

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

Section 22 of the Animal Welfare Act 1992 provides that the Minister may approve codes of practice relating to animal welfare.

The *Australian Code of Practice for the Care and Use of Animals for Scientific Purposes* (the Code) was originally gazetted by the then Minister for the Environment, Land and Planning, Mr Bill Wood MLA following recommendation from the Agriculture and Research Management Council of Australia and New Zealand in consultation with key stakeholder groups. The Code is reviewed once in every 5-year period. It has now been deemed necessary to amend the Code to address areas that had been identified as requiring further consideration from the stakeholder groups administering the requirements of the Code.

The provisions of the Code are detailed below:

The purpose of the Code is to guide investigator, teachers, institutions, Animal Ethics Committees and all involved in the care and use of animals for scientific purposes. Encapsulated in these principles is the need in scientific and teaching activities to consider:

- the replacement of animals with other methods;
- the reduction in the number of animals used; and
- the refinement of techniques used to reduce the impact on animals

Section 1 identifies the justification and responsibilities of the investigator, teachers, institutions, Animal Ethics Committees and all involved in the care and use of animals for scientific purposes in relation to General principles for the care and use of animals for scientific purposes.

Section 2 identifies the responsibilities of institutions and their Animal Ethics Committees. This section outlines the responsibilities of the institutions and the responsibilities and operation of Animal Ethics Committees. Included are the Terms of Reference for Animal Ethics Committees, membership, written proposals, operating procedures, assessing procedures, monitoring, annual review, reports to institutions, categorising proposals, and projects that are taking place at more than one institution.

Section 3 identifies the responsibilities of investigators and teachers. This section includes general information concerning planning projects, limiting pain and distress, repeated use of animals in activities, handling and restraint of animals as well as specialised information concerning surgical considerations.

Section 4 is concerned with the acquisition and care of animals in breeding and

holding areas. It outlines the procedures to be followed for obtaining animals from outside the state or territory as well as covering the minimum standards to be maintained in respect of the breeding and holding facilities.

Section 5 identifies procedures to be followed solely in relation to wildlife studies.

Section 6 provides the minimum standards acceptable in relation to the care and use of livestock for scientific and teaching activities.

Section 7 outlines the general principles and responsibilities of teachers in relation to the use of animals in teaching.

Appendix – Bibliography. An extensive appendix and a bibliography as a source of reference and further reading is appended included in the Code.