

Modification history

| Release | Comments |
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| Release 1 | This version released with ACM Animal Care and Management Training Package Version 3.0. |

| ACMATE5X1 | Assist with review of ethics in an animal research proposal |
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| Application | <p>This unit of competency describes the skills and knowledge required to analyse and assess the ethical components of a research proposal against the requirements of the organisation's Animal Ethics Committee (AEC), relevant legislation and the Australian Code for the Care and Use of Animals for Scientific Purposes).</p> <p>The unit applies to individuals who work as animal technicians and contribute perspectives to the optimal and ethical design of experiments and research via inputs and feedback to the AEC.</p> <p>No occupational licensing, legislative or certification requirements apply to this unit at the time of publication.</p> |
| Prerequisite Unit | Nil |
| Unit Sector | Animal Technology (ATE) |

| Elements | Performance Criteria |
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| <i>Elements describe the essential outcomes.</i> | <i>Performance criteria describe the performance needed to demonstrate achievement of the element.</i> |
| 1. Access and review animal research proposal | 1.1 Access research proposal using organisational systems and/or committee structures 1.2 Clarify own role and requirements relating to contributing feedback on the research proposal within the organisation 1.3 Update knowledge of relevant industry codes, regulations and requirements of the organisation's AEC relevant to animal research 1.4 Establish criteria or access organisational tools to review the ethical use and treatment of animals in research proposals |
| 2. Analyse proposal justification and proposed operations | 2.1 Review hypothesis, experiment design and scientific rationale of the proposal against established criteria 2.2 Review timelines, staff roles and expertise, and other operational procedures 2.3 Examine experimental and humane endpoints against current animal welfare standards and expectations |
| 3. Evaluate risk to animals and organisation | 3.1 Review the harm-benefit assessment matrix to evaluate the impact of the research proposal on the welfare of animals 3.2 Assess organisational and operational risk relating to ethics in the research proposal |
| 5. Report on findings | 5.1 Consolidate information and make decisions on key aspects of the research proposal against industry standard ethics criteria 5.2 Present a summary of findings to relevant personnel in the required organisational format |

| Foundation Skills | |
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| <i>This section describes those language, literacy, numeracy and employment skills that are essential for performance in this unit of competency but are not explicit in the performance criteria.</i> | |
| Skill | Description |
| Reading | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify and analyse text with complex requirements and medical terminology in research project documentation |
| Interact with others | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work as an effective member of a team as well as independently |

| Foundation Skills | |
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| <i>This section describes those language, literacy, numeracy and employment skills that are essential for performance in this unit of competency but are not explicit in the performance criteria.</i> | |
| Skill | Description |
| Navigate the world of work | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintain an understanding of organisational procedures so they are followed according to relevant legislation and industry standards |
| Get the work done | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Plan, organise and prioritise tasks to achieve work outcomes Make decisions following formal problem solving processes to present a view point |

| Unit Mapping Information | | | |
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| Code and title current version | Code and title previous version | Comments | Equivalence status |
| ACMATE5X1 Assist with review of ethics in an animal research proposal | Not applicable | New unit | No equivalent unit |

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| Links | Companion Volumes, including Implementation Guides, are available at VETNet: https://vetnet.education.gov.au/Pages/TrainingDocs.aspx?q=b75f4b23-54c9-4cc9-a5db-d3502d154103 |
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| TITLE | Assessment requirements for ACMATE5X1 Assist with review of ethics in an animal research proposal |
| Performance Evidence | |
| <p>An individual demonstrating competency must satisfy all of the elements and performance criteria in this unit.</p> <p>There must be evidence that the individual has:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • reviewed and assessed two animal research proposals including one high impact project proposal • contributed written and/or verbal feedback on ethics and animal welfare for each animal research proposal reviewed. | |

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| Knowledge Evidence | |
| <p>An individual must be able to demonstrate the knowledge required to perform the tasks outlined in the elements and performance criteria of this unit. This includes knowledge of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • role, structure and membership of the organisation's Animal Ethics Committee (AEC) • AEC operating procedures, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • process for submitting, providing feedback and approving research proposals to the AEC • grievance procedures • ethical considerations in animal research proposals: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • application of the 3Rs (Replacement, Reduction and Refinement) • harm-benefit analysis of adverse effects to animals against potential benefits of research project • factors to review in animal research proposals, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • purpose of research - scientific or educational aims • validity and justification of use of animals in research design - potential for alternatives to animals • extent of wastage and potential for animal suffering • potential for animal pain or distress and the proposed anaesthetic /analgesic regimen • animal husbandry and holding and experimental space requirements for the intended purpose • methods of animal handling and restraint • humane endpoints, including methods of euthanasia • special health, safety or biosecurity risks • resources/infrastructure necessary to support the proposed work • experience and technical expertise of the scientific and technical staff involved • training requirements for staff • duration of project and monitoring, review and renewal mechanisms • protocols, legal and ethical considerations in documenting observations, measurements, treatments and decisions relating to animal research • working knowledge of relevant animal technology regulations and codes, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) guidelines • Australian Code for the Care and Use of Animals for Scientific Purposes (or its successor) • relevant state or territory legislation and regulations relating to health and safety, animal welfare and research. | |

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| Assessment Conditions | |
| <p>Assessment of skills must take place under the following conditions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • physical conditions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • skills must be demonstrated in a workplace setting or an environment that accurately represents workplace conditions • specifications: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • organisation's AEC guidelines or procedures • Australian Code for the Care and Use of Animals for Scientific Purposes. <p>Assessors of this unit must satisfy the requirements for assessors in applicable vocational education and training legislation, frameworks and/or standards.</p> | |

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