

Title

Research at Eastern Health Policy

1. Sponsorship

Executive Sponsor (Title)	Executive Director – Research Chief Medical Officer (CMO)
Coordinating Author (Name and Title)	David Taylor, Director of Research and University Relations

2. Commissioning

2.1 Commissioning (completed by author in consultation with Sponsor listed above)	
Is this Policy new	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> Continue with Commissioning steps No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Objectify No. 2321 If no, summarise reason for review and changes made: To align with the Eastern Health Strategic Plan - Working together towards 2025 and due for review
Purpose of Policy	To set the organisation’s intent regarding research.
Strategic Initiatives (select best fit)	Healthcare excellence <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Leading in learning <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Leading in research and innovation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A values-based, safe workplace <input type="checkbox"/> A high performing organisation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Have you considered relevant: Legislation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ; External benchmarks <input type="checkbox"/> ; External standards <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ; Risk Register Item <input type="checkbox"/> ; Other <input type="checkbox"/> Details:	
Are there existing/proposed standards relevant to this policy?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> List No <input type="checkbox"/> Ethical and Responsible Conduct of Research Standard (2959) Ethical and Governance Review of Research (2961)
Who will be consulted (stakeholders)?	Professor Julie Considine Professor of Nursing, Deakin University Professor Ian Davis Professor of Medicine, Monash University Professor Nick Taylor Professor of Allied Health, La Trobe University Veronica Lyons Director Eastern Health Foundation Ruth Lawrence Director of Library Services Humsha Naidoo Deputy Chief Medical Officer Gloria Sleaby Consumer Representative
Which committees are required to endorse and approve this Policy?	Executive Committee
2.2 Executive Committee approval to develop Policy (Completed by Committee Secretary)	

Approval to proceed with development

Yes

No  Reason (if No):

Date Commissioned: December 2022

## Title

Research at Eastern Health Policy

### 1. Policy Statement

**REMINDER: Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006 – All those involved in decisions based on this policy have an obligation to ensure that all decisions and actions are compatible with relevant human rights.**

At Eastern Health, research is undertaken to maximise the health, quality of care and wellbeing of the communities it serves, by increasing knowledge and understanding of health and health-related matters, and translating research evidence into clinical practice. Research enables Eastern Health to achieve its strategic goal of optimising care and patient experience.

Health research can be completed using a number of designs and can improve the quality of care by improving clinical effectiveness, patient safety and the patient experience.

Research must be undertaken ethically and be scientifically justifiable. Research participants must be informed, participate voluntarily and, on balance, not be exposed to greater health risk than if they had not participated.

Eastern Health is committed to supporting research across the organisation through timely ethical review, sound governance overseen through the Office of Research and Ethics. Eastern Health strongly encourages the dissemination of and application of research findings. Eastern Health promotes research across the organisation through providing forums for presentation of research findings and preparation of research activity reports overseen through the Office of Research and Ethics.

Eastern Health fosters research directly and through funding from the Eastern Health Foundation, universities, government agencies, industry (including the pharmaceutical industry), not-for-profit organisations and philanthropic agencies.

Research at Eastern Health will be conducted in accordance with and comply with:

- The National Statement on Ethical Conduct in Human Research (NHMRC, 2007) Updated 2018;
- The Australian Code for the Responsible Conduct of Research (NHMRC, 2018);
- Relevant Commonwealth and State legislations;
- University partnership agreements and affiliations;
- The requirements of relevant regulatory and professional bodies and donors;

as amended from time to time.

These standards govern ethical review and approval of research and research governance. To ensure patient safety, only research approved by a Human Research Ethics Committee (HREC) can be undertaken at Eastern Health. The Eastern Health HREC, in accordance with the above Codes, is able to terminate research for reasons of non-compliance or safety.

Eastern Health partners with Deakin, La Trobe, Monash and other universities to enhance research performed within and involving Eastern Health. Eastern Health facilitates these linkages through the Office of Research and Ethics. As well as providing evidence that helps to optimise patient care and

experiences, research informs teaching and together with our university and other training partners, we aim to provide quality health care and a training ground for the workforce of the future.

**2. Standard/s linked to this Policy**

Ethical and Responsible Conduct of Research Standard 2959

**3. Definition of terms**

**Research** is an intellectual investigation aimed at discovering, interpreting and revising human knowledge.

**Research Governance** refers to the processes used by institutions to ensure that they are accountable for the research conducted under their auspices including overseeing and ensuring that research is conducted legally, efficiently and ethically in compliance with the parameters set by the local and, if appropriate, the central approving ethics committee, community standards and the law.

**4. Development history**

**Research Policy** dated 05 March 2009 published

Reviewed May 2011

Reviewed August 2016

Reviewed September 2019 - Title of Research Policy changed to **Research at Eastern Health Policy** in 2019 review. This was to be consistent with references made to this policy in the *Ethical and Responsible Conduct of Research Standard (2959)* and *Ethical and Governance Review of Research Guideline (2961)*. Policy also updated to be in line with the 2019 template.

Reviewed February 2023 - Minor amendments, Consumer Consultation to align with strategic intent of partnering with consumers as per standard and reference to the linkage of research and teaching as in Eastern Health Strategic Plan - Working together towards 2025

**Development/Review (complete this after development/review of the policy, prior to approval)**

Key external information sources consulted: Legislation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ; External benchmarks <input type="checkbox"/> ; External standards <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ; Risk Register Item <input type="checkbox"/> ; Other <input type="checkbox"/> Provide specific details: The National Statement on Ethical Conduct in Human Research (NHMRC, 2007) Updated 2018; The Australian Code for the Responsible Conduct of Research (NHMRC, 2018); Relevant Commonwealth and State legislations; University partnership agreements and affiliations			
Key Stakeholders consulted in development/review <i>e.g. IPAC, OHS, Support Services, ICT, Residential Care, Legal Counsel.</i>	Name Professor Julie Considine  Professor Ian Davis  Professor Nick Taylor  Veronica Lyons  Ruth Lawrence  Alison Dwyer  Humsha Naidoo Gloria Sleaby	Title Professor of Nursing, Deakin University  Professor of Medicine, Monash University  Professor of Allied Health, La Trobe University  Director Eastern Health Foundation  Director of Library Services Executive Director Research & Medical Services Deputy Chief Medical Officer Consumer Representative	Date: February 2023
Consumer consulted:	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>		
Does the Policy use gender inclusive	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>		

language?	
Implementation plan developed and attached?	Yes – Policy is new or significantly revised <input type="checkbox"/> No – Policy has undergone only a minor revision <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Policy documents to be removed following approval	Document Numbers & Titles
Further comments/ notes	
Key search words	Research, Ethics, Governance

### Endorsement and Approval

Approval by relevant committee		
Policy approved for 3 Years <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other ( <i>Specify</i> ) <input type="checkbox"/>	Executive Committee ( <i>Specify</i> ) -  Board	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Date approved: 09/03/2023

### Publishing

Date Policy approval notified to Manager Clinical Governance ( <i>completed by Manager Clinical Governance</i> )	11/4/23
Date Policy forwarded to policy administrator ( <i>completed by QPI Executive Assistant</i> )	11/4/23
Date Policy published on Objectify ( <i>completed by publishing administrator</i> )	11/4/23