



Targeted consultation: NHMRC's draft *Open Access Policy* and *Open Access Policy - Further Guidance*

Dear Colleagues

I am pleased to release NHMRC's DRAFT *Open Access Policy* and *Further Guidance* for consultation.

NHMRC promotes transparency in research, where research findings, supporting data and enabling methodologies are shared and communicated openly, responsibly and accurately. These principles are outlined in the [Australian Code for the Responsible Conduct of Research](#) and [NHMRC's Research Quality Strategy](#).

Open access publishing supports these principles by improving accessibility of research outcomes and accelerating their dissemination and translation into health policy and practice. These advantages of open access publishing have been clearly demonstrated over the last 15 months as governments have relied on emerging science for evidence-based policy to address the COVID-19 pandemic.

There is a growing international shift towards open access publishing, which encourages scientific collaboration, transparency and rapid sharing of information. The international movement to open access publishing includes [Plan S](#), which is an initiative for open access publishing supported by cOAlition S, an international consortium of research funders.

We plan to update NHMRC's *Open Access Policy* and its accompanying *Further Guidance* to align with these principles and international developments. The proposed amendments to the Policy and Guidance are limited to the sections of the documents providing advice about publications. No other sections of the documents will be reviewed as part of this process (this is clearly marked in the consultation documents).

NHMRC is keen to receive input from relevant stakeholders and is seeking your comments on these proposed amendments to the Policy and Guidance. I encourage you to bring this consultation to the attention of anyone whom you believe would be interested in providing comment.

Consultation documents are available on [NHMRC's website](#). The closing date for submissions is **5.00pm (AEDT), Wednesday 5 May 2021**. Submissions should be made using the template provided and emailed to quality@nhmrc.gov.au.

We look forward to receiving your comments.

Yours sincerely

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