

Can I involve citizens, volunteers and students in my research or teaching project?

The AEC has formed the view that:

Citizens, volunteers and students that are involved in research or teaching involving animals in a La Trobe University Animal Ethics Committee approved project must either:

- Be named as an investigator and be assessed as competent before undertaking research or teaching **OR**
- Be under the direct supervision of a competent person as per the requirements of the [Australian Code](#)

Section 1.29: People who care for and use animals must ensure that procedures are performed competently, and

- (i) be competent for the procedure they perform, or
- (ii) be under the direct supervision of a person who is competent to perform the procedure.

Which is underpinned by:

Section 2.4.8 During planning, investigators must consider the following factors and be satisfied that (ix) procedures are performed competently, by people competent for the procedures or under the direct supervision of a person competent to perform the procedures, and provisions are made for the education, training and supervision of people nominated on the application, as appropriate.

Section 2.4.18 Investigators must take steps at all times to safeguard the wellbeing of animals by avoiding or minimising known or potential causes of harm, including pain and distress, to the animals. Steps include: (ii) ensuring that procedures are performed competently, and that the investigators are: (a) competent for the procedures they perform, or (b) under the direct supervision of a person who is competent to perform the procedures

Section 2.5.5 Animal carers must: (i) ensure that their duties are performed competently, and be (a) competent for the duties they perform, or (b) under the direct supervision of a person competent to perform those duties

Section 3.1.10 Assessment of animals (e.g. wellbeing, suitability for purpose, health) must be undertaken by a competent person, or under the direct supervision of a competent person

Section 3.1.16 Procedures, husbandry and care must be performed competently, by people who are competent or by people under the direct supervision of a competent person

Section 3.1.20 Animals must be monitored and assessed: (i) by a competent person who is knowledgeable about the normal behaviour and signs of pain and distress for the species, or a person under the direct supervision of a competent person

Section 3.3.1 Procedures must: (v) be performed competently, and by a person who is competent for the procedures, or under the direct supervision of a person who is competent to perform the procedures.

Section 3.3.5 Routine husbandry procedures must be performed competently, and by a person who is competent for the procedures, or by a person under the direct supervision of a person who is competent to perform the procedures.

Section 4.13 Teachers must ensure that the students are supervised by a person who is competent for the procedure being performed, and that the level of supervision of students takes into account the competency and responsibilities of each student.

Reference: The Australian Code for the Care and Use of Animals for Scientific Purposes (the Australian Code)