

1. Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to provide the framework which facilitates the ethical planning and management of risk associated with the use of animals or humans in DMTC research projects.

The policy articulates the requirements for research to be undertaken in a structured, efficient and ethical manner in accordance with the Australian Code for the Care and Use of Animals for Scientific Purposes and the National Statement on Ethical Conduct in Human Research.

Furthermore, it provides assurance that internal risks of the DMTC are contained within acceptable levels as determined by management and the Board of Directors.

2. Policy Scope/Coverage

This policy is applicable to all DMTC-sponsored activities where animal or human research is required to achieve milestones articulated in a DMTC Project Agreement.

3. Policy Statement

3.1. Policy Overview

DMTC expects that DMTC partners will comply with all ethical requirements for conducting research as articulated in national and state legislation and regulation as a minimum, and is consistent with best practice.

- Where research procedures involve humans or animals as research subjects, approval must be sought from the appropriate Human Research Ethics Committee (or Human Research Advisory Panel) (HREC) or the Animal Care and Ethics Committee (ACEC) from an accredited institution. The design and conduct of projects must take account of:
 - the National Statement on Ethical Conduct in Research involving Humans (The National Statement);
 - the Australian Code for the Responsible Conduct of Research; and
 - the Australian Code of Practice for the Care and Use of Animals for Scientific Purposes (The Code).
- Research involving Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples must only be conducted in accordance with 'Values and Ethics: Guidelines for Ethical Conduct in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Research and the Guidelines for Ethical Research in Indigenous Studies'.

DMTC will accept the ethics approval from partners that are also accredited institutions in accordance with The Code and/or The National Statement.

DMTC must be provided with the relevant ethics approval documentation for any project utilising humans or animals before the research work articulated in the DMTC Project Agreement can begin.

Subject to advice from advisory, stakeholder or governance groups, DMTC may choose to request a review of the approved ethics documentation by independent bodies including, but not limited to the Department of Defence and Veteran's Affairs Human Research Ethics Committee or the Australian Defence Force - Malaria and Infectious Disease Institute.

If a DMTC project team does not have an accredited institution participating in the project, the project team must outsource ethics assessment to an institution accredited under the relevant framework.

The DMTC Project viability will be reviewed if ethics approval from the appropriate accredited institution cannot be obtained. DMTC reserves its rights to cancel or substantially modify funding arrangements in this context.

3.2. Responsibilities and Authorities

The Chief Operating Officer and Program Leader MCM have joint responsibility for:

- Reviewing the approved ethics documentation received from the project team;
- Conducting due diligence on the ethics record of any new partner seeking admission to the DMTC, as part of DMTC's standard Quality Assurance framework.

4. Linked Documentation

- Procedure – New Partner Admission
- <https://www.nhmrc.gov.au/files/nhmrc/file/publications/national-statement-2018.pdf>
- https://www.nhmrc.gov.au/files/nhmrc/publications/attachments/ea28_code_care_use_animals_131209.pdf
- https://www.nhmrc.gov.au/files/nhmrc/file/publications/r39_australian_code_responsible_conduct_research_150811.pdf
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