

Handling of Conflicts of Interest in HDR student matters

In the first instance, higher degree by research candidates should discuss matters relating to their candidature and research progress directly with their supervisory teams. At times, they may wish to also discuss their circumstances with someone who has broader oversight of higher degree by research programs within their Faculty of enrolment. This should generally be with the Faculty's Higher Degrees by Research Coordinator.

Occasionally, there may be conflicts of interest that arise during such discussions, and these are handled by the Faculty of enrolment as outlined below. Conflict of interest scenarios can arise when an Higher Degree Research Co-ordinator, Associate Dean of Research and/or Faculty Executive Dean is on the supervisory panel of a particular student.

When there is a conflict of interest at the Higher Degrees by Research Coordinator level, the matter should be referred directly to the Faculty Associate Dean of Research. If there is also a conflict with the Associate Dean of Research, the matter is to be referred directly to the Faculty Executive Dean.

When there is a conflict of interest at the Associate Dean of Research level, the matter should be referred directly to the Faculty Executive Dean (assuming they have no conflict).

When there is also a conflict of interest with the Faculty Executive Dean, the HDR matter should be referred directly to:

- a. The Deputy Vice Chancellor Academic (DVCA), as the director line manager/supervisor of the Faculty Executive Dean
- b. The Deputy Vice Chancellor Research and Innovation (DVCRI) as the Deputy Vice Chancellor with overall responsibility for FedUni's research and research training
- c. The Executive Dean, Graduate Studies to act on, as the person responsible for oversight of the Federation University Australia higher degree by research student programs
- d. The Chair, Higher Degree Research Committee
- e. Academic Board