

**Alfred Hospital Ethics Committee
Position Statement**

ETHICS REVIEW OF RESEARCH PROJECTS FROM OTHER ORGANISATIONS

1. The Alfred Hospital Ethics Committee's principal role is to review projects involving:
 - Alfred Health;
 - other institutions with whom we have formal agreements (e.g. Monash University, Baker Heart and Diabetes Institute, Burnet Institute, Epworth HealthCare, Cabrini Health);and
 - projects submitted under the National Mutual Acceptance (NMA) and Victorian Streamlined Ethics Review Program (SERP) 'single ethical review of multi-site research' schemes*.

The Alfred Hospital Ethics Committee's workload is heavy and increasing, and the Committee is under no obligation to review ethics applications from other institutions or research groups that fall outside the above categories.

2. Projects arising from other institutions or research groups ('external research projects') will require consideration by the Chair/s of the relevant group of the Ethics Committee – Drugs & Interventions, Health & Social Sciences or Low Risk – in consultation with the Manager of the Office of Ethics and Research Governance.
3. Decisions to undertake an ethics review of an external project will (at a minimum) require consideration of the following issues:
 - a. the nature and risks arising from the project
 - b. the suitability of the site to be undertaking the project
 - c. the suitability, qualifications and experience of the local/external principal investigator
 - d. the nature of the sponsorship arrangements (e.g. investigator initiated or commercially sponsored)
 - e. whether the site has a process for administrative oversight of research
 - f. the transparency of the funding arrangements (e.g. payments will not be directly made to individual researchers).
4. It is unlikely that the Alfred Hospital Ethics Committee would accept any project for ethics review from a site where there is not an effective research governance oversight and financial transparency.

*The Alfred Hospital [Terms of Reference](#) state the following under Item 8 *Relationship to non-affiliated researchers*:

8.2 The review of research to be conducted elsewhere under streamlined review programs, or other institutions' single-site application, is to conform to memoranda of understanding between the relevant institutions.

Professor John McNeil
Chair, Alfred Hospital Ethics Committee
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