

1. Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to provide a framework for the responsible conduct of research supported by DMTC. The policy articulates the requirements for DMTC-sponsored research to be conducted responsibly, ethically and with integrity.

The policy is designed to manage the risks associated with researcher misconduct or failure to adhere to appropriate research practice. It provides assurance that reputational and operational risks to 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 research sponsored by DMTC, subject to caveats and exceptions outlined herein.

3. Policy Statement

3.1. Policy Overview

DMTC expects that research conducted under its auspices will be conducted responsibly, ethically and with integrity consistent with the principles of the Australian Code for the Responsible Conduct of Research 2018 (the Code) and its supporting Guides. (The document, Collaborative Research – A guide supporting the Australian Code for the Responsible Conduct of Research is of particular relevance.)

DMTC however notes an exception regarding the provisions of the Code regarding broad dissemination of research findings. DMTC's focus on research relevant to defence and national security (and its involvement in commercially-oriented research) means that broad dissemination of findings may not be appropriate in many circumstances and not in line with the interests of key DMTC stakeholders or DMTC's contractual obligations.

Arrangements regarding dissemination of research findings will be specified in the relevant project agreements.

Subject to the above exception, DMTC expects partners to agree to comply with the Code with said agreement to be codified or clarified in relevant project agreements with DMTC.

DMTC will ensure that any reported breach of the Code with respect to DMTC-sponsored projects will be investigated and addressed.

Where complaints relate to bodies formally subject to the Code (e.g. universities or other institutions conducting the research), DMTC will refer any allegations for investigation under the institutional mechanisms to address potential breaches required by the Code. For other organisations, DMTC will refer any allegations to the researcher's employer for investigation under relevant employee conduct provisions.

Policy – Responsible Conduct of Research



Where complaints relate to DMTC staff, any allegations for investigation will be referred to the employee's line manager within DMTC for investigation under the DMTC Code of Conduct.

DMTC will seek information and assurance on the processes and outcomes of relevant investigations in order to ensure cases of alleged breaches of the Code related to DMTC-sponsored research projects are appropriately addressed.

3.2. Responsibilities and Authorities

The Chief Operating Officer and relevant DMTC Program and Project Leaders have a joint responsibility for:

- Reviewing project agreements to ensure compliance with this policy is stipulated.
- Monitoring projects to promote compliance with the policy; and
- Conducting due diligence on the responsible research policies of any partner seeking admission to the DMTC as part of DMTC's Quality Assurance Framework.

4. Linked Policies, Procedures and Forms

- Policy – Research Ethics and Biorisk Management
- Procedure – New Partner Admission
- Project Agreement
- <https://www.nhmrc.gov.au/about-us/publications/australian-code-responsible-conduct-research-2018>
- <https://www.nhmrc.gov.au/sites/default/files/documents/reports/guide-managing-investigating-potential-breaches.pdf>
- <https://www.nhmrc.gov.au/about-us/publications/australian-code-responsible-conduct-research-2018#download>