

Australian Openness Agreement on Animal Research - FAQs

What is the aim of an openness agreement on animal research?

- The primary aim of an openness agreement is *to improve openness and public understanding* of animal research.
- The first openness agreement was [launched in the UK](#) in 2014 and others are now in place in [Spain, Portugal, Belgium, France, Germany, The Netherlands](#) and [New Zealand](#).
- Openness agreements are also under development in several other countries including the USA and Switzerland.
- A draft openness agreement for Australia has been released for public consultation and is available [here](#). Feedback on the draft is invited via the feedback consultation template.

What would be required from institutions signing up to the Australian Openness Agreement?

The most important requirement is that institutions can demonstrate they are taking steps to improve openness and public understanding of animal research.

Institutions would be free to choose how they do this although they must address four specific commitments:

1. We will be clear about our involvement in the use of animals in research or teaching.
2. We will enhance our institution's communications with the media and the public about our use of animals in research or teaching.
3. We will be proactive in providing opportunities for the public to find out about research or teaching involving animals.
4. We will provide an annual summary of our efforts to improve openness in the use of animals in research or teaching.

What would annual reporting involve (Commitment 4)?

A *simple* [online template](#) will be made available to minimise workload. The template is available through the Openness page on the ANZCCART website.

Content may be qualitative and/or quantitative.

What support would be available?

ANZCCART is willing to assist and has access to expertise in two organisations that have led the development of openness agreements in other countries:

- *Understanding Animal Research* (the organisation that led and now supports the [UK Concordat](#))
- *European Animal Research Association* (the organisation coordinating the [openness agreements in Europe](#))

Who will manage the openness agreement program?

ANZCCART will provide administrative and operational support. This will include a website providing general information about animal research in Australia and the openness agreement program.

Where necessary, and in consultation with stakeholders, ANZCCART may convene stakeholder groups to review or advise on the program.

What fees will apply?

There will be no fee for participation in the Openness Agreement for institutions that are members of ANZCCART. Non-members will not be charged a fee if they sign up in the first 12 months after launch of the Agreement, but a modest fee may be introduced in subsequent years to cover administration costs.

Where can I find examples of what other institutions are doing?

Numerous examples from overseas institutions are available at:

- **UK:** Click on each institution's logo to go to their openness page:
<https://concordatopenness.org.uk/list-of-signatories>
- **Other countries:** Scroll down then click on a country for links to institutional openness pages:
<https://speakingofresearch.com/get-involved/statements-on-animal-research/>

Further information: Please contact anzccart@adelaide.edu.au

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