



Statement on Conflicts of Interest for Advisory Groups/Reference Groups

This statement establishes the guidelines for managing conflicts of interest within reference groups, specifically regarding the participation of researchers.

Policy

To maintain the integrity and impartiality of reference groups, it is essential to avoid conflicts of interest that may compromise the group's objectivity. Researchers who are directly involved in a project under consideration cannot serve as members of the reference group for that project. Their participation in both roles can create a conflict of interest, as it may influence the group's recommendations or decisions. The only exception recognised by the AH&MRC HREC is that an Aboriginal person on the research team may serve as the Chair of the reference group, however, they should facilitate the conversation and process but should remain neutral when making decisions about endorsing/approving project/s or any project related activities and documents.

Scope

This policy applies to all reference groups formed for the evaluation, oversight, or advisory roles in research projects.