

**The Flinders University of South Australia
and
Flinders Medical Centre**

Social and Behavioural Research Ethics Committee

1. Preamble

The Flinders University of South Australia and the Flinders Medical Centre have agreed to establish two joint ethics committees to deal with research requests to use human subjects. The joint Southern Adelaide Clinical Human Research Ethics Committee (SACREC) focuses on research which is clinical in nature or involves patients of the Flinders Medical Centre. The Social and Behavioural Research Ethics Committee (SBREC) deals with research proposals which are social or behavioural in their focus, including those which involve or impact upon Indigenous people. Advice will be sought from Yunggoorendi First Nations Centre for Higher Education and Research for any research projects that impact on Indigenous people. It is intended that researchers' access to these Committees be based on the type of research being proposed rather than the Faculty or Institution of origin.

2. Terms of Reference

The Committee shall:

- a) Receive, examine and either approve or reject, protocols that detail proposed non-clinical investigation on human subjects by researchers of the Flinders University of South Australia and related institutions including non-clinical investigations by researchers from the Flinders Medical Centre. Any research protocols that involve human subjects as a third party, which involve human remains or other sacred or significant sites, or which involve or impact upon Indigenous people in any way, must also be considered by the Committee.
- b) Ensure that the *National Statement on Ethical Conduct in Research Involving Humans (March 2007)* are adhered to where applicable.
- c) Provide guidance to researchers about the ethical aspects of their proposed research.
- d) Establish and promulgate detailed guidelines for research practice within Flinders University, with approval from the Academic Senate, that consistent with the *National Statement on Ethical Conduct in Research Involving Humans (March 2007)*, where applicable, and take into account local cultural and social attitudes and established policies of the institution.
- e) Refer research dealing with clinical matters, or those which may involve patients or staff of the Flinders Medical Centre to the joint Southern Adelaide Clinical Human Research Ethics Committee.
- f) Report to Academic Senate and the Flinders Medical Centre Board on the activities of the Social and Behavioural Research Ethics Committee no less than once a year.
- g) As appropriate, consult with the Head of the Yunggoorendi First Nations Centre for Higher Education and Research, or otherwise seek advice on the appropriateness of any research proposal which involves or impacts upon Indigenous people.

3. Membership

The Committee will have the following membership:

- A laywoman not associated with the institution
- A layman not associated with the institution
- A minister of religion, or a person who performs a similar role in a community, such as an Aboriginal elder
- A lawyer
- A person with knowledge of, and current experience in the professional care counselling or treatment of people eg medical practitioner, clinical psychologist, social worker, nurse as appropriate.
- Two members appointed by the Flinders Medical Centre Board (optional)
- Two members appointed by the Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Research), who have knowledge of, and current experience in, the areas of research that are regularly considered by the Committee, one of whom will be appointed as Chairperson.

The Chair may recommend to the FMC/Academic Senate the appointment of:

- Additional persons with expertise deemed to be important for the Committee's operation.

At the time of appointment, each member may also have a named proxy appointed (via the same process outlined at 5. below) who is able to attend meetings where a member will be absent.

4. Appointment and Term of Office

The Chair will be appointed by the Vice-Chancellor. The term of office is three years and the Chair may be reappointed for additional terms with the agreement of the University Research Committee.

A Deputy Chair will be appointed from the Committee membership by the Chair.

Members shall be appointed for a period of three years on the recommendation of the Chair. Flinders University representatives will be appointed by the Pro Vice-Chancellor (Research) and the Flinders Medical Centre representatives shall be appointed by the FMC Board. Members shall be appointed for three years and may be reappointed when their term expires.

In line with the *National Statement on Ethical Conduct in Research Involving Humans (March 2007)*, members are not appointed in a representational category.

5. Quorum

The quorum for the committee will be half of the membership of the committee.

6. Operational Guidelines

The Committee shall be responsible for determining its own Operational Guidelines while ensuring that they are consistent with the *National Statement on Ethical Conduct in Research Involving Humans (March 2007)*, where applicable.