

NHMRC Funded Projects: Monitoring and Compliance

Researchers must comply with the Australian Code for the Responsible Conduct of Research (“Code”), Victoria University’s Research Integrity, and Research Misconduct policies and any other relevant Victoria University policies, procedures and guidelines, as well as applicable government guidelines, including those covering ethical requirements for human or animal studies, requirements for confidentiality, occupational health and safety matters, and requirements for use of potentially hazardous agents.

The procedures outlined below are intended to form the basis for ensuring monitoring and compliance by Victoria University and its researchers.

The procedures are based on the premise that researchers associated with Victoria University are committed to excellence and high standards of professional conduct, and that they will ensure their work upholds the reputation of Victoria University and the profession to which they belong.

Victoria University must make certain that each research procedure and activity is carried out in an ethical, responsible, diligent and competent manner, and in accordance with the funding policy that applies to the Scheme under which the research procedure/activity is funded, any funding conditions that apply to the research procedure/activity and all applicable National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) Approved Standards and Guidelines (including obtaining, maintaining and complying with any institutional approvals).

To this effect, Victoria University’s *Research Integrity Policy*:

<http://wcf.vu.edu.au/GovernancePolicy/PDF/POR120215000.PDF> sets out minimum standards, and general and specific responsibilities of all persons involved in research at Victoria University. The policy was created to implement Part A of the *Australian Code for the Responsible Conduct of Research* (the Australian Code) which was jointly developed in 2007 by the Australian Research Council (ARC) and National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) to guide and promote the responsible, ethical and safe conduct of research.

Victoria University’s *Research Misconduct Policy*:

<http://wcf.vu.edu.au/governancepolicy/PDF/POA100524001.PDF> is concerned with Part B of the Code titled “Breaches of the Code, Research Misconduct, and the Framework for Resolving Allegations.” This policy helps to ensure that the University meets its obligations under the Code.

Please note that Victoria University must notify NHMRC of the decision of any complaint or allegation of research misconduct within 10 working days

The following NHMRC document provides guidance to researchers. All researchers are expected to familiarise themselves with the NHMRC’s Funding Agreement’s obligations.

- Researchers' Main Responsibilities (PDF, 12KB)
http://www.nhmrc.gov.au/files/nhmrc/file/grants/admin/nhmrc_admin_inst_researcher_responsibilities.pdf

A copy of the Funding Agreement and supporting documentation is available below.

- NHMRC Funding Agreement (PDF, 208KB) <http://www.nhmrc.gov.au/grants/administering-grants/nhmrc-funding-agreement>
- Policy on Actions to be Taken in Response to Research Misconduct involving NHMRC Funding (PDF, 43KB)
http://www.nhmrc.gov.au/files/nhmrc/file/grants/funding/funded/manage/policy/policy_research_misconduct_nhmrc_funding.pdf

- Major Changes to the Revised NHMRC Funding Agreement - March 2011 (PDF, 21KB)
http://www.nhmrc.gov.au/files/nhmrc/file/grants/funding/funded/manage/policy/changes_revised_nhmrc_funding_agreement.pdf
- Changes to the NHMRC Funding Agreement - May 2011 (PDF, 50KB)
http://www.nhmrc.gov.au/files/nhmrc/file/grants/admin/nhmrc_funding_agreement_changes_2011.pdf
- Frequently Asked Questions - May 2011 (PDF, 13KB)
http://www.nhmrc.gov.au/files/nhmrc/file/grants/admin/nhmrc_funding_agreement_faq_may_2011.pdf

Victoria University researchers are required to comply with the NHMRC Approved Standards and Guidelines listed on the NHMRC website and include, but are not limited to:

- Australian Code for the Responsible Conduct of Research (2007)
<http://www.nhmrc.gov.au/files/nhmrc/publications/attachments/r39.pdf>
- National Statement on Ethical Conduct in Human Research (2007) - Updated 2009
<http://www.nhmrc.gov.au/files/nhmrc/publications/attachments/e72.pdf>
- A Guide to the Development, Evaluation and Implementation of Clinical Practice Guidelines and Related Policies (1999) <http://www.nhmrc.gov.au/files/nhmrc/publications/attachments/cp30.pdf>
- Guidelines Approved under Section 95A of the Privacy Act 1988 (2001)
<http://www.nhmrc.gov.au/files/nhmrc/publications/attachments/e43.pdf>
- Guidelines Issued under Section 95 of the Privacy Act 1988 (2000)
<http://www.nhmrc.gov.au/files/nhmrc/publications/attachments/e26.pdf>
- National Principles of Intellectual Property Management for Publicly Funded Research
<http://www.nhmrc.gov.au/files/nhmrc/file/grants/policy/ipman.pdf>
- Values and Ethics: Guidelines for Ethical Conduct in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Research (2003) <http://www.nhmrc.gov.au/files/nhmrc/publications/attachments/e52.pdf>
- Guidelines for Genetic Registers and Associated Genetic Material (1999)
<http://www.nhmrc.gov.au/files/nhmrc/publications/attachments/e14.pdf>
- Australian Code of Practice for the Care and Use of Animals for Scientific Purposes (2004), 7th edition
<http://www.nhmrc.gov.au/files/nhmrc/publications/attachments/ea16.pdf>
- Guidelines to Promote the Wellbeing of Animals Used for Scientific Purposes - the assessment and alleviation of pain and distress in research animals 2008
<http://www.nhmrc.gov.au/files/nhmrc/publications/attachments/ea18.pdf>