Ref: 79/26

9 April 2026

Memorandum

To: Diocesan Directors
Principals of RI & MPJP Schools

cc: CRMNA

From: Marita Winters, Deputy CEO

Subject: *Animal Research Authority*

Colleagues

As you would be aware, the NSW *Animal Research Act 1985* (the Act) governs the use of animals in schools for educational purposes. Catholic Schools NSW (CSNSW) meets a requirement of the Act by issuing an *Animal Research Authority* to each school annually.

Accompanying this advice is the annual *Animal Research Authority* for the Principal and teachers who use animals to complete and retain within the school. In accordance with the Act, both pages of the Authority need to be completed. The names of teachers approved by the principal to handle animals should be listed on the second page of the Authority, along with each teacher's signature.

The Animal Welfare Liaison Officer, appointed by the principal, must also be identified. The principal is the Animal Welfare Liaison Officer in Schools for Specific Purposes, primary and infants schools. In central and secondary schools, it is generally the teacher most qualified to supervise the use of animals for teaching and research purposes. A full description of the role of the Animal Welfare Liaison Officer can be found on the NSW Department of Education website: https://education.nsw.gov.au/teaching-and-learning/animals-in-schools/animals-in-schools-compliance/responsibilities

In accordance with the Act, the information on page two of the *Animal Research Authority* must be updated when changes in personnel occur at the school. The *Animal Research Authority* must be retained at the school and made available to appropriately authorised people including officers of CSNSW, inspectors from the NSW Department of Primary Industries Animal Welfare Unit and officers involved with, and members of, the Schools Animal Care and Ethics Committee.

Please ensure that the attached Animal Research Authority is distributed to schools and completed and retained in a centralised place within each school by **Monday, 20 April 2026**. If you require further information about the Animal Research Authority, please contact the NSW Animal Welfare Coordinator at animalwelfare@det.nsw.edu.au or the CSNSW Head of Education Policy and Regulation, Dr Andrew Mellas, at andrew.mellas@csnsw.catholic.edu.au or on (02) 9287 1553.

Kind regards

Marita Winters
Deputy Chief Executive Officer

Attachment: Animal Research Authority (Schools)