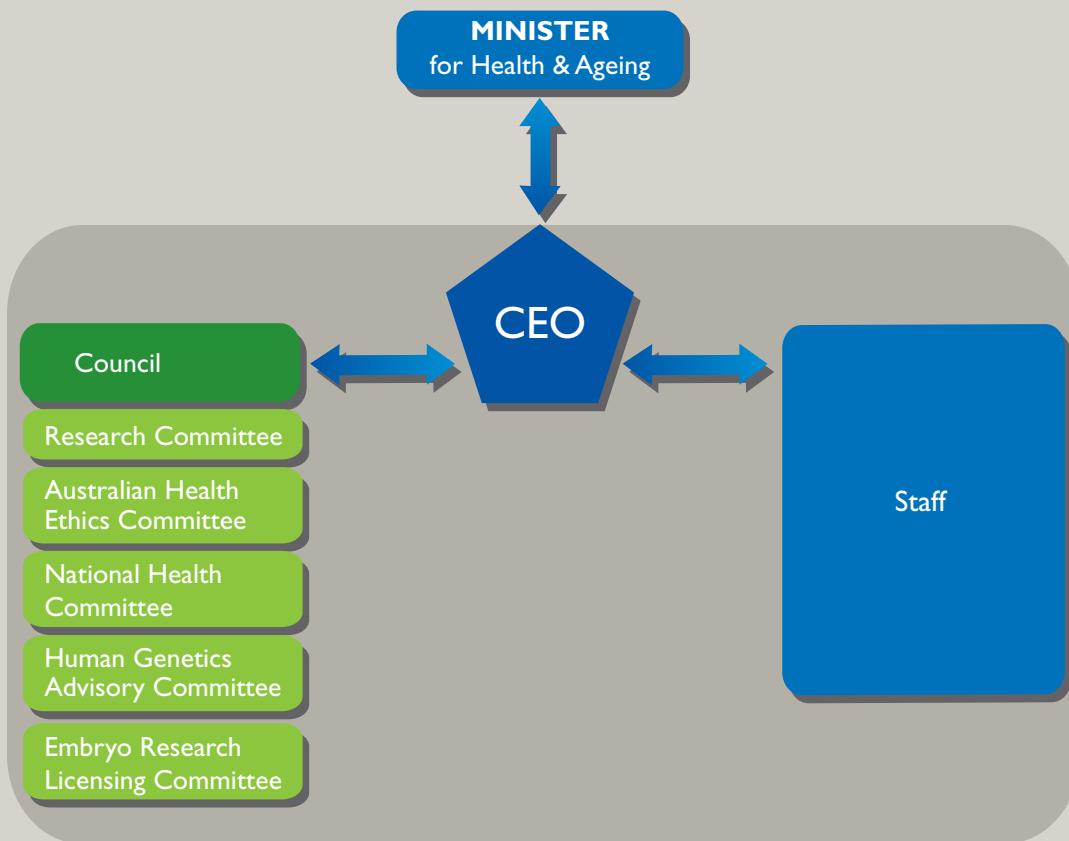


Our Structure

NHMRC is Australia's peak body for supporting health and medical research; for developing health advice for the Australian community, health professionals and government; and for providing advice on ethical behaviour in health care and in the conduct of health and medical research.

NHMRC became an independent statutory agency within the Health and Ageing Portfolio on 1 July 2006. This change brought with it an amended *National Health and Medical Research Act 1992* (the *NHMRC Act*), which defines the NHMRC as the Chief Executive Officer (CEO), the Council and Committees, and the staff of the NHMRC (see figure 2). 1 July also brought with it new members of Principal Committees and Council, and a new CEO.

Figure 2 – Structure of the National Health and Medical Research Council



The *NHMRC Act* requires the CEO to develop a strategic plan setting out:

- *The CEO's assessment of the major national health issues that are likely to arise during the period; and*
- *The manner in which the CEO proposes to perform his or her functions in dealing with those issues during the period.*

Each NHMRC strategic plan must contain a national strategy for medical research and public health research.