

## CHAPTER 5.3: MINIMISING DUPLICATION OF ETHICAL REVIEW

### INTRODUCTION

Research projects that may generate duplication of ethical review in Australia include:

- a research project conducted at more than one institution, either by the same or different researchers;
- a research project conducted jointly by researchers affiliated with different institutions;
- a research project conducted at one institution by a researcher affiliated with another institution, for example, a university-based researcher conducting research at a hospital;
- a research project approved at one institution and transferred to another, for example, when a researcher changes institutions; and
- any other research for which more than one institution has responsibility for ethical review and approval.

### GUIDELINES

- 5.3.1 Wherever more than one institution has a responsibility to ensure that a human research project is subject to ethical review (see paragraph 5.1.1), each institution has the further responsibility to adopt a review process that eliminates any unnecessary duplication of ethical review.
- 5.3.2 Different institutions that regularly have review responsibilities for the same research (for example, universities and related teaching hospitals) should agree on a single review body to review the research.

- 5.3.3 Where an institution decides to rely on ethical review by a body it has not established, it should undertake:
- (a) to identify any local circumstances relevant to the ethical review of its research, disclose these circumstances to the review body/ies, and provide for their management;
  - (b) to exchange relevant information and advice with the review body/ies;
  - (c) not to duplicate an existing, duly authorised scientific/technological/methodological assessment of the research;
  - (d) to establish the roles, if any, the institution and the review body/ies may have in monitoring the research;
  - (e) to inform participants if the research is discontinued; and
  - (f) to adopt any other administrative procedures that will avoid unnecessary duplication of ethical review.
- 5.3.4 Where paragraphs 5.3.1 to 5.3.3 apply, researchers should inform the ethical review body that reviews and approves the research:
- (a) of all other sites at which the research will be conducted, and of the name and location of any other body that will conduct an ethical review of the research; and
  - (b) of any previous decisions made about the research by other review bodies (in Australia or elsewhere).