

MERGA Policy - Ethics

1. MERGA attaches great importance to the maintenance of high ethical standards in research undertaken by its members. It is an expectation at MERGA conferences and for MERGA publications that anything that is reported as being research has the necessary ethics approval, whether it be the research of academics or teachers.

2. MERGA recognises relevant codes for the responsible conduct of research with human subjects as well as the roles and responsibilities of national, school system, and university ethics committees in the approval of research with human subjects.

3. MERGA expects that research undertaken by its members will be carried out ethically. Ethical research with human subjects is safe, respectful, responsible, and high quality. To ensure these qualities ethical researchers:
 1. obtain the necessary informed consent from participants, including parents of children under the age of 18, using approved processes;
 2. have their applications to conduct research with people approved by relevant bodies (including the relevant university's Ethic Committee (for academics), and Education Departments/Systems;
 3. undertake the research according to the procedures approved by the ethics committees and responsible authorities; and
 4. disseminate the research according to the approval given by any relevant responsible authority and the ethics of publication (originality, acknowledgement of all sources etc.).

It is the responsibility of the researcher/research team to undertake these steps.

NOTE: The document below includes useful internet links to (a) relevant ethical guidelines for Australia and New Zealand educational researchers, and (b) sections of government departments in each of the Australian states/territories and New Zealand.

Ethics clearances from school systems

The following sites give information about ethics for people who wish to conduct research in public schools. If using other schools (Catholic, independent) you need to check with the relevant offices. Remember that you are likely to need permission from principals, school councils, and teachers as well as the children/parents concerned.

Useful links

New Zealand

[New Zealand Association for Research in Education](#)

Download [NZARE's Ethical Guidelines](#) (PDF, 20K).

[New Zealand Educational Institute code of ethics](#). This is the place teachers in NZ should approach, if not attached to a University. This body is the overarching group for ethical conduct towards children.

Australia (see also state links below)

* [National Ethics Application Form \(NEAF\)](#)

* [National Statement on Ethical Conduct in Human Research](#)

* [The Australian Association for Research in Education](#) (AARE)

Ethics approvals

New Zealand

Ministry of Education

<http://www.minedu.govt.nz/.../SpecialEducation/FormsGuidelines/InformedConsentGuidelines.pdf>

Australian states:

ACT

Department of Education and Training

www.det.act.gov.au/_data/assets/word_doc/0006/20103/Research-in-ACTGovernmentSchools.doc

Contact Measurement, Monitoring and Reporting Directorate
ACT Department of Education and Training
PO Box 158
Canberra ACT 2601

NSW

Department of Education & Training

https://www.det.nsw.edu.au/research/serap_contacts.htm.

http://www.research.mq.edu.au/researchers/ethics/human_ethics/approval_from_nsw_department_of_education_and_training

Ethics Secretariat

ethics.secretariat@vc.mq.edu.au

NT

Department of Employment, Education and Training

<http://www.det.nt.gov.au/corporate/research/>

Email infocentre.det@nt.gov.au

QLD

Department Education, Training and the Arts

education.qld.gov.au/corporate/research/docs/research-guidelines.doc

Contact Senior Research Officer, Strategic Policy and Education Futures Division
Department of Education and the Arts
PO Box 15033
BRISBANE CITY EAST QLD 4002
Phone (07) 3237 1700

SA

Department of Education & Children's Services

Site: <http://www.decs.sa.gov.au/docs/documents/1/EducationalResearchFreque.doc>

and the Reviewers' checklist: <http://www.decs.sa.gov.au/docs/documents/1/ReviewerChecklist.doc>

Applications can be obtained from

<http://www.decs.sa.gov.au/research/pages/research/home/?reFlag=1>

Contact person Research Coordinator
Phone: 8226 2451
Email: basmayor.elena@saugov.sa.gov.au

TAS

Department of Education

<http://www.education.tas.gov.au/dept/reports/research/Research-Guidelines.doc>

Applications are available from <http://www.education.tas.gov.au/dept/reports/research>

Contact person Educational Performance Services
Department of Education
GPO Box 169
HOBART TAS 7001
Telephone (03) 6233 7093
Fax: (03) 6233 7299

VIC

The Department of Education and Early Childhood Development

Information and the application form are available from:

<http://www.education.vic.gov.au/studentlearning/research/conductresearch.htm>

The application form is available from

Contact person: Senior Research and Policy Officer, Research Branch
Education Policy and Research Division
Department of Education and Early Childhood Development
Level 2, 33 St Andrews Place
GPO Box 4367
MELBOURNE 3001

WA

Department of Education and Training

http://policies.det.wa.edu.au/our_policies/ti_view?uid=6cc0bd38095e5fb30d79b6af9c771a01&iview=summary_view

Contact: PolicyEnquiry@det.wa.edu.au.