



ANIMAL WELFARE

National Animal Ethics Advisory Committee

Annual Report 1 January to 31 December 2022

National Animal Ethics Advisory Committee
C/- Ministry for Primary Industries
P O Box 2526
Wellington 6140
New Zealand

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June 2023

NAEAC

National Animal Ethics Advisory Committee

Contents

Chairperson's Comment	3
Membership	5
Fees	6
Strategic Plan	6
Statutory Activities	6
Other Activities	9
Appendix 1: NAEAC Strategic Plan 2019-2023	12
Appendix 2: Organisations permitted to undertake Research, Testing or Teaching using animals under an approved Code of Ethical Conduct	13

Chairperson's Comment

This was a year of new initiatives for the National Animal Ethics Committee (NAEAC). It included the launch of our new website, consolidation of various documents into one Good Practice Guide for the Use of Animals in Research, Testing and Teaching (RTT), development of an accredited reviewer's induction pack to support the independent review process, a new system for collecting animal use statistics with a stronger focus on collecting information related to implementation of the 3Rs in RTT and enabling members of the public to be present during NAEAC meetings.

The regular NAEAC annual work programme continued over the year with five Codes of Ethical Conduct reviewed by the committee and a range of subcommittee project work including developing

guidance regarding the rehoming of animals and the development of updated euthanasia guidelines. In addition, individual NAEAC members were welcomed as guest attendees at seven AECs around the country. NAEAC's 2020 recommendation to the Minister regarding the need to include larval fish under section 2(d)(ii) of the Act, based on available research evidence of sentience at that early stage of development, was again highlighted to the Minister in 2022 and a statement regarding the use of zebra fish larvae in RTT was published on the NAEAC website.

A definite highlight of the year was awarding an AEC long Service Award to David Peart from AgResearch for his significant contribution with 40 years of service to Animal Ethics. A further highlight was the symposium we shared with the National Animal Welfare Advisory Committee (NAWAC) members to consider the notion of insect sentience, and in particular the development of a Bee Code of Welfare. Various entomologist/ecologists and ethologists from a variety of countries provided members with interesting insight into the sensory world, learning and cognitive abilities, and social behaviour of bees, wasps, and other insects. A rich discussion followed and a commitment was made to consider how NAEAC can improve the inclusion of insects in the RTT space through developing guidelines or recommendations to the Good Practice Guide and the NAEAC website. This will no doubt be an ongoing area for discussion as we discover more about the secret lives and abilities of these intriguing invertebrates.

The 2022 Animal Ethics Chairs and Committees workshop was held in Hamilton and hosted very kindly by AgResearch. To provide NAEAC members with ongoing professional development and provide organisational animal ethics committees with an opportunity to meet NAEAC members and discuss their individual Codes and processes, members visited four research organisations in the Hamilton area to talk about the Animal Ethics Process and the work they do. After being unable to meet in person for so long due to COVID-19, it was great to be in the same room to hear about the important work of these individual committees.

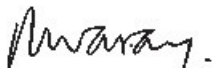
The AEC Committee members forum, immediately following the AEC site visits, provided a platform for information exchange, discussions related to assessing applications, and advances in the application of the 3Rs in RTT (replacement, reduction, and refinement) for members of Animal Ethics Committees from around New Zealand. In keeping with NAEAC's commitment to developing an approach for embedding Mātauranga Māori when considering the ethics of animal use for RTT, we were very pleased to be joined online by our guest speaker Dr Willy-John Martin who led an extremely thought-provoking



discussion. Delegates were encouraged to consider how organisational AECs and NAEAC could build capability and understanding in relation to their work in the RTT space.

Sadly, all good things tend to come to an end, and in 2022 two long serving NAEAC members retired, having each served 6 productive years on the national committee. Drs Arnja Dale and Rob Hazelwood provided their considerable expertise to the committee, chairing subcommittees and contributing to a variety of work areas during their terms. NAEAC is grateful to both of these valuable members, who each leave NAEAC and the RTT space much improved for their input.

Finally, I would like to record my personal thanks to my NAEAC colleagues for their hard work as well as the support they have provided to me this year, and a special thanks to the NAEAC deputy chair Dr Jacquie Harper. In addition, on behalf of the NAEAC members I would like to thank our MPI colleagues for the excellent support they give us to enable us to carry out our work.



Professor Natalie Waran
Chairperson (Appointed 1.11.21)

Membership

Committee Members	Expiry of Appointment
Professor Natalie K Waran BSc (Hons), PhD Executive Dean, Faculty of Education, Humanities and Health Science, Eastern Institute of Technology, Te Pūkenga (Independent Chairperson)	31.10.24
Dr Arnja R Dale BSc, PhD Chief Scientific Officer, Royal New Zealand Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (RNZSPCA; nominated by the RNZSPCA)	31.10.22
Mr Robert P Hazelwood BSc Animal Services Manager, MSD Animal Health (nominated by Agcarm Inc)	31.10.22
Dr Angenita B Harding BVSc, MBA (Dist) Veterinarian	31.10.25
Dr Jacquie L Harper* BSc (Hons), PhD General Manager – Research and Innovation, Bragato Research Institute	31.10.25
Ms Rachel A Heeney BSc, Dip Tchg Head of Biology, Epsom Girls Grammar School (nominated by the Ministry of Education)	31.10.24
Dr Michael R King B Appl Sc (Hons), PhD Senior Lecturer, Bioethics Centre, University of Otago (nominated by the Health Research Council of New Zealand)	31.10.25
Dr Dianne T H Wepa RSW, PhD Senior Lecturer, Adjunct, Auckland University of Technology	31.10.24
Professor Laura Bennet MA, PhD Professor of Physiology, Faculty of Medical and Health Sciences, The University of Auckland	31.10.24
Dr Janine A Duckworth BAg Sc (Hons), PhD Scientist, Manaaki Whenua Landcare Research New Zealand Ltd	31.10.24
Dr Joanne Halter BVSc, PDip (Business) Technical Market Development Manager New Zealand with MSD Animal Health (nominated by Agcarm Inc)	31.10.25
Dr Jessica Walker BSc, MSc, PDip (Higher Education), PhD National Science Manager, Royal New Zealand Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (RNZSPCA; nominated by the RNZSPCA)	31.10.25

*Dr Jacquie Harper was elected Deputy Chair for 2022

Fees

Government policy requires disclosure of fees paid to members of statutory boards and committees. The daily fee paid to committee members during 2022 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 2022.

Member	Fees paid during 2022 (gross)
L Bennett	\$4168.1
A Dale	\$2600
J Duckworth ¹	\$7692.65
R Hazelwood	\$5203.54
N Harding	\$6390
J Harper	\$3734.50
R Heeney	\$2530.42
M King	\$6742.10
N Waran	\$8016.25
D Wepa	\$4825
J Holter	\$0
J Walker	\$0

¹ J Duckworth's fees are paid directly to her employer as recompense for time lost from her primary employment.

Strategic Plan

NAEAC's current strategic plan is attached to this report as Appendix 1. Progress on the associated workplan is discussed and reviewed at each meeting.

Statutory Activities

Section 63 of the Animal Welfare Act details the statutory functions of NAEAC. This annual report addresses each of the functions listed in the Act below.

Advice to the Minister on ethical and animal welfare issues arising from research, testing and teaching

NAEAC did not make any recommendations to the Minister in relation to animal welfare issues arising from research, testing, and teaching during 2022.

Recommendations to the Minister under section 3(3) (relating to manipulation)

No recommendations were made to the Minister under section 3(3) of the Animal Welfare Act 1999 during 2022.

Recommendations to the Director-General under section 85 (relating to use of non-human hominids)

No recommendations were made to the minister under section 85 of the Animal Welfare Act 1999 during 2022.

Provision of advice and information on the development and review of codes of ethical conduct

NAEAC reviewed six codes of ethical conduct during 2022:

- South Pacific Sera
- The University of Auckland
- The University of Otago
- Te Pūkenga
- The University of Canterbury
- Victoria University of Wellington

Recommendations to the Director-General concerning the approval, amendment, suspension, or revocation of any code of ethical conduct

In relation to the codes of ethical conduct reviewed in 2022:

- The committee's advice to the Director-General of the Ministry for Primary Industries was that the codes be approved under the Animal Welfare Act 1999, subject to some minor changes recommended by NAEAC, except for Te Pūkenga which continues to be stepped through the process and will be recommended in 2023.

NAEAC note that Te Pūkenga, is a consolidation of New Zealand polytechnic organisations.

Recommendations to the Minister concerning the setting of standards and policies for codes of ethical conduct

No recommendations were made to the Minister relating to setting standards or policies for the development of codes of ethical conduct.

Provision of information and advice to animal ethics committees

NAEAC continued to provide information to AECs in a variety of ways.

Online

Routine advice is provided on an ad hoc basis to individual enquiries to the secretariat, the Chair, and members of the committee.

NAEAC has several documents lodged on its webpage and these are continually updated:

During the year the following documents were uploaded to the NAEAC webpage:

- The revised Good Practice Guide for the use of animals in research, testing and teaching (GPG) 2022, which now includes several documents consolidated into one, was revised and uploaded.

AEC newsletters

Three newsletters to AECs were published in 2022. The newsletters contain a Chair's update, a profile of a member of NAEAC, excerpts from meeting minutes along with articles and information of interest to AECs.

AEC Workshop

AEAC hosted an AEC Workshop at the AgResearch Ruakura Campus, Hamilton.

Members of AECs from around the country have the opportunity to learn, to network and to raise and discuss the many questions that arise when they consider applications to manipulate animals for the purposes of RTT.

For the 2022 workshop, NAEAC chose to emphasise Mātauranga Māori and Animal Ethics, non-compliance and adverse events.

The workshop consisted of a combination of open forum discussions, a panel Q&A discussion and a keynote speaker.

The AEC Workshop discussed:

- Lessons learned through COVID-19 Pandemic and the impacts this had on animal welfare in research, testing and teaching.
- The Openness Agreement
- Non-Compliance and adverse events
- Mātauranga Māori and Animal Ethics

Feedback from delegates was consistently positive and AEC members valued the opportunity to talk with others who fill the same role on their respective committees.

Code holder and AEC visits

Once a year, NAEAC visits code holders (and other organisations with an agreement to use their code), to meet their AECs and view research facilities in a regional location.

In 2022, those visits were made in the Hamilton area and very informative visits were hosted by:

- DairyNZ;
- AgResearch;
- Livestock Improvement Corporation Limited;
- National Institute of Water and Atmospheric Research (NIWA)

AEC attendance

Where and when possible, NAEAC members attend AEC meetings in their area in an observer's role. During 2022 many AEC meeting schedules were disrupted. NAEAC members visited:

- AgResearch Ltd – Ruakura (NAEAC)
- Department of Conservation (Nita Harding)
- Lincoln University (Janine Duckworth)
- National Institute of Water & Atmospheric Research Ltd – Hamilton office (NAEAC)
- DairyNZ – Lye Farm (NAEAC)
- Livestock Improvement Corporation Limited - Eureka (NAEAC)
- University of Waikato (Nita Harding)

Recommendations for approval by the Director-General of persons suitable for appointment as accredited reviewers

NAEAC made one recommendation for an accredited reviewer to be reappointed in 2022.

NAEAC and MPI collaboratively developed an accredited reviewer's induction pack to support the reviewers in their work, this includes an invitation to attend a NAEAC codes of ethical conduct meeting.

In addition, the accredited reviewers Performance and Technical Standards was reviewed, finalised and republished via a Gazette notice.

A Quality Management System for processes relating to the code of ethical conduct review process is underway, this includes process mapping and the roll out of a new system for collecting the Animal Manipulation Statistics annually.

Consideration of the reports of independent reviews of code holders and animal ethics committees

The independent reviewer reports on performance against the expiring code were provided alongside the draft code of ethical conduct that were reviewed by NAEAC. Reports are referred to when NAEAC makes its recommendation to the Director-General on whether a draft code is suitable for approval.

Recommendations to the Minister under section 118(3) (relating to the power of the Minister to approve research or testing)

Under section 118 of the Animal Welfare Act 1999, the Minister may authorise any person or organisation to carry out research or testing without the approval of an animal ethics committee where the Minister is satisfied that such research or testing is necessary in the national interest.

Under subsection 3 the Minister is required to consult with NAEAC before exercising these powers.

No requests for such advice were made to NAEAC in 2022.

Other Activities

Openness

NAEAC is fully supportive of this initiative and has actively encouraged code of ethical conduct holders to participate fully.

Promoting the 3 Rs

After a thorough development process, MPI launched a new system for the collection of animal use statistics in late 2022. In addition to the information that is required under the Animal Welfare (Records and Statistics) Regulations 1999, organisations were asked to describe how they implemented the 3Rs (replacement, reduction, and refinement) in 2022.

Despite these being optional questions, numerous organisations provided information around their incorporation of the 3Rs. Moving forward, NAEAC and MPI will be working together to analyse the information that was received.

The results will be shared in a newly expanded 3Rs section in the 2023 MPI annual animal use statistics report. This will include a 'spotlight' to celebrate a specific piece of 3Rs work (with permission from the organisation) as well as aggregate data across organisations to increase openness and transparency regarding the 3Rs in New Zealand.

NAEAC awards

Service

From time to time, NAEAC makes awards to AEC members on the nomination of their organisation or AEC, to recognise an outstanding contribution.

A NAEAC AEC Service Award was presented to David Peart, AgResearch, during his last AEC meeting, 24th June 2022.

David has a high profile in the AEC community, having dedicated over 40 years' service to Animal Ethics. In 1982, David was elected President of Waikato Federated Farmers and the new appointee on the Ruakura Animal Ethics Committee, Chaired by Dr Ron Kilgour. Since this time, David continued to serve on the AEC at the request of various Chairs over the years due to his wealth of knowledge ranging from farming to research and a strong grasp of ethical issues. Over the years he has seen huge changes in the animal ethics landscape in New Zealand and changes in public acceptability of research practices.

David continued to provide a unique perspective, due to this vast experience and his ability to apply that knowledge in assisting his ethics committee colleagues with the broadest understanding of factors impacting and influencing manipulations.

The Aotearoa New Zealand John Schofield Award

In 2022, applications were called for the Aotearoa New Zealand John Schofield Three Rs Implementation Award, a biennial award jointly offered by NAEAC and the New Zealand board of the Australian and New Zealand Council for the Care of Animals in Research and Teaching (ANZCCART(NZ)). A total of three applications were received.

The quality of the applications was particularly high, and each had elements that would have made them worthy recipients of the award. R Neil Ward and co-applicants from Massey University were selected as the recipient of the award for their application Animal Tissue Sharing by Website.

The project aims to reduce to the number of animals killed for use in research, testing and teaching through facilitating tissue sharing once animals are killed..

Mini-tutorials

NAEAC keeps up committee members' professional development by using both formal and informal 'mini-tutorials'.

During 2022 NAEAC hosted one mini-tutorial.

Dr Juliet Cayzer, Massey University, and Dr Jodi Salinsky, The University of Auckland, presented to the committee on the topic of Rehoming Animals Used in Research in August 2022.

Requests for advice

During 2022, NAEAC was asked for advice on several occasions. The requests covered a wide range of subjects, including:

- questions from AECs wanting to clarify operational matters;
- queries relating to the need for ethical approval;
- queries relating to procedural requirements for dealing with minor code of ethical conduct breaches;
- questions relating to finding candidates for statutory roles on an AEC;
- questions regarding amendments to an approved code of ethical conduct.

New work streams

Preparation of euthanasia guidelines

NAEAC has prepared updated euthanasia guidelines for production animals and wildlife/feral species and fish. Recommendations relating to invertebrates will be added in the future.

Joint Meetings

NAEAC participated in two joint meetings during 2022.

The first was with the Australia and New Zealand Council for the Care of Animals in Research and Teaching (ANZCCART) and the second was with its sister statutory committee the National Animal Welfare Advisory Committee (NAWAC).

During the meeting with ANZCCART several topics the two committees shared an interest in were discussed.

The topic for the joint NAEAC/NAWAC meeting was insect sentience.

Several excellent speakers covered topics including; a general overview of honeybee health in New Zealand, pain responses in insects, cognition and knowledge transmission in insects and the criteria used to determine sentience and how it applies to insects.

Committee members' activity at conferences/meetings

During their day to day working lives, NAEAC members frequently attend conferences and meetings outside of their direct committee responsibilities.

Among conferences attended by committee members in 2022 were:

- N Harding presented at a New Zealand Veterinary conference in June and spoke about how to determine if a project requires ethics approval or not.
- A Dale and M King attended and presented at the annual ANZCCART conference in Melbourne.
- M King attended the Australian Bioethics seminar and presented on the ethics of killing for the Animal Welfare Network Aotearoa.
- N Waran visited South Africa where she addressed equine welfare, the use of horses in competitive sports, and sustainability, and presented on welfare in relation to equine sports for the Animal Welfare Network Aotearoa.

Retiring Members

Dr Arnja Dale and Rob Hazelwood retired from NAEAC after six years of service.

Rob contributed his expertise in biological science and the commercial use of animals in research, testing and teaching to the work of the Committee. He was a tireless champion of continuous improvements to the NAEAC Good Practice Guide.

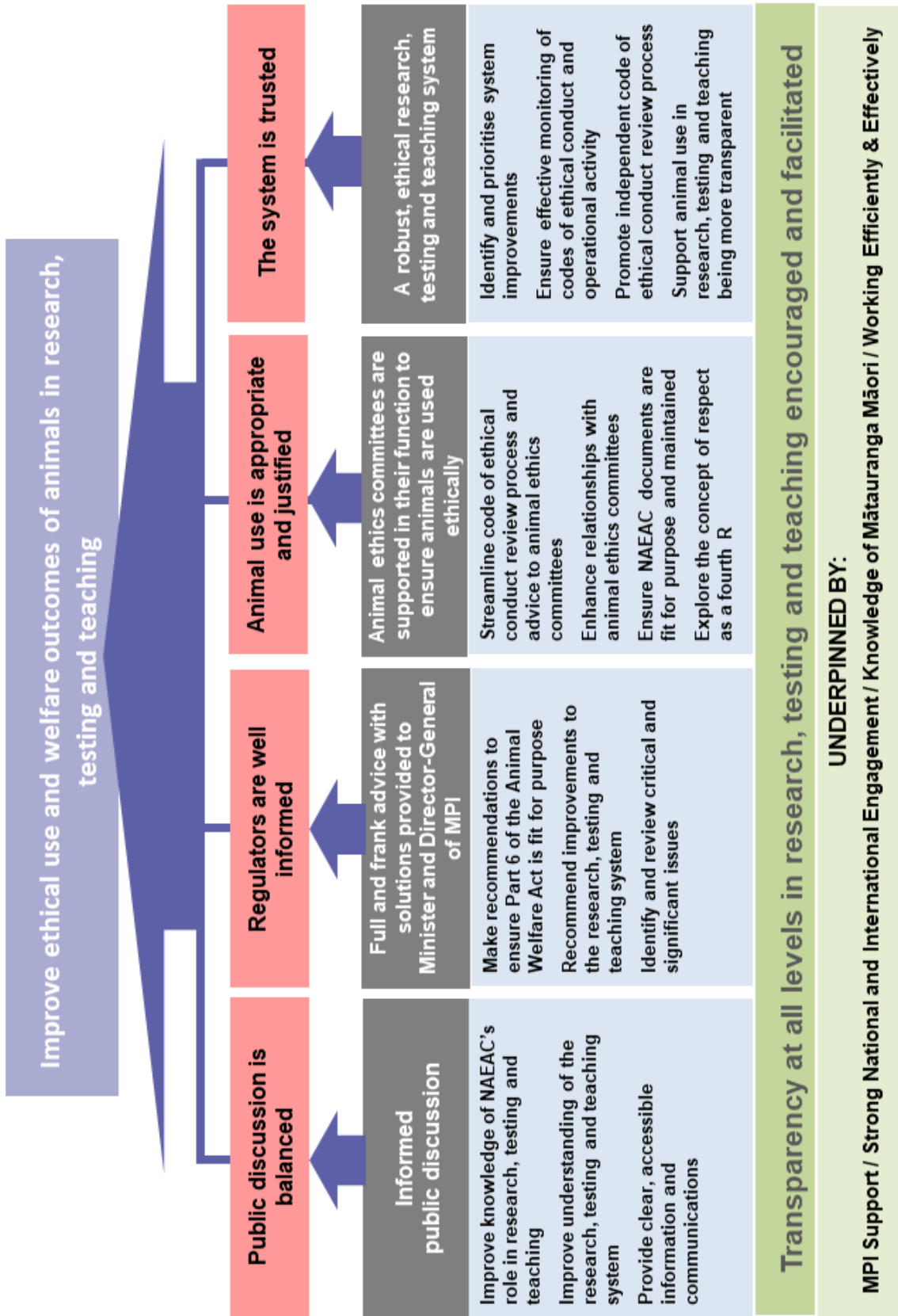
Arnja brought her experience and knowledge in animal welfare advocacy, biological science and the manipulation of animal in research, testing and teaching. She made a significant contribution to the code of ethical conduct subcommittee as well as working to develop training opportunities for AECs and tools to promote a better understanding of the RTT system.

We express our profound gratitude to both, as they were invaluable members of NAEAC, and we wish them well as they conclude their service.

Appendix 1: NAEAC Strategic Plan 2019-2023

National Animal Ethics Advisory Committee (NAEAC) Strategy

2019-2023



Appendix 2: Organisations permitted to undertake Research, Testing or Teaching using animals under an approved Code of Ethical Conduct

On 31 December 2022, the following organisations either held their own approved code of ethical conduct or had an arrangement to use another organisation's code.

Note: Organisations with an asterisk are code holders

Abacus Biotech Ltd	Farm Health Services Ltd
Ag Challenge Ltd	FIL (New Zealand) Ltd
Agilis Vets Ltd	Fonterra Co-operative Group Ltd
AgResearch Ltd *	Franklin Vets
AgriHealth NZ Ltd	Gallagher Group Ltd
AgVet NZ Ltd	Halter Ltd
Alleva Animal Health Ltd *	Haywood, Ursula (also referred to as Antahi Innovations Ltd)
Alltech (NZ) Ltd	Intuit Regulatory & Marketing Ltd
Animal Breeding Services (2007) Ltd	Invetus NZ Ltd *
Animal Pharma NZ Ltd	Jurox Pty Ltd
Ara Institute of Canterbury Ltd	K9 Medical Detection New Zealand Charitable Trust
Argenta Manufacturing Ltd	Karori Sanctuary Trust
Aroa Biosurgery Ltd	Kiwicare Corporation Ltd
Arotec Diagnostics Ltd	Landcare Research New Zealand Ltd - Manaaki Whenua *
AsureQuality Ltd	Landcorp Farming Ltd
Auckland University of Technology	Lincoln University *
Auckland Veterinary Centre 1990 Ltd	Livestock Improvement Corporation Limited
Auckland Zoological Park *	Malaghan Institute of Medical Research
Barenbrug Agriseeds	ManukaMed Limited Partnership
BCF Ultrasound	Massey University *
Beef + Lamb New Zealand	Matamata Veterinary Services Ltd
BioCell Corporation Ltd	Matthews, Lindsay
Boehringer Ingelheim Animal Health New Zealand Ltd	Medical Plus New Zealand Ltd
Boffa Miskell Ltd	MPI Diagnostic and Surveillance Services
BW & MB McLeod Partnership	MPI Mycoplasma bovis Programme
Cave and Harvey Research	National Institute of Water and Atmospheric Research Ltd *
Cawthron Institute	National Trade Academy
Cognosco, Anexa Animal Health	Nelson Marlborough Institute of Technology Ltd *
Cropmark Seeds Ltd	New Zealand Association of Science Educators *
CRV Limited	New Zealand Institute for Plant and Food Research Ltd
CuroNZ Ltd	Neurotranslationz Ltd
Dairy Goat Co-operative (NZ) Ltd	neXtgen Agri Ltd
Dairy Trust Taranaki	North Canterbury Veterinary Clinics
DairyNZ Ltd	Northern New Zealand Seabird Charitable Trust
Department of Conservation *	Nutrinza
Dermcare Vet	Nzeno Ltd
Duopharm Animal Health Ltd	NZ AutoTraps Ltd
Eastern Institute of Technology Ltd *	
Engender Technologies Ltd	
EpiVets Ltd	
EquiBreed NZ Ltd	
Eurofins Animal Health NZ	

On-Farm Research Ltd
Optimum Bio Innovations Ltd
Orillion
Otago Polytechnic Ltd
Otakaro Pathways Ltd
Pellew, Petra (Veterinary Professional Development Ltd)
PGG Wrightson Seeds Ltd
Practical CPD Ltd
ProTag Ltd
Ruakura Technologies Ltd
Ruminant Biotech Corp Ltd
Schering-Plough Animal Health Limited *
Seacrest Farms Ltd
Skretting Australia
SNPshot Technologies Ltd
SoleTech Ltd
South Pacific Sera Limited *
Southern Institute of Technology
SPCA
Synlait Milk Ltd
Synthase Biotech Ltd
Te Whare Wānanga o Awanuiārangi
The Cacophony Project
The New Zealand King Salmon Co Ltd
The New Zealand Merino Company Ltd
ThermoFisher
Toi Ohomai Institute of Technology Ltd *
Trinity Bioactives Ltd
Unitec Institute of Technology Ltd
Universal College of Learning Ltd
University of Auckland *
University of Canterbury *
University of Otago *
University of Waikato *
Vet Nurse Plus
Vet Resource Ltd
Veterinary Centre Oamaru
Veterinary Enterprises Group
Veterinary Health Solutions*
Vetlife Ltd
VetPartners Ltd
VetSouth Ltd
Victoria University of Wellington *
Waikato Institute of Technology Ltd
Waikato Regional Council
Wellington Institute of Technology Ltd
Wellington Zoo Trust
Zoetis New Zealand Ltd

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