Dear AEC Chairs and contact officers

Happy New Year!

We hope 2017 is a good year for everyone.

1. New Animal Research Review Panel Guideline

The Animal Research Review Panel has developed a new guideline called “Common issues encountered during inspections of animal research establishments”.

This guideline is aimed at helping to improve Animal Ethics Committee (AEC) and animal research establishment compliance with the NSW Animal Research Legislation and the Australian code for the care and use of animals for scientific purposes Code 8th Edition 2013 (Australian Code). The Panel has found that most AECs, facility staff and investigators are focused on animal welfare issues and have good intentions to follow the legislation and the Australian Code. The guideline is a summary of the most common issues found at AEC and animal research facility inspections and provides advice on how to improve compliance.

Guideline 25 is published on the Animal Ethics Infolink website at:


2. New Animal Research Review Panel Templates
The Animal Research Review Panel has developed some model templates in response to requests for advice from a number of establishments regarding the information the AEC might request for:

- Annual project reports
- Final project reports
- Unexpected adverse event reports
- Application for amendments to an already approved project

These templates have been developed using some models already in place at a number of NSW animal research establishments. The assistance from these establishments is greatly appreciated.

The drafts of these four templates are attached to this email.

The Panel is seeking comments and suggestions on these templates prior to publishing on the Animal Ethics infolink website. If you would like to provide feedback please respond to cathie.savage@dpi.nsw.gov.au by 31 January 2017.

3. Form L and Animal Use statistics

Just a reminder that Form L: Animal Use Statistics 2016 will be due to be submitted to the NSW Department of Primary Industries by 31 March 2017.

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The 2016 Form L is published on the Animal Ethics Infolink website at:
The new 2017 Form L will be published after 31 March 2017. Another Animal Welfare Circular will be sent out at that time explaining some changes to the definition of procedure category 4 for reporting from 2017 onwards.

Best wishes to all

Cathie Savage

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