



Human Research Ethics Policy: Education Faculty

Title: Human Research Ethics Policy: Education Faculty
Author: Dean for Academic and Regional Development and Dean of Education
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Overview

Morling College offers current students in the Master of Education, Master of Education (Leadership) and Master of Teaching (Secondary) courses the opportunity to enrol in a research project/thesis.

Enrolment in a research project/ thesis is governed by prerequisite units that must be completed and obtaining a credit in the Research Methods unit plus an overall credit in the course work units. In addition those enrolling in a Research Thesis unit must submit a research proposal for approval and subsequently if the research involves people then they must apply on the ethics application form for ethics approval from the Morling College Human Research for Education Ethics Panel (HREEP).

1. Policy objectives

The objectives of the *Human Research Ethics Policy* are in accordance with the requirements of the NHMRC (National Health and Medical Research Council) Statement. Available from:

https://www.nhmrc.gov.au/files/nhmrc/publications/attachments/e72_national_statement_may_2015_150514_a.pdf

The Ethics Committee is required:

- 1.1. to provide general oversight of all matters pertaining to human research ethics on behalf of the College. This will include
 - 1.1.1. formulation of policy, procedures and guidelines for all research involving humans as subjects
 - 1.1.2. monitoring and review of human research ethics
- 1.2. to provide advice to the Academic Board and make recommendations on any aspect of human research for education ethics.
- 1.3. to ensure that all projects involving humans as subjects of the research, and procedures for their consideration conform to the requirements of the NHMRC Statement and the ethical guidelines adopted by the College
- 1.4. to receive complaints, on a confidential basis, from subjects, research workers or others on the conduct of projects, and to deal with these in accordance with College procedures

2. Procedures

- 2.1. Those enrolling in a Research Thesis unit must submit a research proposal for approval to the Morling College Education Research Review Committee and subsequently following approval, if the research involves people, then they must apply on the ethics application form for ethics approval from the Morling College Human Research for Education Ethics Panel (HREEP).
- 2.2. The HREEP Committee shall meet as required, either face-to-face or by other means. Requests from HREEP approval must be completed on the appropriate forms.
- 2.3. Records of all decisions of the HREC must be maintained and reported annually to the Academic Board of the College
- 2.4. The procedures and guidelines adopted by the Committee in discharging its responsibilities must be made widely known to the College community.
- 2.5. In exercising its functions, the Committee must take account of the following generally accepted statements of ethical principles to govern human research and experimentation:
 - 2.5.1. The research must conform to generally accepted moral and scientific principles and therapeutic standards.
 - 2.5.2. The committee, after careful consideration and consultation, must be satisfied that the possible advantage to be gained from the work justifies any discomfort or risks involved.
 - 2.5.3. The research student (also known as the investigator) must be mindful at all times of his or her duty towards the individual subject of the research respecting the subject's personality, rights, wishes, consent and freedom.
 - 2.5.4. The subject, or his or her legal guardian, should have given free consent, after comprehending the nature of the study, before research is undertaken. To this end the investigator is responsible for providing the subject, or his or her guardian, with sufficient information in language that he or she can understand about the purpose, methods, demands, risks, inconvenience and discomforts of the study.
 - 2.5.5. The informed consent of the subject is mandatory in all human research and experimentation projects. Forms are available from Morling College Faculty of Education for this purpose.
 - 2.5.6. Participation in research and experimentation must be voluntary.
 - 2.5.7. The subject or the subject's guardian must be free at any time to withdraw consent for further participation, and to withdraw any unprocessed data previously provided.
 - 2.5.8. The investigator should discontinue or modify the research if it becomes apparent that continuation may be harmful.
- 2.6. In discharging its responsibilities, the Committee may seek the assistance of such experts as it chooses.
- 2.7. Decisions of the HREEP, including any conditions for the study, will be conveyed to the relevant person.

Membership of the Morling College HREC

Category	Name	Qualifications	Contact Details
Chair of Academic Board	E/ Prof Alan Rice, AM	BA, MEd, PhD	alanrice@bigpond.net.au
Dean of Education	Dr Pamela Harvey	BSC(Hons), Cert Ed, MED, PhD. MACEL	pamelah@morling.edu.au
Dean for Academic and Regional Development	Rev Dr Ian O'Harae	BA, DipEd, MEd St, PhD, MACE MACEL	iano@morling.edu.au
Principal of National Institute for Christian Education	Dr Ken Dickens	Dip Teach, Cert Theol, MEdST, PhD, MACEL MCEPA	ken.dickens@nice.edu.au
Co-opted person (as needed)	as needed	as needed	as needed
Co-opted person (as needed)	as needed	as needed	As needed