

CPL Human Research Ethics Committee – Research Policy

Purpose

CPL is committed to the highest ethical standards of research involving humans, in accordance with the National Statement on Ethical Conduct in Human Research issued by the National Health and Medical Research Council.

This policy provides guidance for the ethical conduct of research involving humans, which confers special ethical responsibilities on both the organisation and individual researchers according to the National Statement on Ethical Conduct in Human Research.

Scope

This policy applies to all employees, volunteers, contractors, consultants and external entities who propose to engage in any research activity at CPL or with CPL staff or clients.

Principles

CPL endorses the ethical principles set out in the National Statement on Ethical Conduct in Human Research. The general guiding principles for the conduct of the CPL HREC based on the National Statement include:

- Research must have merit and integrity.
- Research must be just.
- The likely benefit must outweigh the risk of harm or discomfort.
- Research must demonstrate respect for all human beings, their privacy & confidentiality. This includes following specific guidelines for providing consent for research participation.

All human research directly involving CPL staff, clients or resources shall be reviewed and approved by the CPL Human Research Ethics Committee (HREC) that is registered and operates in accordance with the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC).

Human research

“Research” is the creation of new knowledge and/or the use of existing knowledge in a new and creative way so as to generate new concepts, methodologies, inventions and understandings. This could include synthesis and analysis of previous research to the extent that it is new and creative (Australian Research Council as cited by the NHMRC National Statement).

Human research is conducted with or about people, or their data or biospecimens. Human participation in research is therefore to be understood broadly to include the involvement of human beings through:

- Taking part in surveys, interviews or focus groups.

Internal

Uncontrolled when printed

- Undergoing psychological, physiological or medical testing or treatment.
- Being observed by Researchers.
- Researchers having access to their personal documents or other materials.
- The collection and use of their biological material.
- Access to their information (in individually identifiable, re-identifiable form as included in an unpublished source or database that is used for human research - National Statement on Ethical Conduct in Human Research).

When is ethical review not required?

The following types of research do not require CPL HREC review:

- Quality Audits
- Performance Reviews
- Market Research (consumer-informed opinion/feedback of service delivery, Brand strength/awareness and Brand position within market)
- Client Complaint investigations

Researchers who are unsure about whether their proposed research requires CPL HREC review should consult the CPL HREC Chair or the Research Manager.

Ethics and law in human research

Human research is governed by Australian law that establishes rights for participants and imposes general and specific responsibilities on researchers and institutions. Australian common law obligations arise from the relationships between institutions, researchers and participants. Contractual arrangements may impose obligations on researchers, research funders and institutions.

Related Documents

Procedure

- CPL HREC Research Review Procedure

Compliance

Standards

- [National Statement on Ethical Conduct in Human Research | NHMRC](#)