Curtin University

SiREN TOOLKIT: APPLYING FOR HUMAN RESEARCH ETHICS APPROVAL

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SIREN
WA Sexual Health and Blood-borne Virus Applied Research and Evaluation Network

CONTENTS

ABOUT THIS TOOLKIT

This toolkit provides an introduction to the human research ethics approval process for those who have not submitted an ethics application before or are unsure if they require ethics approval. Before deciding whether or not to submit an application for ethics approval it is important to understand why research projects require ethical oversight and approval, how to prepare and where to submit an ethics application, the ongoing requirements after receiving ethics approval, and where you can go for further assistance. This toolkit contains information and quick links to assist you in planning, writing and submitting an ethics application. The toolkit refers you to a series of templates and examples which can be found on the **SiREN website** where this toolkit was downloaded. We hope these will assist you in developing your own ethics application.

Who developed this toolkit and why?

SiREN – the Western Australian Sexual Health and Blood-borne Virus Applied Research and Evaluation Network developed this toolkit. The overall aim of SiREN is to strengthen existing, and create new partnerships by promoting and facilitating Western Australian applied research and evaluation relating to the prevention and control of sexually transmissible infections and blood-borne viruses. SiREN is coordinated by the Collaboration for Evidence, Research and Impact in Public Health (CERIPH) at Curtin University and funded by the Western Australian Department of Health, Sexual Health and Blood-borne Virus Program.

This toolkit was developed in response to SiREN receiving an increased number of enquiries in relation to the ethics approval process and how to apply for ethics approval.

How do I use this toolkit?

The complete *SiREN Toolkit: Applying for Human Research Ethics Approval* and the separate toolkit sections are available for download from the SiREN website **www.siren.org.au**. Work through each section of this toolkit systematically and use the information, links, templates and examples to create your own ethics application.

I'm stuck! Where can I get more information?

SiREN provides one-to-one mentoring and support for policy makers, practitioners and researchers involved in the prevention and management of sexually transmissible infections and blood-borne viruses. Support available from SiREN includes understanding the health issue and scope of the intended program, assistance with the ethics approval process and grant applications, identifying funding opportunities, providing feedback on the development of conference abstracts and presentations, skills-building workshops, and facilitating linkages between researchers, policy makers and practitioners.

For further information about SiREN and the support available please visit the SiREN website **www.siren.org.au** or email **siren@curtin.edu.au**.

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1.0 PRINCIPLES OF ETHICAL RESEARCH CONDUCT

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In Australia, The National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) website provides the key document for informing and understanding ethical research processes. The National Statement on Ethical Conduct in Research Involving Humans is an excellent place to start to understand the ethics review process, as it provides easy-to-read and use guidance and advice for researchers, practitioners and ethics committee members.

According to the National Statement,[1] ethical conduct of research is based on the principles of respect, merit, justice and beneficence.

Respect is the concept that all people deserve the right to fully exercise their autonomy. Issues such as informed consent to participate in research fall into this category.

Research merit is dependent on balancing the potential benefits of the research against possible risk to research participants (and researchers).

Justice assumes that the risk and benefit associated with research will be evenly distributed and no group will be disadvantaged by participation in the research.

Beneficence goes beyond the concept of "doing no harm". Essentially it is the expectation that the research will generate "good" or benefit. Individual participants may not benefit directly from the "good", but overall the project must benefit the wider community.

Application of the principles of ethical conduct must be inherent throughout research – from the conception and design of the project through to participant selection, data collection, analysis and interpretation, and dissemination of research results.

What is informed consent?

Informed consent is a voluntary agreement to participate in research. It is not merely a form that is signed but a process in which the participant has an understanding of the research and its risks. It is essential to obtain informed consent prior to recruiting participants. Informed consent must be obtained for all types of human participant research, and for research conducted domestically or abroad. Obtaining consent involves informing the participant of his or her rights, the purpose of the study, the procedures to be undergone, and the potential risks and benefits of participation. Participants in the study must take part willingly. Vulnerable populations (e.g. prisoners, children, pregnant women) must receive extra protections. The goal of the informed consent process is to provide sufficient information for a participant to make an informed decision about whether or not to enrol in a study or to continue participating. The informed consent document must be written in a language easily understood by the participant, it must minimise the possibility of coercion or undue influence, and the participant must be given sufficient time to consider taking part.[2]

2.0 WHEN DO I NEED ETHICS APPROVAL?

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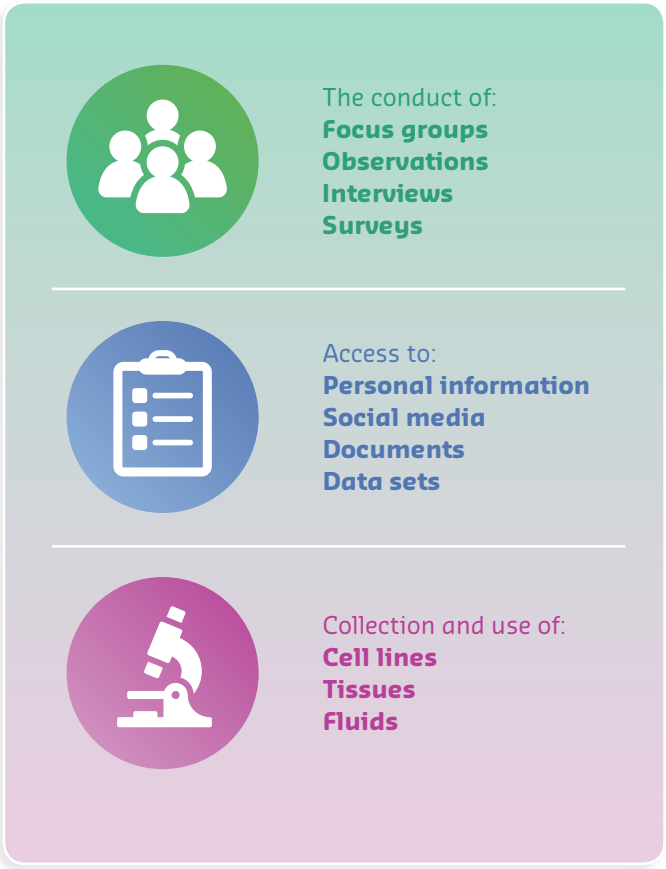
All human research requires ethics approval. Human research is any research that is conducted with or about people, their data and/or their tissues. There are a few exceptions listed in the following section.

This diagram provides some examples of activities that count as human research.[3]



What types of research do not always require ethics approval?

The following activities do not always require human research ethics approval:

- Research that does not involve humans, their data, or tissues/fluids but that meets the National Statement's conditions for exemption (s5.1.22). You must still apply for an exemption before commencing the research.
- Research using certain types of publicly available information.
- Some quality assurance and evaluation activities.

In 2014, the NHMRC issued a new three-page statement concerning 'ethical considerations' of both quality assurance and evaluation.[4] The document recognised that ethics review of quality assurance and evaluation activities may not always be required, but emphasised that whatever an activity is called, participants must be 'afforded appropriate protections and respect'; that the activity must be conducted ethically with consideration given to, for instance, risk, consent and privacy; and that organisations should develop policies for the oversight, and where necessary ethics review of quality assurance and evaluation activities. The NHMRC provided seven 'triggers', the presence of any one of which should occasion formal ethics review according to the requirements in the National Statement:

1. Infringement of privacy;
2. Use of data collected for a different purpose;
3. Gathering information from participants that is beyond that which would normally be collected during the participants' involvement with the service (to which could be added requiring the participant to do something that would not normally be part of the participants' involvement with the service);
4. Use of non-standard protocols or equipment;
5. Comparison of cohorts of participants;
6. Randomisation of participants or the use of control groups or placebos; and
7. Identification of minority or vulnerable groups in the analyses (this is a common situation for health promotion workers because the identification of disadvantage and the promotion of equity are often priorities in their programs, and there is a constant risk that stigmatisation of disadvantaged and minority groups may occur as a result).

What are quality assurance activities?

The National Health and Medical Research Council guidance on Ethical Considerations in Quality Assurance and Evaluation Activities[4] provides the following definitions for Quality Assurance Activities and Evaluation:

Quality assurance activities are "...where the primary purpose is to monitor or improve the quality of service delivered by an individual or an organisation. Terms such as 'peer review', 'quality assurance', 'quality improvement', 'quality activities, 'quality studies' and 'audit' are often used interchangeably" (Page 2).

Evaluation activities "...generally encompass the systematic collection and analysis of information to make judgements, usually about the effectiveness, efficiency and/or appropriateness of an activity. The term is used in a broad sense to refer to any set of procedures, activities, resources, policies and/or strategies designed to achieve some common goals or objectives" (Page 2).

Projects aiming to monitor, evaluate or improve services by a provider may be deemed to be "Quality Assurance" if they:

- Do not impose any risk on participants.
- Use existing data already collected by that organisation in the conduct of their work.
- Ensure analysis is conducted by either members of that organisation or someone working with the organisation who is bound by a professional code of ethics.
- Do not infringe the rights or reputation of the carers, providers or institution.
- Do not violate the confidentiality of the client.[5]

Additional resources:

- Development and oversight of ethical health promotion quality assurance and evaluation activities involving human participants.
- Office of Research Ethics and Integrity – quality assurance activities.

3.0 WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF OBTAINING ETHICS APPROVAL?

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Safety and respect of participants and researchers

The aim of ethical review is primarily to protect and respect research participants. They are a valuable part of the research process and not merely a source of accessing data. However, ethical review also helps to protect the researcher. By obtaining ethical approval you are demonstrating that you have adhered to the accepted ethical standards of a research study which could increase recruitment potential and ensure safety of both research participants and researchers.

Legitimacy

An official Human Research Ethics Committee (HREC) 'stamp of approval' can provide assurance that research-like activity in health promotion, and the knowledge it generates, are more likely to be trustworthy. But the systematic process required to obtain HREC approval is just as important as the approval itself. This process is designed to maximise the quality and ethical justifiability of research and evaluation. It also encourages ethical reflection on issues such as the possibility of unintended harms, and whether a plan for data collection or intervention shows sufficient respect for participants.[6]

Applying for research project funding

Other benefits of obtaining ethics approval include enabling you to apply for research funding. It is generally accepted that funders, such as research councils (e.g. National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC), Australian Research Council (ARC)) will not provide financial support for research and evaluation that does not have ethical approval.

Submitting research findings for publication

Many peer-reviewed journals will no longer accept for publication results of research and evaluation that has not been ethically approved. As such, researchers may need to present evidence of ethical approval in order to publish their results to the wider community.[7]

4.0 CAN I UNDERTAKE HUMAN RESEARCH WITHOUT ETHICS APPROVAL?

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If you decide your project does not require ethics approval there are still some fundamental considerations and questions that you should ask before you start your research.[8]

Research should be designed, reviewed and undertaken to ensure integrity and quality.

Is the research study worth doing? Can you ensure the integrity and quality of the research?

Research staff and participants must be informed fully about the purpose, methods and intended possible uses of the research, what their participation in the research entails and what risks, if any, are involved.

Can you ensure that any potential participants will be fully informed of the purpose, methods and intended possible uses of the research? If not, are you sure that you could convince an ethics committee that your project is justifiable?

The confidentiality of information supplied by research participants and the anonymity of respondents must be respected.

Is it possible to maintain participant confidentiality and anonymity within the study?

Research participants must participate in a voluntary way, free from any coercion.

Can you guarantee that your participants' involvement in the research is truly voluntary?

Harm to research participants must be avoided.

Can the research guarantee the absence of harm to the research participants? Remember that in social science research, 'harm' is taken to mean more than just physical harm, and can refer to emotional harm and risk of upset, as well as reputational damage.

The independence of research must be clear, and any conflicts of interest or partiality must be explicit.

Will the research design enable the researchers to remain independent throughout the process? Are there any conflicts of interest?

Writing a project proposal (also called a research protocol) can help you to flesh out your ideas and consider if you are applying ethical principles in research.

5.0 WHAT IS A HUMAN RESEARCH ETHICS COMMITTEE?

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Human Research Ethics Committees (HRECs) are usually established by organisations (public, not-for-profit or private) that conduct research involving humans. Universities and hospitals are the most common of these organisations, however, not all organisations that conduct research have their own HREC. Some organisations and individual researchers use the services of HRECs that are based within other organisations. They may also use HRECs that are established by organisations that do not conduct research but have established an HREC to provide the service of ethical review to researchers who do not have an HREC at their own organisation, or who are not associated with an organisation.

Who sits on a Human Research Ethics Committee?

According to the National Health and Medical Research Council, the minimum membership of an HREC is eight people and should comprise equal numbers of men and women, and at least one third of the members should be from outside the institution for which the HREC is reviewing research. A standard HREC will also usually include:

a) A chairperson, with suitable experience, whose other responsibilities will not impair the HREC's capacity to carry out its obligations under the National Statement;

b) At least two lay people, one man and one woman, who have no affiliation with the institution and do not currently engage in medical, scientific, legal or academic work;

c) At least one person with knowledge of, and current experience in, the professional care, counselling or treatment of people; for example, a nurse or allied health professional;

d) At least one person who performs a pastoral care role in a community, for example, an Aboriginal elder or a minister of religion;

e) At least one lawyer, where possible one who is not engaged to advise the institution; and

f) At least two people with current research experience that is relevant to research proposals to be considered at the meetings they attend.[9]

6.0 HOW DO I APPLY FOR ETHICS APPROVAL?

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In order to be eligible to submit an application for ethical review, you must be affiliated with a registered Australian Human Research Ethics Committee (HREC) Institution. If you are not affiliated with an Australian HREC Institution you can approach a researcher affiliated with an Australian HREC Institution and propose a partnership. A member of an Affiliated Institution can then submit the application on your behalf. See section 8.0 for a list of Western Australian and Australian Health Research Ethics Offices.

Institutions that establish HRECs are required to set out and publicise their terms of reference, including their relationship to non-affiliated researchers. For information on application requirements that may be specific to the organisation or the HREC, researchers should contact the individual HREC.

Components of a typical ethics application

A typical ethics application will include the following components:

Project proposal:
Contains key information about your project (find example project proposals on the **SiREN website**).

Application form:
Each HREC will have their own application form.

Data management plan:
Typically outlines what data will be created during the course of a project, how data will be created, plans for sharing and storing the data and any restrictions to accessing data.

Participant information form:
Gives potential participants the necessary understanding for the motivation and procedures of the study and sources of information to answer any further questions, enabling them to give informed consent (find template and example participant information forms on the **SiREN website**).

Participant consent form:
Essentially reprises the information outlined in the participant information form to ensure the key points are understood and then records this understanding, usually with a signature. Consent may also be recorded electronically, for example through web-forms by clicking a button. More than one consent form may be needed (for adults and children separately, for example). Participant consent forms are usually in addition to participant information forms (find template and example participant information forms on the **SiREN website**).

Most HRECs will have certain clauses that must be included in participant information and consent forms i.e. background information of the issue under investigation, description of the project, what participants are expected to do, benefits and risks of participation, how participant data will be used, who will have access to that data, and whether participants have agreed to be video/audio recorded, photographed etcetera.

Survey instrument:
If applicable.

Interview/focus group questions:
If applicable. You can find guides for conducting interviews and focus groups on the **SiREN website**.

Recruitment materials:
Such as text to be used on media, direct emails, and recruitment flyers (find example recruitment flyers on the **SiREN website**).

Whilst this may seem like a lot of work to do before you submit your project's application for ethical review, the level of detail and planning required to develop and write your application will ultimately make your application stronger and once you have received approval you will be ready to start your project. For tips on preparing a good ethics application click **here**.

The ethics approval application process

STEP 1

Assemble your application documents package
This includes your application form and supporting documents (as noted in the previous section).

STEP 2

Sign off by Head of School (if submitting via a University) or equivalent (if submitting by other means)
Chief Investigator/Research Supervisor (affiliated with a registered Australian HREC Institution) submits the application package to the Head of School (or equivalent) and then forwards to the Human Research Ethics Office.

STEP 3

Risk assessment
The Human Research Ethics Office will assess the risk level of the application and allocate to a possible review pathway (see next section for how ethics applications are reviewed).

STEP 4

Ethics review body reviews application
The HREC will review the ethics application, request changes if necessary, and then approve the application after they are satisfied with the changes.

STEP 5

Notification of approval so the project can begin
The Human Research Ethics Office will notify the Chief Investigator/Research Supervisor that the ethics approval has been granted and that the project can begin.[10]

How are ethics applications reviewed?

Based on the level of risk involved in the human research outlined in the application, the human research ethics review system usually includes an exempt status and a 3-tier ethics review hierarchy.

Initial processing of ethics applications is undertaken by a Human Research Ethics Office on a continuous basis to allocate proposals to a Level 1, Level 2 or Level 3 approval pathway. Human research ethics applications that are assessed as either low risk (Level 2) or negligible risk (Level 1) do not need to be reviewed by a National Health and Medical Research Council-registered HREC (see section 8.0 for a list of Western Australian HRECs), which typically meet on a monthly basis.[11]

Level	Description	Approval timeframe
Exempt	**No risk** Activities that do not require formal ethics review.	Not applicable.
Level 1	**Negligible risk** Ethics review by the Human Ethics Office. Where there is no foreseeable risk of harm or discomfort; and any foreseeable risk is not more than inconvenience.	Approximately 1 week.
Level 2	**Low risk** Ethics review by the Human Ethics Office. For research involving only the risk of inconvenience, or discomfort.	Approximately 2-3 weeks.
Level 3	**High risk** Ethics review by HREC. For example, research involving children less than 18 years, pregnant women, those who may be involved in illegal activities, Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander People, or participants who are cognitively or emotionally impaired or in a dependent relationship with the researcher e.g. doctors wishing to conduct research with patients, teachers wishing to involve students in a research project.	Approximately 4-6 weeks depending on monthly meeting date.

It should be noted that research involving certain groups, methodologies or procedures, regardless of the level of risk, must be reviewed by a full HREC (Clause 5.1.6 of the National Statement).

7.0 WHAT ELSE MUST I CONSIDER?

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Over-researched groups

Certain groups in the population can be 'over-researched' – either because they are easily defined (e.g. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people), are accessible and convenient for researchers, or because they have characteristics that are distinctive and particularly interesting to researchers.

It is recommended, if carrying out research with a particular defined group, in a defined area or setting (e.g. a school, a hospital, a local authority), to try and find out what other research is being undertaken with this population. You might need to look elsewhere if you find that your potential sample is already – or has recently – been involved in other research.

This is important because over-researching is burdensome for participants – but also because you are likely to get a higher refusal rate (and thus a less representative sample), and possibly poorer quality data.[12]

Consent of children

Research involving children and young people raises particular ethical concerns about:

- Their capacity to understand what the research entails, and therefore whether their consent to participate is sufficient;
- Their possible coercion by parents, peers, researchers or others to participate in research; and
- Conflicting values and interests of parents and children.

Researchers must respect the developing capacity of children and young people to be involved in decisions about participation in research. The child or young person's particular level of maturity has implications for whether his or her consent is necessary and/or sufficient to authorise participation. For more information please see Chapter 4.2 of the National Statement.[1]

Children under 18 years should be asked to provide their consent to be involved in research whenever they are likely to have sufficient competence to do so. The consent of the child should be sought in addition to the consent of the parent or guardian. In such cases, it would be typical for the parent or guardian to discuss the research project with the child and for the child to indicate their consent on the consent form. Despite the existence of a signed consent form, where a child later expresses a desire not to participate, or to withdraw their participation, this should be respected by the researcher.[13] Research involving children under 18 years is generally classified as high risk (level 3) and ethics applications will be subject to review by a full HREC.

Working with children

To address certain types of risks for researchers and/or participants, an appropriate security clearance may be required, such as a Working with Children Check.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander participants

The Western Australian Aboriginal Health Ethics Committee (WAAHEC) is one of three Aboriginal specific HRECs in Australia and is recognised and registered with the National Health and Medical Research Council, the peak ethics body in Australian Health and Ethics.

WAAHEC have a partnership with the Kimberley Aboriginal Health Planning Forum (KAHPF) and Kimberley Research Subcommittee. All proposed research within the Kimberley region is required to demonstrate appropriate consultation with the KAHPF before applying for ethics approval with the WAAHEC.

Research conducted with Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander participants must include a separate statement demonstrating how the issues in Chapter 4.7: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples of the National Statement will be/have been addressed. Additionally, the uniqueness of Aboriginal communities and the need for ethical oversight (e.g. Aboriginal community member's part of project advisory group) by communities should be taken into consideration.

If you would like any further information on obtaining ethics approval for conducting research and evaluation activities with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander populations please review the links below or contact the Ethics Officer at the Aboriginal Health Council of Western Australia on phone (08) 9227 1631 or email ethics@ahcwa.org.

Additional resources:

- National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) Values and Ethics – Guidelines for Ethical Conduct in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Research
- Keeping Research on track: a guide for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples about health research ethics

Is your research publishable?

Although you may wish to publish your research, you first need to ask yourself: is your research publishable? The following makes for publishable research:

It provides insight into an important issue – for example, by shedding light on an unsolved problem that affects a lot of people.

The insight is useful to people who make decisions, particularly long-term organisational decisions.

The insight is used to develop a framework or theory, either a new theory or advancing an existing one.

The insight stimulates new, important questions.

The methods used to explore the issue are appropriate – for example, data collection tools and analysis of data.

The methods used are applied rigorously and explain why and how the data support the conclusions.

Connections to prior work in the field or from other fields are made – a literature review is completed and serves to make the article's arguments clear.

The article tells a good story, meaning it is well written and easy to understand, the arguments are logical and not internally contradictory.[14]

I've received ethics approval. Now what?

Managing your project

Once you have received ethics approval you are bound to carry out the project as specified in your project proposal and ethics application form. However, during the course of conducting an approved research or evaluation project, it is not uncommon for changes to be needed, e.g. related to research team composition, recruitment of participants, research methodology, data collection and processing, or a number of other aspects of the approved project. If you want to change your approved project in any way, you will need to seek approval by submitting a 'request for amendment' to the HREC that granted ethics approval for the project.

To demonstrate satisfactory compliance with ethics requirements, the Chief Investigator/Research Supervisor is also responsible for submitting a Progress Report, at least annually. In addition, a Project Closure Report (or Completion Report) will need to be submitted at the end of the project. This should be done when all research or evaluation activities have been completed and when all contact with participants has been finalised. The due date for your reports will be notified to you by the Human Research Ethics Office.[15]

Communicating your research findings with the wider community

Engaging with the wider community is a vital part of disseminating research findings. There are a variety of traditional and emerging ways of sharing information with the public that now goes beyond formal publication in academic journals or books and can include:

- Non-referred publications
- Research reports
- Press releases
- Policy briefs
- Case studies
- Web pages
- Social media
- Digital repositories
- Conferences and other public exhibitions.

8.0 WESTERN AUSTRALIAN HUMAN RESEARCH ETHICS COMMITTEES

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The following are a list of Western Australian Human Research Ethics Committees (HREC) registered with the National Health and Medical Research Council which can be approached to obtain ethics approval to undertake a research project.

HREC	Local sites associated with HREC	Ethics Office Contact Details
Child and Adolescent Health Service (CAHS)		
Child and Adolescent Health Service Human Research Ethics Committee	All WA Health facilities under the jurisdiction of CAHS including: • Princess Margaret Hospital for Children • Child and Adolescent Community Health	Princess Margaret Hospital for Children GPO Box D184 Perth WA 6840 P: 9340 8221 E: pmhethics@health.wa.gov.au
Department of Health		
The Department of Health WA Human Research Ethics Committee	All WA Health facilities under the jurisdiction of the Department of Health and its associated entities including: • Department of Health • Health Support Services	Department of Health Level 1, C Block 189 Royal Street East Perth WA 6004 P: 9222 4278 E: hrec@health.wa.gov.au
East Metropolitan Health Service (EMHS)		
Royal Perth Hospital Human Research Ethics Committee	All WA Health facilities under the jurisdiction of EMHS including: • Armadale Health Service • Bentley Health Service • Royal Perth Group • East Metropolitan Mental Health Service	Royal Perth Hospital Level 5, Colonial House Wellington Street Perth WA 6000 P: 9224 2292 E: EMHS.REG@health.wa.gov.au
North Metropolitan Health Service (NMHS)		
North Metropolitan Area Mental Health Services Human Research Ethics Committee	All WA Health facilities under the jurisdiction of NMHS Mental Health including: • Adult Mental Health Services • Graylands Hospital • Older Adult Mental Health Services • Statewide and Tertiary Mental Health Services • Youth Mental Health Program	Graylands Hospital Gascoyne House Locked Bag No. 1 Claremont WA 6910 P: 9347 6502 E: NMAHSMHREGO@health.wa.gov.au
Sir Charles Gairdner and Osborne Park Health Care Group Human Research Ethics Committee	All WA Health facilities under the jurisdiction of NMHS (excluding NMHS Mental Health and WNHS) including: • Sir Charles Gairdner Osborne Park Health Care Group	Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital Level 2, A Block Hospital Avenue Nedlands WA 6009 P: 6457 2999 E: HREC.SCGH@health.wa.gov.au
Women and Newborn Health Service Ethics Committee	All WA Health facilities under the jurisdiction of Women and Newborn Health Service (WNHS) including: • King Edward Memorial Hospital	King Edward Memorial Hospital PO Box 134 Subiaco WA 6904 P: 6458 1667 E: kemhethics@health.wa.gov.au

HREC	Local sites associated with HREC	Ethics Office Contact Details
South Metropolitan Health Service (SMHS)		
South Metropolitan Health Service Human Research Ethics Committee	All WA Health facilities under the jurisdiction of SMHS including: • Fiona Stanley Fremantle Hospitals Group • Rockingham Peel Group • South Metropolitan Mental Health Service	SMHS Research Ethics and Governance Unit Level 3, Perkins Murdoch Campus Fiona Stanley Hospital Campus 11 Robin Warren Drive Murdoch WA 6150 P: 6151 1180 E: SMHS.HREC@health.wa.gov.au
Western Australia Country Health Service (WACHS)		
WA Country Health Service Board Research Ethics Committee	All WA Health facilities under the jurisdiction of WACHS in the following regions: • Kimberley • Pilbara • Midwest • Goldfields • Wheatbelt • South West • Great Southern	WA Country Health Service 189 Wellington Street PO Box 6680 East Perth Business Centre WA 6892 P: 9223 8541 E: WACHS.HREC@health.wa.gov.au

HREC	Ethics Office Contact Details
Western Australian Universities	
The University of Western Australia	The University of Western Australia 35 Stirling Highway Crawley WA 6009 P: 6488 4260 E: irene.heystek@uwa.edu.au
Murdoch University	Murdoch University Chancellery Building Room 1.006 South Street Murdoch WA 6150 P: 9360 6677 E: Human.Ethics@murdoch.edu.au
Curtin University	Office of Research and Development Curtin University GPO Box U 1987 Perth WA 6845 P: 9266 7786 E: b.northeast@curtin.edu.au
Edith Cowan University	Edith Cowan University Ethics Support Office P: 6304 2784 E: research.ethics@ecu.edu.au
Aboriginal specific Human Research Ethics Committee	
Western Australian Aboriginal Health Ethics Committee	Western Australian Aboriginal Health Ethics Committee P: 9227 1631 E: ethics@ahcwa.org

An extensive list of Australian HRECs registered with the National Health and Medical Research Council can be found here.

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