

## Animal Research - Responsibilities of AHS and NSW Animal Research Act 1985

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**Functional Sub group** Clinical/ Patient Services - Research

**Summary** Directs that Public Health Organisations adhere to NHMRC Code of Practice for the care and use of animals for scientific purposes.

**Author Branch** Epidemiology and Research

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**Applies to** Area Health Services/Chief Executive Governed Statutory Health Corporation, Board Governed Statutory Health Corporations, Affiliated Health Organisations, NSW Ambulance Service, NSW Dept of Health, Public Health Units, Public Hospitals

**Distributed to** Public Health System, NSW Ambulance Service, NSW Department of Health, Public Health Units, Public Hospitals

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**Director-General**

**Compliance with this policy directive is mandatory.**

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**CIRCULAR**

<b>File No</b>	01/2493
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<b>Contact</b>	Research & Development Policy Branch (02 ) 93919854

**RESPONSIBILITIES OF AREA HEALTH SERVICES REGARDING  
ANIMAL RESEARCH AND THE NSW ANIMAL RESEARCH ACT (1985)**

NSW Health supports the advancement of knowledge and the pursuit of better health care treatments for the people of New South Wales through research and teaching. NSW Health recognises the need for the use of animals for research and teaching purposes in the NSW public health system. NSW Health supports this use when conducted in accordance with the *NHMRC Code of Practice for the Care and Use of Animals for Scientific Purposes* and the *NSW Animal Research Act (1985)*.

All staff employed in the NSW public health system, those acting as agents of the NSW public health system, and organisations in receipt of funding from NSW Health are required to adhere to the *NHMRC Code of Practice for the Care and Use of Animals for Scientific Purposes* and where the activity is conducted in New South Wales, also in accordance with the *NSW Animal Research Act (1985)*. Failure to adhere to the Code of Practice may result in disciplinary action and/or the withdrawal of funding.

Adherence by an organisation to the Code of Practice in the conduct of all activities involving animals is a condition of National Health & Medical Research Council (NHMRC) funding to that organisation. Area Health Service Chief Executive Officers are reminded that failure to adhere to the Code of Practice may, regardless of the source of funding for a particular project, place at jeopardy all funding received by the Area Health Service from the NHMRC.

Area Health Service Chief Executive Officers are also reminded of their statutory obligation to ensure that all activities involving the use of animals are consistent with the *NSW Animal Research Act (1985)*. Breaches of the Act may result in the prosecution of individuals and corporations.

Further information regarding this circular and the responsibilities of Area Health Services regarding the use of animals may be obtained from the Research & Development Policy Branch on 02 93919854.

Michael Reid  
**Director-General**

Distributed in accordance with circular list(s):

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In accordance with the provisions incorporated in the Accounts and Audit Determination, the Board of Directors, Chief Executive Officers and their equivalents, within a public health organisation, shall be held responsible for ensuring the observance of Departmental policy (including circulars and procedure manuals) as issued by the Minister and the Director-General of the Department of Health.