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26 April 2023

Memorandum

To: Diocesan Directors
Principals of RI & MPJP Schools

cc: Federation of RI & MPJP Schools NSW/ACT

From: Danielle Cronin, Director Education Policy

Subject: Animal Research Authority for Schools

Colleagues

The use of animals in schools for educational purposes is governed by the Animal Research Act (1985) NSW. Catholic Schools NSW meets a requirement of this 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. 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 accessed through the [Animals in Schools webpage](#).

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 Catholic Schools NSW representatives, 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.

If you require further information about the Animal Research Authority or the Animal Research Establishment, please contact Mary-Clare Turnbull at maryclare.turnbull@csnsw.catholic.edu.au.



Danielle Cronin
Director, Education Policy