

Report

Topic: Research governance training and education survey - Administrator

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Background

Research governance and ethical review processes underpinning good quality research are often difficult to understand and interpret by those involved with processing submissions for ethical review and site-specific assessment, as evidenced by inconsistencies in processing human research ethics and research governance applications across the Queensland research ecosystem.

Objective

- investigate gaps in research ethics and governance training and education currently available for research administrators.
- inform on training needs for development of a comprehensive training package.

Method / organisations / response rate

- anonymous online survey
- distributed to administrators in hospital/health services, Universities and Research Institutes in Queensland.
- responses were received from 54 administrators.

Target audiences and expected attendance numbers

Guidelines/Acts/Frameworks

- Administrators report a high degree of competent and expert knowledge of both the Australian Code for responsible conduct of research (63.2%) and the National Statement (71%).
- Where policies are relevant to an administrator's role, such as the Privacy Act (55.3%) and Good Clinical Practice guidelines (57.8%), administrators demonstrated competent and expert knowledge.
- 1/3 or an average of 33.1% report being unaware/aware of 6 out of the 10 guidelines, acts and frameworks.
- No difference was reported between administrators in non-management and management roles.

Areas of research ethics, governance and integrity

- Administrators rate their understanding across the majority of areas of research ethics, governance and integrity related to their role as being above 50%.
- Administrators report having basic knowledge or below in more researcher-centric areas that are not relevant/key to their role, such as data, research outputs, and results to practice.

Attending training and mode of delivery

- The preferred mode of attendance is face-to-face workshops.
- Administrators find one to one conversations, mentoring and coaching extremely helpful.
- Video conference also scored favourably (53%).
- Time and capacity (31.2%) were the most reported barriers to attending training.
- 11.7% reported location as a barrier, likely due to Queensland having a diverse spread population across metro, rural and remote communities.

Competency package

Administrators identified what they would like to see in a role competency package, comprising of resources, guides and online training modules to assist them in their roles.



Outputs

- HTQ Research governance and compliance quarterly or bi-annual newsletter, to include:
 - o Links to resources
 - o 'Hot topic'
 - o Advertisement of up-and-coming meetings
 - o National updates (e.g., one stop shop)
 - o Promotion of guidelines, acts and frameworks.
- Promotion/awareness of the SSA process through
 - o HTQ and partners newsletters
 - o Short bite size session on the SSA process
 - o Information on the process and components on the HTQ website
- Through the HeSANDA Queensland node and the HREC Conference, provide information and awareness on the secondary use/sharing of research data and data management practices. HRECs may see applications that reference being HeSANDA compliant.
- Administrator competency / induction pack, provided to all new staff, to harness and leverage current knowledge in the workforce.

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