

Development of the Australian Code for the Responsible Conduct of Research, 2018

The *Australian Code for the Responsible Conduct of Research, 2018* (the 2018 Code) and supporting document, the *Guide to Managing and Investigating Potential Breaches of the Code 2018* (the Investigation Guide) has been jointly developed by National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC), the Australian Research Council (ARC) and Universities Australia (UA) (collectively, ‘the co-authors’).

The review of the Code was assisted by the Code Review Committee (CoRC), chaired by Professor Mike Calford. The Investigation Guide was developed with advice from the Better Practice Guides (BPG) working group, which was chaired by CoRC member Dr Karolyn White.

Consultation

The development of the 2018 Code and accompanying Investigation Guide was informed by extensive consultation with the sector.

In 2015, the co-authors undertook a targeted consultation on the 2007 Code and possible models for a revised document. As a result of the targeted consultation, the co-authors streamlined the 2007 Code into a principles-based document that would be supported by supplementary guidance that provides detailed, topic-specific advice and requirements for conforming to the principles and responsibilities of the Code.

Public consultation on the draft Code and Investigation Guide was conducted between November 2016 and February 2017. Background material can still be accessed from the [NHMRC Public Consultation website](#). Around 90 submissions were received during public consultation on the review of the Code. The CoRC and BPG working group considered all the comments received during public consultation and provided advice to the co-authors about revisions to the Code and Investigation Guide.

In late 2017, NHMRC, ARC and UA engaged in a final, targeted consultation with the sector.

The Code Review Committee (CoRC)

The CoRC was established under section 39 of the *National Health and Medical Research Council Act 1992* (NHMRC Act). Members were selected to ensure appropriate expertise in the key areas of research integrity, administration and management across a range of different research institutions and research disciplines.

Members of the Code Review Committee

Member	Position	Period
Professor Mike Calford (Chair)	Provost, University of Tasmania	April 2015–December 2017
Professor Mike Brooks	Deputy Vice Chancellor Research, University of Adelaide	April 2015–December 2017
Professor Andrew Davidson	Medical Director, Melbourne Children’s Trials Centre, Murdoch Childrens Research Institute	April 2015–December 2017
Emeritus Professor Toni Makkai	Former Dean, College of Arts and Social Sciences, Australian National University	April 2015–December 2017
Professor Philip Mitchell	Head of the School of Psychiatry, University of New South Wales	April 2015–December 2017
Emeritus Professor Janice Reid	Former Vice-Chancellor and President, Western Sydney University	April 2015–December 2016
Dr Paul Taylor	Director, Research Integrity, Governance and Systems, RMIT University	February 2016–December 2017
Professor Mandy Thomas	Executive Dean, Creative Industries Faculty, Queensland University of Technology	April 2015–August 2017
Dr Karolyn White	Director, Research Ethics and Integrity, Macquarie University	April 2015–December 2017
Dr Sarah Winch	Head of the Discipline of Medical Ethics, Law and Professionalism, The University of Queensland	December 2016–December 2017

The Better Practice Guides (BPG) working group

The BPG working group was established under section 39 of the NHMRC Act 1992 to assist with the development of the Investigation Guide and to identify components of the Code that should be included in future supplementary guidance. Members were selected because of their direct, practical experience of key issues related to the implementation of research integrity policies, in particular with managing and investigating potential breaches of the Code. The BPG working group contained representatives from different research institutions and the National Tertiary Education Union.

Members of the Better Practice Guides working group

Member	Position	Period
Dr Karolyn White Chair)	Director, Research Ethics and Integrity, Macquarie University	May 2016–December 2017
Ms Leonie Cullen	Research Support Manager, Baker Heart and Diabetes Institute	May 2016–December 2017
Dr Catherine Gangell	Manager, Research Integrity, Curtin University	May 2016–December 2017
Professor Matthew Gillespie	Associate Dean (Research Strategy), Faculty of Medicine, Nursing and Health Sciences, Monash University	May 2016–December 2017
Dr Jane Jacobs	Director, Office of Research Ethics and Integrity, Queensland University of Technology	May 2016–December 2017
Dr Susan O'Brien	Research Integrity Manager, University of Queensland	May 2016–December 2017
Ms Jeannie Rea	National President, National Tertiary Education Union	May 2016–December 2017