

ANSWERS TO SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTIONS

NATIONAL HEALTH AND MEDICAL RESEARCH COUNCIL

Topic:

INQUIRY INTO USE OF PRIMATES AND OTHER ANIMALS IN MEDICAL RESEARCH IN NEW SOUTH WALES – Hearing 1 June 2022

1. At the hearing, you advised that information regarding the amount of NHMRC funding for animal experimentation was not published online but was available upon request. In the future, if a member of the public was to request this information from the NHMRC, would you supply it? If your answer is no, can you please explain why not?

Answer:

NHMRC would, on request, supply information on the amount of NHMRC funding for projects that include the use of animals. Following implementation of NHMRC's new grant management system, we are reviewing how to improve transparency of NHMRC-funded research that includes the use of animals, such as publishing data on the proposed use of animals in NHMRC-funded research.

2. What monitoring do you conduct after you have funded a research project involving animal experimentation to ensure that (a) there have not been any unexpected adverse animal welfare outcomes as part of the research and (b) to assess whether the research funded was successful and led to outcomes that will improve human or animal health?

Answer:

(a) Monitoring of research projects involving the use of animals is the responsibility of the animal ethics committee (AEC) that has approved the research. This is a requirement under the *Australian code for the care and use of animals for scientific purposes* (the Code)¹, which is adopted under legislation in all states and territories and a requirement of NHMRC funding. The Code outlines specific requirements for monitoring by the AEC and actions that must be taken by the AEC in response to unexpected adverse events (Clauses 2.3.17–2.3.24).

(b) NHMRC requires the submission of a Final Report following the completion of each Research Activity funded by NHMRC. This enables NHMRC to evaluate the outcomes of funded research. NHMRC also produces impact case studies to demonstrate its contribution to raising the standard of individual and public health throughout Australia.²

¹ nhmrc.gov.au/about-us/publications/australian-code-care-and-use-animals-scientific-purposes

² www.nhmrc.gov.au/about-us/resources/impact-case-studies