



LOW RISK HREAs - EXPEDITED HUMAN RESEARCH ETHICS COMMITTEE REVIEW

No research involving Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People, including research with a primary focus on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People or whole of population studies where there is over representation is considered low risk. The reasons for this include;

- There is unique social, political, cultural, historical considerations.
- The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population is heterogeneous, therefore there is no single approach to research.
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As per the National Statement, research with “negligible risk” is described as where there is no foreseeable risk of harm or discomfort, and any foreseeable risk is not more than inconvenience to the participants. We know from experience that research conducted with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people can be harmful if not conducted in a culturally safe way, or is sensitive to the social, political, and historical factors. Therefore, Ethics approval from the AH&MRC Ethics committee is required, when a project meets our criteria outlined, to ensure that measures are in place to determine cultural safety and sensitivity to the factors listed above.

For the reasons stated above, the AH&MRC does not consider any research involving Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to be low risk. Therefore, no low-risk application or HREA will be accepted by this committee. Hence, a full HREA must be submitted.

If you are unsure, you will need to contact the Ethics secretariat at the AH&MRC.