

Research Involving Humans Responsibilities of AHS

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Functional Sub group Clinical/ Patient Services - Research

Summary Directs adherence to the NHMRC National Statement on Ethical Conduct in Research Involving Humans.

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Applies to Area Health Services/Chief Executive Governed Statutory Health Corporation, Board Governed Statutory Health Corporations, Affiliated Health Organisations, NSW Ambulance Service, NSW Dept of Health, Public Health Units, Public Hospitals

Distributed to Public Health System, NSW Ambulance Service, NSW Department of Health, Public Health Units, Public Hospitals

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Director-General

Compliance with this policy directive is mandatory.

CIRCULAR

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Contact	Research & Development Policy Branch (02) 93919854

**RESPONSIBILITIES OF AREA HEALTH SERVICES
REGARDING RESEARCH INVOLVING HUMANS**

NSW Health supports the advancement of knowledge and the pursuit of better health care treatments for the people of New South Wales through research and teaching. NSW Health supports clinical and non-clinical research involving humans in the NSW public health system.

All staff employed in the NSW public health system, those acting as agents of the NSW public health system, and organisations in receipt of funding from NSW Health are required to adhere to the *NHMRC National Statement on Ethical Conduct in Research Involving Humans* and all other relevant guidelines published by the National Health & Medical Research Council (NHMRC). Failure to adhere to the National Statement may result in disciplinary action and/or the withdrawal of funding.

Adherence by an organisation to the National Statement in the conduct of all research involving humans is a condition of NHMRC funding to that organisation. Area Health Service Chief Executive Officers are reminded that failure to adhere to the National Statement may, regardless of the source of funding for a particular project, place at jeopardy all funding received by the Area Health Service from the NHMRC.

Area Health Service Chief Executive Officers are also reminded that aspects of some research activities may be subject to statutory obligations. Legislation to be considered includes:

- Health Administration Act 1982 (NSW)
- Public Health Act 1991 (NSW)
- Guardianship Act 1987 (NSW)
- Privacy and Personal Information Act 1998 (NSW)
- Therapeutic Goods Act 1987 (Commonwealth)
- Gene Technology Act 2000 (Commonwealth)

Breaches of these Acts may result in the prosecution of individuals and corporations.

Further information regarding this circular and the responsibilities of Area Health Services regarding research involving humans may be obtained from the Research & Development Policy Branch on 02 93919854.

Michael Reid
Director-General

Distributed in accordance with circular list(s):

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In accordance with the provisions incorporated in the Accounts and Audit Determination, the Board of Directors, Chief Executive Officers and their equivalents, within a public health organisation, shall be held responsible for ensuring the observance of Departmental policy (including circulars and procedure manuals) as issued by the Minister and the Director-General of the Department of Health.