

Women's and Children's Health Network

Policy Directive

Research

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Functional Group - Sub Group	Corporate/Research
Summary	The WCHN is committed to leadership in research and recognises that the maintenance of excellence in research is an investment in the future health of the community it serves. Research is integral to the role of the WCHN and its personnel.
Replaces	PD2010_009 Research
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Safety and Quality Action Group Responsible	Corporate Services
Executive Director Responsible	Executive Director, Corporate Services
Applies to	WCHN wide
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Previous Reference	PD2005_034 Research
Key Words	Policy, Research, Ethics.
Status	Active
Approved by	Executive Director, Corporate Services
Approval Date	24 March 2014

Compliance with this policy directive is mandatory.

POLICY DIRECTIVE: Research

Statement:	<p>The WCHN is committed to leadership in research and recognises that the maintenance of excellence in research is an investment in the future health of the community it serves. Research is integral to the role of the WCHN and its personnel.</p> <p>Research is a key and valued activity of the WCHN and it is vital that researchers conduct their research in accordance with accepted codes of conduct and policies.</p>
Rationale:	<p>The WCHN recognises the need for excellence in research to support and improve services for children, young people and women, and to improve the health and wellbeing of the community.</p> <p>The WCHN strives to develop new treatments and diagnostic methods for a variety of diseases and better health for the population.</p>
Scope:	<p>This policy applies to all WCHN employees/researchers, all non-WCHN researchers and all research students undertaking research at any WCHN site.</p>
Definitions and Acronyms:	<p>For the purposes of this policy, unless otherwise stated, the following acronyms will apply:</p> <p>AEC: Animal Ethics Committee. AHREC: Aboriginal Health Research Ethics Committee. HREC: Human Research Ethics Committee. IBC: Institutional Biosafety Committee. NHMRC: National Health and Medical Research Council. OGTR: Office of the Gene Technology Regulator.</p>
Policy Principles:	<p>The WCHN will:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Encourage and foster high quality research to improve the health and wellbeing of children, young people and women. 2. Identify and encourage new opportunities in research that encompass the strategic directions of the WCHN and the South Australian Strategic Plan. 3. Encourage the generation and use of research evidence in strategic planning, decision making and health care. 4. Ensure that research at the WCHN is conducted ethically (approved by the relevant WCHN HREC, AEC or IBC), undertaken responsibly (via research governance) and in accordance with relevant legislation, regulations, policies, codes and guidelines (e.g. NHMRC or OGTR). 5. Manage and coordinate the use of resources for research. 6. Promote opportunities for collaborative research locally, nationally and internationally. 7. Maximise opportunities for funding for research and research infrastructure. 8. Publicise research findings within the organisation, to professional colleagues, to the broader community, and to policy makers and planners.

	<p>9. Encourage the publication of research by researchers.</p> <p>10. Provide support and opportunities for employees to participate in research.</p> <p>11. Provide high quality research information for undergraduate and postgraduate students in collaboration with Universities and Institute partners.</p> <p>12. Capture and utilise Intellectual Property generated by research.</p>
Related Documents:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Australian Code for the Responsible Conduct of Research</i> - Australian Government, National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC), Australian Research Council (ARC) and Universities Australia (2007). • <i>Australian Code of Practice for the Care and Use of Animals for Scientific Purposes 8th edition</i> - Australian Government, NHMRC, ARC, Universities Australia and Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO) (2013). • <i>Australian Privacy Principles Guidelines</i> - Australian Government, Office of the Australian Information Commissioner (2014). • <i>Intellectual Property Policy</i> - Government of South Australia (2006). • <i>National Framework of Ethical Principles in Gene Technology</i> - Australian Government, OGTR (2012). • <i>National Statement on Ethical Conduct in Human Research</i> - Australian Government, NHMRC, ARC and Australian Vice Chancellors Committee (AVCC) (2007 and various updates). • <i>Values and Ethics: Guidelines for Ethical Conduct in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Research</i> - Australian Government NHMRC (2003). • <i>WCHN Code of Conduct for Research</i> – WCHN Research Secretariat (2014).
Legislation:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Gene Technology Act</i> - Australian Government (2000). • <i>Privacy Act</i> - Australian Government (1988). • <i>South Australian Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act</i> - Government of South Australia (1985 and amendments 1994).
Key Words:	Policy, Research, Ethics.
Supporting Procedures/ Guidelines:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Code of Fair Information Practice</i> - Government of South Australia Department of Health (2004). • <i>SA Health Fees Policy for the Review of Research Ethics and Governance Applications</i> - SA Health (2012). • <i>SA Health Research Ethics Operational Policy</i> - SA Health (2013). • <i>SA Health Research Governance Policy</i> - SA Health (2013). • <i>SA Public Hospitals Retention Disposal Schedule July 2000 – June 2010</i> - SA Health (currently being reviewed by SA Health). • <i>Statement on Consumer and Community Participation in Health and Medical Research</i> - NHMRC (2002).
Effectiveness of this Policy:	<p>The performance indicators will be reported as required.</p> <p>Research Outputs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The number of current research projects. • The number of successful grants and the names of the granting bodies. • Dollar value of competitive grants. • Dollar value of other grants. • The number of patent applications lodged.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Dollar value of commercialisation revenue. <p>Research Outcomes: Number and title of research projects in line with the South Australia's Strategic Plan and the WCHN strategic directions including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Research projects that translate into clinical practice or improved population health, (including impact on service delivery, policy and health outcomes) through evaluation, audit or review against clinical practice guidelines, evidence-based practice, standards or Departmental objectives.• Research projects addressing Aboriginal health and wellbeing.• Research projects addressing infant health and wellbeing.• Research projects addressing childhood issues including overweight or obesity in the population.• Research projects addressing psychological wellbeing.• Research projects addressing reducing the number of young smokers.• Research projects contributing to the population's health and wellbeing by preventing illness and promoting health for children, young people and women.
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