



Higher Education Standards Executive
GPO Box 1672
Melbourne VIC 3001

Re: Draft Standards for Research, Research Training and Learning Outcomes (Research Training)

Dear Higher Education Standards Panel,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Draft Standards for Research, Research Training and Learning Outcomes (Research Training).

As outlined in our [2013-15 Strategic Plan](#), the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) is committed to building Australia's future capacity for research and translation.

The Office of NHMRC (ONHMRC) supports the Higher Education Standard Panel's initiative to address the representation of research and research training in the Higher Education Standards Framework.

Enclosed are ONHMRC's comments and suggestions, against each of the consultation questions. We trust that these comments will be of use to the Panel in the finalisation of standards.

Should you wish to discuss any of the comments in greater detail, please feel free to e-mail the Research Policy Taskforce at

We look forward to commenting on the content of standards overall, and on the possible operation of the standards as a whole in due course.

Kind regards,

Dr Clive Morris

Acting CEO

11 June 2013



Australian Government

National Health and Medical Research Council

Comments from the Office of the National Health and Medical Research Council (ONHMRC) on the Draft Standards for Research, Research Training and Learning Outcomes (Research Training)

Q1. Do you broadly support the proposed standards for Research? If not, why?

ONHMRC broadly supports the proposed standards for Research and the guiding principles that have directed the Panel's work on this topic. Two suggestions in relation to the specific content of the standards are made below, in our response to Question 2.

Q2. Do you wish to make any suggestions in relation to the specific content of the standards?

1. Open Access

ONHMRC is supportive of the inclusion of a repository of research outputs in the draft Standards. We would like to bring to the Panel's attention NHMRC's revised policy on the dissemination of research findings, which is available at: <http://www.nhmrc.gov.au/grants/policy/dissemination-research-findings>

This policy requires all publications arising from an NHMRC supported research project to be deposited into an open access institutional repository within a twelve month period from the date of publication. The overarching aim of the policy is to ensure that the findings of publicly funded health and medical research are made available to the wider public as soon as possible.

Given the relevance of this policy (and a similar policy on Open Access from the Australian Research Council, available at: http://www.arc.gov.au/applicants/open_access.htm), we suggest that the Panel consider making specific reference to these policies in the Standards, or, at the very least, as additional Reference Points.

2. Reference to *Australian Code for the Responsible Conduct of Research, Australian Government (2007)* (the Code)

Noting that the Code is an important and helpful reference point for all providers; we suggest that the Panel considers making a stronger reference to the Code in the Standards for **Research** and for **Research Training**, instead of (or perhaps, in addition to) including the Code as a "reference point" only.

Q3. Do you broadly support the proposed standards for Research Training? If not, why?

ONHMRC broadly supports the proposed standards for Research Training.

Q4. Do you wish to make any suggestions in relation to the specific content of the standards?

Please consider the suggestion in relation to the Code, as per our response to Question 2.

Q5. Do you broadly support the proposed standards for Learning Outcomes (Research Training)? If not, why?

ONHMRC broadly supports the proposed standards for Learning Outcomes (Research Training).

Q6. Do you wish to make any suggestions in relation to the specific content of the standards?

No.

Q7. Do you wish to make any Overall or General Comments about the form, style, scope or any other aspects of the proposed set of research-related standards?

ONHMRC supports the initiative undertaken by the Panel and what it aims to achieve.

One suggestion to provide greater clarity to those using the Standards would be to provide some guidance on the Reference Points by aligning the listed Reference Points to a stated Standard, where the point is particularly relevant.