

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH PORTFOLIO

Budget Estimates 2014 - 2015, 2/3 June 2014

Ref No: SQ14-000532

OUTCOME: 1 – Population Health

Topic: Animal Testing

Type of Question: Written Question on Notice

Senator: Rhiannon, Lee

Question:

What measures are in place to ensure that animal experiments are not duplicated in different institutions?

- a) Is there a national database to avoid this happening?
- b) If not, why not?

Answer:

The National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) requires all institutions receiving NHMRC funds to adhere to the *Australian code for the care and use of animals for scientific purposes* (the Code), and to the *Australian Code for the Responsible Conduct of Research* (Code of Conduct).

The Code, which is developed by NHMRC and variously adopted in all state and territory legislation, states that:

- activities involving the use of animals must not be repeated within a project or between projects unless such repetition is essential for the purpose or design of the project (e.g. sound experimental design, statistical analysis, corroboration by the same or another investigator)
- before the use of animals is considered, all existing information relevant to the proposed aim(s) must be examined.

The Code of Conduct states that ‘Researchers have a responsibility to their colleagues and the wider community to disseminate a full account of their research as broadly as possible’. This requirement applies to all research.

- a) The National Health and Medical Research Council is not aware of a national database for animal experiments.
- b) The Code provides measures to avoid duplication.