Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)

Between

The Australian and New Zealand Laboratory Animal Association (ANZLAA)

And

The Australia New Zealand Association of Aquarium Professionals (ANZAAP)

Date:

1. Purpose

This MOU establishes a collaborative relationship between ANZLAA and ANZAAP to promote the responsible care and use of aquatic and terrestrial animals in research, teaching, and public engagement across Australia and New Zealand. The parties aim to work together to enhance understanding, foster collaboration, and support each other's missions. This MOU also outlines the roles of ANZLAA and ANZAAP, identifies areas for collaboration, and establishes principles for effective communication.

2. Introduction to Parties

ANZAAP Background

ANZAAP,a not-for-profit organisation, supports professionals working with aquatic animals in research and public aquaria across Australia and New Zealand. Originally formed as the Zebrafish Husbandry Group, it now encompasses a wide range of aquatic species and husbandry practices. ANZAAP provides a collaborative platform for sharing best practices, promoting aquatic animal welfare, and fostering professional development among aquarists, researchers, and veterinarians .

ANZAAP Mission

ANZAAP aims to provide a forum for the dissemination of information to further the science of aquarium design, maintenance, and aquatic animal husbandry and health. This includes both aquatic research model organisms and species of public aquarium significance. ANZAAP supports professional aquarists by offering peer-reviewed resources, promoting animal welfare, and fostering collaboration across research and public aquarium sectors.

ANZAAP Activities

ANZAAP supports professional aquarists through symposiums, training programs, and peer-reviewed resources focused on aquatic animal husbandry, welfare, and facility operations. It fosters collaboration between public aquaria and research institutions, promotes best practices for aquatic research models, and advocates for high standards in aquatic animal care and biosecurity. ANZAAP also engages in outreach, education, and leadership across the aquarium and aquatic research sectors.

ANZLAA Background

ANZLAA is a professional organisation dedicated to supporting individuals involved in the care and use of animals in research and teaching. ANZLAA provides a platform for networking, professional development, and knowledge exchange among laboratory animal professionals across Australia, New Zealand, and the wider Oceania region.

ANZLAA Mission

ANZLAA is committed to supporting professionals involved in the care, welfare, and ethical use of animals in research and teaching across Australia and New Zealand. Its mission is to:

- Promote high standards of animal husbandry, health, and welfare in research and teaching environments.
- Encourage ethical conduct in all activities involving the use of animals.
- Facilitate communication, informed discussion, and continuing education among members and the broader community.
- Support the development and adoption of alternative techniques to reduce or replace the use of animals in research and teaching.
- Foster cooperation between organisations and institutions involved in animal-based research and education.
- Advocate for openness and transparency, including support for the Openness Agreements on Animal Research and Teaching in Australia and New Zealand.

ANZLAA Activities

ANZLAA fosters a professional community dedicated to high standards in laboratory animal care, welfare, and research. It provides members with regulatory updates, industry news, and networking opportunities through regional meetings, special interest groups, and an active bulletin board. Key initiatives include an annual conference, Special Interest Groups, Animal Tech Week celebrating technicians, and ongoing professional development via workshops, travel grant opportunities and online resources. ANZLAA promotes openness in animal research, supports the Australian and New Zealand Openness Agreements, and recognises excellence through Life Member and Member of the Year Awards. Guided by its values, ANZLAA commits to collaboration, good faith, and evolving strategic priorities.

3. Role Clarification

ANZLAA and ANZAAP acknowledge that their core activities generally differ but may overlap or be complementary. ANZLAA primarily focuses on professional development, advocacy, and responsible use of animals in research and teaching. ANZAAP focuses on aquatic animal care, husbandry, welfare, and collaboration between research and public aquaria. Both organisations will continue to lead their respective areas while supporting joint initiatives where interests align.

4. Communication and Collaboration

To aid collaboration, each party will appoint a liaison officer to coordinate joint activities. Communication will be open, respectful, and consistent with both organisations's missions. Additional meetings or email exchanges may occur, as needed. In the spirit of the principles of this MOU, if there are new areas that one party is actively exploring or they know of a current or new party whose work may impact the other party, this information will be shared as promptly as possible/allowable, giving appropriate consideration to any other legal, confidentiality or commercial in confidence restrictions. Neither ANZLAA nor ANZAAP shall be liable to the other for any damages in respect of any act, omission, default or neglect under this MoU.

5. Acknowledgement of Life Member Awards

Both ANZLAA and ANZAAP acknowledge the importance of recognising individuals who have made significant contributions to their respective organisations. Both organisations will recognise each other's Life Members, extending equivalent acknowledgement and benefits as a reflection of shared values and collaboration.

6. Duration and Review

This MOU is effective from the date of signing and will remain in effect for three (3) years. It may be reviewed annually and amended by mutual written consent. Either party may terminate the MOU with 60 days' written notice.

7. Non-Binding Agreement

This MOU is not legally binding but reflects the goodwill and commitment of both parties to collaborate effectively.

Signed:

On Behalf of ANZLAA
Name: Dr Jane Cross
Title: ANZLAA President
Date: 04/11/2025

Signature:

On Behalf of ANZAAP
Name: Bruce Newell
Title: ANZAAP President 2025
Date: 3/11/2025

Signature: