

Aboriginal Health and Medical Research Council of NSW

HREC Statement Student Research Projects V1.0 March 2021



**Aboriginal
Health & Medical
Research Council
of NSW**

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Background

The AH&MRC Human Research Ethics Committee (The HREC) reviews proposals to conduct Human Research in accordance with the National Statement on Ethical Conduct in Human Research (2007 updated 2018) and the Ethical Conduct in Research with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples and Communities: Guidelines for researchers and stakeholders (2018). These National Guidelines provide a framework for a thorough review of applications for HREC approval.

Student Research Projects: Ethics process for students and supervisors:

The HREC recognises that Higher Degree Research (HDR) students that are undertaking an Honours and Masters (minor) thesis are required to carry out the lifecycle of the project within a limited timeframe. Students and Supervisors that are interested in undertaking Aboriginal Health Research must thoroughly consider the ethical requirements that the proposal must meet prior to submitting. Students and Supervisors should consider how the limited timeframe to complete an Honours or Masters (minor) may be impacted by the ethics process. There are two distinct ways in which HDR students may submit their project to the HREC:

- Firstly, if the student is undertaking research for a project that has been previously approved by the HREC, then an amendment request may be submitted. However, if the request proposes to significantly alter the original methodology, aim and objectives, then the request will not be accepted as an amendment and the student project will need to be submitted for full ethical review.
- Secondly, if the student is undertaking a new research project that does not have prior ethical approval by the HREC, then the student must submit the project for full ethical review.

In either case, the student must liaise closely with their Supervisor, seek guidance from their Institutions' Ethics Office or contact to the AH&MRC Ethics Secretariat.

Supervisors of HDR students must ensure that the proposed student project does not delineate from the original project, as mentioned above. It is also a Supervisors responsibility to ensure that the project can be completed in the required timeframe, taking into consideration ethics processes. Furthermore, supervisors must be well versed on the relevant ethical guidelines both state-wide and nationally to understand the complexity of the ethical requirements.

Please note: A Master by Research or PHD thesis are considered substantial bodies of work and must always be submitted for full ethical review if the project meets the HRECs criteria.

If you are seeking further information regarding this statement, please contact the Ethics Secretariat at ethics@ahmrc.org.au