

MEETING FOR MEMBERS OF ANIMAL ETHICS COMMITTEES
28 April 2011
EVALUATION FORM SUMMARY

Key

- A:** How well did the meeting meet your expectations?
B: How well did the meeting cover topics on the program?
C: How satisfied were you with the meetings relevance to the activities / roles of your AEC?
D: Were you satisfied with the amount of opportunity provided to you to participate in the discussions?
E: How satisfied were you with the overall usefulness of the meeting?
Grading: 1 – 5 (1 = Extremely well/Extremely satisfied; 3 = Well/Satisfied; 5 = Poorly/Not satisfied)

	A	B	C	D	E	How will you apply knowledge gained to your AEC?	How could this meeting be improved?	Other comments
1.	4	3	4	3	4	Will access Code of Practice and annual report template	More content on the operation and structure of AEC meetings. There seems to be a wide divergence between different committees.	The venue is excellent
2.	2	2	2	3	2	The workshop was useful with respect to thinking about encouraging researchers to plan their proposals to consider the best use of animals.	Audio was sometimes difficult to hear.	Break out discussion groups were very useful.
3.	3	3	3	4	3	Different viewpoints – keep perspective wide Plans for future Use more resources and research widely Network	More networking potential by more group work	More discussion groups please Especially satisfied with the “online” part Thank you, well done. Need list of attendees and their email addresses
4.	2	3	2	2	2	Further discussions on how to make decisions on ethical matters.	More opinions and discussions on the actual process of making decisions on ethics issues.	For many speakers the sound volume was a bit low for all the audience to hear clearly.
5.	2	1	2	1	1		All good.	The case studies groups were good and should be used again.
6.	2	2	3	3	2	Mainly web resources of M Rose plus trying to increase electronic use.	Maybe another breakout group to increase interaction.	

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7.	2	2	2	2	2	More aware of things to consider and think about when assessing AEC applications Appreciate the various viewpoints and perspectives from different category members of the AEC How to prepare a better quality AEC Annual Report Good reference sites – weblinks etc	Provide map and directions to venue Better signage – got lost! More interactive sessions	Good pacing of schedule Short break between 2.30 – 3pm? Schedule main/imp't talks first – ie lab species, AEC systems etc
8.	2	2	2	2	2	Discussion group info will make our ACEC Meetings more effective	Longer time for breakout group discussions	None
9.	4	3	4	2	5	Nothing to pass on	Discussions/presentations on how AECs conduct meetings, inspections, monitor protocols, member training, problems Decrease the amount of individual project reports/presentations to increase time allotted for above. Don't find break out group discussions useful – not enough time for full and conclusive discussion/results Increase awareness of codes, resources, tools, media, public perception.	HUGE thanks to Prof Margaret Rose and many thanks to all who contributed to the meeting. Electronic meetings and systems talks were best choice for the purpose of this meeting.
10.	2	1	3	1	2	Increased awareness of the need to explore the scientific value of protocols	Improve training on implementing the Code and the role and legal responsibility of the various categories of AEC members.	Excellent venue and speakers
11.	3	2	3	2	3	Developing an improved training model for staff.		A reminder to book parking if possible.
12.	1	1	1	1	1			
13.	2	2	2	2	2	Need to request for or be provided with relevant details about the animal research proposal for proper evaluation by the AEC Importance of health monitoring score sheets for welfare assessment of animals.		Interesting and informative presentations on marine pinnipeds, their behaviour and training
14.	3	2	2	2	2			
15.	2	1	2	3	2	Discuss the AEC changes to meeting processes and possible inclusion of pre-meeting questions and responses by researchers.	Bit more time for group discussions.	A bit more time would have been good for discussions. Enjoyed it again.
16.	2	2	2	2	2	Closer attention to annual return. More attention to 3Rs	Eliminate references to local aborigines at beginning. Nothing to do with animal welfare.	

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17.	2	2	2	2	2	It will encourage me to steer AEC discussions toward ethical issues rather than minor details.		Even though the theme of the meeting was “weighing ethical decisions against the benefits of research”, the protocol reviews focused a lot on practical detail and did not take into account the fact these were only summaries. I would encourage on-going efforts to provide ethical discussion on AECs rather than a focus on detail that can become too legalistic.
18.	3	3	3	2	3			
19.	1	1	1	2	1			
20.	3	3	3	3	3	Written report to meeting	Future topic: ethics in regard to pharmaceutical companies and membership of their AECs.	Please provide a statement of attendance for future meetings. Required for NATA audits and professional CPE.
21.	2	2	2	2	2	Enhance, by taking back some notes from today to those that could not attend.	Much improved with more participation, good format now. Getting through a lot in a very short period. Well done to all.	Really liked the panel discussion. Great facts and thinking points for further mulling over. Also, liked the break-out group discussions. Looking forward to the next one, hopefully, annually instead of every 2 years.
22.	2	2	2	2	2	Provides added understanding of welfare issues when considering applications.		Congratulations for an excellent meeting.
23.	1	1	2	1	1	Will discuss with Secretariat. Will modify monitoring criteria for some protocols.	Identifying the skills in the room with attendees list.	Well worth a day's participation.
24.	3	3	3	3	3	As an Exec Officer/Admin I will look into some of the “Use of technology” ideas.	An afternoon tea break (even just 10mins for a quick stretch!)	
25.	2	2	2	2	2	I will take the issues and knowledge back to my work AEC meetings and reinforce their appreciation of the principles and issues.	The timing of the meeting could have been better if not too soon after Easter.	Great lunch! It has been enjoyable and informative. Good opportunity to catch up with old contacts and renew my enthusiasm and commitment. Case studies was a great way of getting active participation. Good range of speakers.
26.	1	1	3	3	2			
27.	1	2	2	1	3	More information as to what other AECs do and how their teams work.	Some lectures shorter, some longer.	

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28.	3	2	3	2	2 ½	Consider alternative methods of communication. Re-stimulate discussion on if there are other ways of doing things.	Try to appeal to Category D members a little more. Perhaps a topic specifically on this – importance of non-aligned persons or AECs – experiences of such people (seemed like the vast majority were institutional AEC members (could be wrong on this though)	
29.	1	1	1	1	1			
30.	1	1	1	1	1			Specific training on chair and inst. officer roles may help (not as part of this meeting – this is great for engaging regular AEC members).
31.	2	3	2	1	2			
32.	3	3	3	3	3			
33.	2	2	2	1	2	Reflections and evaluations from looking at case studies will help in evaluation of our own AEC protocols. Good opportunities to hear other participants thoughts on assessing protocols.	Case study break out groups could have been smaller. No need to have in depth findings from each break out group reported back – can be a little overkill.	Good variety of topics covered. K-Lynn Smith's talk was interesting and well delivered. Excellent.
34.	2	2	2	1	2	Consider online electronic reporting and meetings	More on how other committees are functioning and how to speed up meetings.	
35.	2	2	3	2	2	I am no presently an AEC member (recently resigned)	This meeting would be a good opportunity to have a forum discussion about ways in which the code might be improved – eg areas in which the current code does not provide sufficiently clear guidance. Rather than just talking about what we do, it would be useful for a large group of AEC members to discuss what we want to see in future editions of the Code.	Excellent lunch – thank you.
36.	3	3	3	2	2	I consider it is interesting to meet and discuss topics with different groups of members from other Ethics Committees. Therefore it is a good idea to be selected into various working groups, exactly as you have done – and I am sure it is a great benefit for everyone. After all we can all still learn!	Again, as I have mentioned before, some Lecturers do not speak clearly to an audience, which is important to hold their attention throughout. Full praise particularly to Dr David Neil whose diction was clear, and he spoke well.	Congratulations to Lynette Chave and Janelle Townsend and your hard working team for all the preparation you have done to make this meeting a success. Also all good wishes to Margaret Rose for her well earned retirement. I shall miss her!

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37.	3	2	3	2	3	Weighing ethical decisions against the benefit of research. Quite a few significant points from panel discussions and case studies.	A little more time for Panel Discussion and Case Studies – shorter presentations on (1) marine mammal training and behaviour, (2) poultry in behaviour research (say 20mins). 1 and 2 were very interesting and informative for AEC members but only needed 20mins presentation as with sheep behaviour training.	This meeting allows time to network with other AEC members which is very important in NSW
38.	3	2	3	2	3	Not very different from current system. Basically the current behaviour/attitude of committee members is very good. Sometimes some members (in my opinion) are too exacting in their approach to protocols, and there is unnecessary discussion. It can lead to a committee getting so involved with detail that the purpose of the protocol is not kept as the most important criteria.	A section showing examples of good and bad lay sections and overall clarity, then a workshop session to follow would be good – and based around medical research, not the easy ones on wildlife surveys etc.	
39.	3	2	4	3	3	There was not much that I could use. I found Session 2 and the first part of Session 3 the most interesting. Whilst some presentations were of interest they were irrelevant, in my mind, to the purpose of our AEC.	More relevant subjects	Whilst the venue is very good the parking situation is dire, leaving the meeting every two hours to move a car is not conducive to keeping interest alive.

Overall Rating:

Excellent: 8 (21% of respondents)
 Very good: 21 (54% of respondents)
 Satisfactory: 8 (20% of respondents)
 Poor: 2 (5% of respondents)
 Unsatisfactory: 0

Category A attendees: 14
 Category B attendees: 6
 Category C attendees: 10
 Category D attendees: 9

Category 'Other' attendees/
 Exec Officers/Chairs: 31
 Non AEC attendees: 8
 ARRP/AWB attendees: 9

Total attendees: 87

30+ different AECs represented