

# **Australian Schizophrenia Research Bank (ASRB)**

Enabling Grants Round 3 – Special Facilities

## **1. Contact Details:**

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## **2. Description of the Facility/Activity**

Schizophrenia research is constrained by difficulty in achieving large samples for research into the causal role of genetic factors in this complex disease. To overcome this limitation, a national coalition of researchers from NSW, Queensland and WA will establish the Australian Schizophrenia Research Bank (ASRB). The ASRB will comprise a large sample of schizophrenia probands, their first-degree relatives and case controls with linked clinical, cognitive, neuroanatomical and genetic data. These data will be available to Australian and international researchers, to support schizophrenia research across the clinical, cognitive, genetic, brain imaging and linked domains with the ultimate aim of leading to improved treatments and preventative strategies for this devastating disorder.

### **Access to ASRB**

Sufficient numbers of volunteers need to be recruited and their data processed prior to the facility being able to support research studies. We estimate that the ASRB will commence the provision of data to applicants from Year 3 of the grant (i.e. 2008) onwards.

The ASRB Access Management Committee will review requests for access to the facility. Access to the ASRB will be available to any Australian (or international) researcher investigating schizophrenia using a standardised set of procedures. Researchers wishing to use the ASRB will be asked to provide details of the proposed project, using a standardised electronic 'Application Form' which will summarise the proposed project and which areas of the ASRB they are interested in accessing (e.g. gene samples, MRI scans, clinical data, access to volunteers etc, or combinations of these). Investigators will also be required to provide evidence of clearance from their local research ethics committee for the project. The Access Management Committee

will evaluate the scientific merit of the proposal and, if necessary, will seek independent scientific review of the proposal before granting access to ASRB data.