



## The Australian Society for Medical Research

14 July, 2005

Mr Ross Burton  
Director Animal Welfare Unit NSW  
Department of Primary Industries  
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ORANGE NSW 2800  
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Dear Mr Burton,

The Australian Society for Medical Research (ASMR) is the peak body representing health and medical researchers in Australia. Through more than 1000 direct members and affiliations with 62 specialist societies, medical colleges and patient groups, the ASMR network reaches an additional 140,000 Australians involved, or having an interest in, health and medical research. I am writing on behalf of the ASMR Board to submit comments on the proposed changes to the NSW Government Animal Research Act-1985.

Overall, the proposed revisions of the Regulation as they relate to compliance with the current Australian Code of Practice for the care and use of animals for scientific purposes and the amalgamation of the Department of Agriculture with the Department of Primary Industry, are unlikely to negatively impact on the regulation or compromise animal welfare. The proposed update to bring the legislation in line with recent additions of the Code will strengthen the protection of animals used in research and teaching.

Sincerely,

Maria Kavallaris PhD  
Executive Director and Honorary Secretary, Australian Society for Medical Research

## **Review of the Animal Research Act – Regulation 1985**

### **Specific Responses to proposed changes as they relate to:**

- 7<sup>th</sup> edition of the Australian Code of Practice for the care and use of animals for scientific purposes compliance
- Amalgamation of the Department of Agriculture with the Department of Primary Industry

The proposed changes to the regulation are highly unlikely to negatively impact on the regulation or compromise animal welfare. The Australian Society for Medical Research (ASMR) supports the modifications to the regulation which refer to the most recent addition of the Code and continues to protect animals used in research and teaching.

The proposed change in the regulation to bring the composition of the schools Animal Ethics Committees (AEC) into line with the composition of all other AECs is sound. As currently occurs, committees ensure the well being of animals used in other environments, therefore it seems logical that similar committees will be able to oversee the schools environment.

The changes to Schedule 3 to extend the exemptions from animal supply requirements for schools to include categories 1, 2 and 3 activities as listed in the “Animals in Schools: Animal Welfare Guidelines for Teachers”. These three categories are non-invasive activities and the need to comply with the regulatory requirements outlined in Schedule 1 for use of animals in schools makes this a practical decision.