



SENATOR THE HON TIM AYRES
MINISTER FOR INDUSTRY AND INNOVATION
MINISTER FOR SCIENCE

MC25-002082

Ms Rachel Smith
 Chief Executive Officer
 Animal-Free Science Advocacy (ASFA)
 PO Box 15
 FITZROY VIC 3065

via: info@animalfreesci.org.au

Dear Ms Smith

Thank you for your letter of 17 July 2025 to the Hon Jason Clare MP, Minister for Education, provided also to the Hon Julie Collins MP, Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, regarding investment in non-animal models. Your letter has been referred to me as the Minister responsible for science.

The Albanese Government recognises the importance of developing and adopting new technologies and techniques, including non-animal models, for Australia's world-class science and research capability. The Government supports excellent scientific research, including projects using non-animal models, through funding programs administered by the Australian Research Council (ARC) and National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC).

Australia has a robust framework for ensuring our research upholds rigorous scientific standards. The [Australian code for the care and use of animals for scientific purposes](#) (2013, updated 2021, 'the Code') promotes the ethical, humane and responsible care and use of animals used for scientific purposes. It mandates the application of the '3 Rs principles' (replacement, reduction, and refinement) at all stages of animal care and use. The Code is endorsed by the NHMRC, ARC, CSIRO and Universities Australia. NHMRC is leading a review of the Code in 2025, with advice from NHMRC's Animal Welfare Committee.

You reference CSIRO's 2023 independent report [Non-animal models: A strategy for maturing Australia's medical product development capabilities](#). The report outlines the future potential of non-animal models in Australia and also notes Australia is internationally regarded for its research capability in non-animal models.

The 2021 National Research Infrastructure (NRI) Roadmap recognises that alternatives to animal models are becoming more prominent but may not be fully replaced for some time. I note National Collaborative Research Infrastructure Strategy (NCRIS) facilities use non-animal models in some pre-clinic and clinic research. For example, in 2021 Phenomics Australia – a provider of cell, tissue, and animal models for disease research – established Australia's first nationally coordinated research service for non-animal modelling.

I have copied the Hon Mark Butler MP, Minister for Health, Disability and Ageing, and the Hon Jason Clare MP, Minister for Education, noting their responsibilities for research. I have also copied the Hon Julie Collins MP, Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, given her portfolio's responsibility for animal welfare and animal research.

Thank you again for bringing your concerns to the Government's attention.

Yours sincerely

TIM AYRES
/ 2025

CC: The Hon Jason Clare MP, Minister for Education
The Hon Mark Butler MP, Minister for Health, Disability and Ageing
The Hon Julie Collins MP, Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry

s 22

From: s 22
Sent: Wednesday, 3 December 2025 1:39 PM
To: s 22
Subject: FW: s 22

[SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

OFFICIAL

From: s 22
Sent: Thursday, 17 July 2025 2:14 PM
To: s 22
Cc: s 22
s 22

Subject: s 22

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Hi s 22

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Date	Summary	Tactics	Description	Research Unit	Potential media impact
21/07/2025	CSIRO Researchers Featured on ABC's <i>Science Friction</i>	Interviews	<p>CSIRO researchers have been invited to appear in two upcoming episodes of ABC's <i>Science Friction</i>.</p> <p>Episode 1: Alternatives to Animal Models in Medical Research</p> <p>The episode will explore recent advances in cloning, including the use of transgenic animal models for research, while also considering emerging alternatives. The interview will draw on CSIRO's 2023 report, <i>Non-Animal Models for Medical Product Development</i>.</p>	Health & Biosecurity	Medium

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s 22

From: s 22
Sent: Monday, 29 September 2025 5:27 PM
To: s 22
Subject: RE: animal use in medical research [SEC=OFFICIAL]

Lovely! I am going to touch base with the s 22 caucus adviser and see if we can workshop something.

s 22

From: s 22
Sent: Friday, 26 September 2025 5:04 PM
To: s 22
Subject: RE: animal use in medical research [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Hey s 22

I liked this from s 22 draft reply, s 47C response?

Thank you for your email and for expressing your concern about the use of animals in research.

The Australian Government is committed to supporting emerging non-animal research models. Australia is internationally regarded for its research capability in non-animal models and is a leader in non-animal models for eye, urogenital, reproductive and cardiovascular systems. There are at least 37 Australian organisations with mature non-animal model-related capabilities.

s 22

OFFICIAL

From: s 22
Sent: Friday, 26 September 2025 12:11 PM
To: s 22
Subject: FW: animal use in medical research [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Hi s 22

We have the below lines, which we have sent to other offices recently, s 47C
s 47C

Thanks
s 22

- The [*Australian code for the care and use of animals for scientific purposes*](#) (2013, updated 2021) ('the Code') promotes the ethical, humane and responsible care and use of animals used for scientific purposes.
 - It mandates the application of the '3 Rs principles' (replacement, reduction, and refinement) at all stages of animal care and use.
- The Code has been endorsed by the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC), Australian Research Council (ARC), CSIRO and Universities Australia.
 - [NHMRC](#) provides additional guidelines and information for Animal Ethics Committees and researchers, which should be read alongside the Code.

CSIRO

- CSIRO conducts R&D using non-animal model (NAM) approaches across various projects, including development of microphysiological systems (e.g., organ-on-a-chip), testing therapeutics to prevent colorectal cancer progression, and organoid development for rabbit biocontrol.
- CSIRO's 2023 report [*Non-animal models: A strategy for maturing Australia's medical product development capabilities*](#) outlines the future potential of NAM in Australia, and assesses how these models could complement or replace traditional approaches over the next 15 years.
- CSIRO also reinforces its commitment to transparency and ethical standards as an inaugural signatory to the [*Openness Agreement on Animal Research and Teaching in Australia*](#).

NCRIS

- The 2021 National Research Infrastructure (NRI) Roadmap recognises that alternatives to animal models are becoming more prominent but may not be fully replaced for some time.
- National Collaborative Research Infrastructure Strategy (NCRIS) facilities use non-animal models in some pre-clinic and clinic research. For example, in 2021 Phenomics Australia – a provider of cell, tissue, and animal models for disease research – established Australia's first nationally coordinated research service for non-animal modelling.

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