codes are due to expire in 2017.

NAEAC Awards

- An AEC Service Award was presented to Mr David Shepherd.
- NAEAC Service Awards were presented to Mr Graeme Nind and Dr Karen Booth.
- The NAEAC Three Rs Award was again sponsored by the Royal New Zealand Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals. The 2016 Award was presented to the Otago Polytechnic School of Veterinary Nursing, in recognition of the school's commitment to implementing strategies which replace, reduce and refine animal use across all their teaching programmes while still meeting the needs of their students.

The school uses mannequins and simulation models to replace animals and video resources to reduce animal use for teaching. As a result, significantly fewer animals are used in its formal teaching programs.

During 2016 NAEAC began investigating ways to raise the profile of the Three Rs Award. NAEAC considers that it has a significant role in encouraging researchers to continually find new ways to Reduce, Refine and Replace the use of animals for the purposes of research, testing or teaching.

Mini-tutorials

NAEAC endeavours to arrange a mini-tutorial for each meeting, as a way of addressing its operational objective of increasing understanding of the knowledge, experience and viewpoints of committee members.

Mini-tutorials in 2016 included:

- Care of transgenic large animals – a veterinary and animal welfare perspective. Care is required during the various stages of transgenic animal development including embryo, foetus, parturition,

growth, maturity and old age. Special considerations must also be recognised. While veterinary care is straight forward, the veterinary/animal welfare officer must deal with syndromes which are not usually seen in commercial veterinary medicine. In addition to this, the animal welfare officer decisions are challenging.

- Production animals – what challenges might an AEC face. This presentation touched on some of the differences between laboratory animals and production animals. Laboratory animals live predominantly indoors, in confined but controlled environments, whereas production animals live in extensive outdoors environments that may be effected by factors such as farm location, weather, shelter availability, and changing patterns of land use.

Animal Welfare Amendment Act (No 2) 2015

- Following the passing of the Animal Welfare Amendment Act (No 2) 2015, a NAEAC subcommittee has continued to assist MPI with issues relating to the changes to the animal welfare legislation, and to engage AECs in understanding what those changes will mean.

NAEAC Publications

- During 2016 NAEAC updated its policy on which AEC should assume the approval role when multiple organisations are involved in a research project.
- NAEAC has identified that the 2002 publication *Analgesic Best Practice for the Use of Animals in Research and Teaching – An Interpretative International Literature Review*, which is included as part of the AEC induction pack, is no longer current. This will be replaced with a short paper containing links to websites which would be the most use to AECs.

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