



Submitting a new research proposal for ethical review by the WA Health Central Human Research Ethics Committee.

The WA Health Central Human Research Ethics Committee (Central HREC) undertakes the review, approval and monitoring of research involving humans, their tissue and/or data to ensure scientific rigour and compliance with the ethical standards outlined in the [National Health and Medical Research Council \(NHMRC\) National Statement on Ethical Conduct in Human Research 2023](#). The Central HREC is currently registered with the NHMRC and will be seeking certification to enable participation in the National Mutual Acceptance (NMA) scheme.

All applications to the Central HREC must be submitted via the [Research Governance Service \(RGS\)](#). They must be clear, concise, and complete. Applications that do not comply with the required standard will not be added to the committee's meeting agenda. The Central Office for Research Ethics (CORE) recommends applicants utilise the proportional review toolkits to determine which review pathway is appropriate for their project.

The Central HREC holds up to 6 meetings a month: 4 generalist meetings that will review most types of human research and two specialist meetings that will consider proposals requiring access to WA Health Datasets and/or Data linkage and proposals involving Mothers, Infants, Children, Adolescents and the foetus (MICA) The Central HREC meets to review ethics applications up to six times each month, except January. Please refer to the Meeting Calendar for specific meeting dates and application deadlines set for 2024. Once the Central HREC is fully operational, there will be no application deadline and your proposal will be tabled at the next available and appropriate committee meeting. If you are submitting a response to a review or making a resubmission it will be reviewed by the committee that first reviewed your proposal.

Please note:

- ***Research involving the staff, patients, data, or resources of any WA Health Service Provider (HSP) or the Department of Health will require Site Authorisation from each institution where the project is being conducted.***

Applications for Site Authorisation should be submitted via the [RGS](#). This review process can take place concurrently to the Central HREC review process; however, authorisation will not be granted until ethics approval is granted. For more information, please contact the relevant Research Governance Office via the [contact details listed on the RGS](#).

- ***Research explicitly involving Aboriginal people or Aboriginality as a key determinant in WA will require an additional HREC approval from the WA Aboriginal Health Ethics Committee (WAAHEC).***

It is strongly advised that researchers initiate the WAAHEC review process at the earliest opportunity. This review process can take place concurrently to the Central HREC's review of your proposal. However, the Central HREC will only grant conditional ethical approval until they are provided with evidence that WAAHEC has provided their approval. For more information, please contact WAAHEC at ethics@ahcwa.org or refer to their [website](#).

- **Research involving access to data held within the WA Department of Health's data collections, including linked data**, must first undergo a [Feasibility Assessment](#) by the Client Services Team based in the Department of Health's Information and System Performance Directorate (ISPD)

This feasibility assessment must be completed **before** a submission can be made to the Central HREC. For more information, please contact ISPD Client Services at DataServ@health.wa.gov.au or refer to their [website](#).

- **Research involving access to linked health data held by PeopleWA must undergo a review process with PeopleWA** via the [PeopleWA application system](#)

The PeopleWA review process must be completed before making a submission to the Central HREC. If accessing WA Health data via PeopleWA and not requiring data from the Department of Health, the research proposal will not require a Feasibility Assessment from ISPD Client Services. For more information, please contact PeopleWA at PeopleWA@dpc.wa.gov.au or refer to their [website](#).

- **Research projects seeking to obtain ethics approval under the NMA scheme must ensure that the project complies with the institutional and jurisdictional requirements of the sites where the research will be conducted.**

Applicants seeking ethical approval to conduct their project at sites outside of WA under the NMA scheme should direct their application to either the Child and Adolescent Health Service HREC, Sir Charles Gairdner and Osborne Park Health Care Group HREC, or the South Metropolitan Health Service HREC.

For further information please contact:

The Central Office for Research Ethics | Phone: (08) 9222 4214 | Email: hrec@health.wa.gov.au

Submission checklist

Submissions requesting ethical review of a new research proposal should include the following:

	Yes	No	N/A
1. Relevant ethics application form			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For projects involving only WA Health entities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ WA Health Ethics Application Form (WAHEAF) 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For projects seeking access to WA Health data sets that have gained HREC approval from an HREC based in another Australian Jurisdiction: • Health Research Ethics Application (HREA) form, and • Western Australian Specific Module form 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. Research protocol	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Supporting documentation (<i>as relevant to the project</i>)			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participant facing documents such as surveys, invitation letters, telephone scripts, posters, social media and website texts, advertisements, emails, text messages etc. 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participant and/or guardian information sheet and consent forms 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Investigator brochure 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Radiation Safety Officer/Radiological Council report 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evidence of HREC approval for the project from, for example: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Specialist HRECs, such as WAAHEC ○ Tertiary institutional HRECs ○ HRECs based in another Australian jurisdiction that has granted the project approval under NMA: 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WA Health Student Research and Confidentiality Declaration forms for each student whose work on the project will contribute to attaining their qualification. <i>Template can be accessed on RGS</i> 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • S95 and/or S95a of the <i>Privacy Act 1988</i> (Cth) checklist to accompany requests for a waiver of consent to use Commonwealth and non-government data in research 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Other relevant documentation for review 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. ISPD Client Services/PeopleWA approved feasibility assessment documents (as relevant to the project)			
<i>These forms can be accessed on the Data Linkage and PeopleWA websites as applicable</i>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In-principal support letter 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Application form 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Variable list forms 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Data management plan 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Data services forms (ISPD client services only) 	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>