

Human Research Ethics Committee Membership

About the Human Research Ethics Committee (HREC)

HRECs review proposals (also known as applications) for research being conducted involving humans (this includes data and biological samples) to ensure that the research meets the ethical standards and guidelines for conducting research in Australia. HRECs are made up of a diverse group of members including a chairperson, lay people, people with knowledge of and current experience in professional care, people who perform a pastoral care role in the community, lawyers and people with current research experience.

The purpose and main function of the West Moreton Health HREC is to:

- Advise West Moreton Health on ethical issues relating to human research;
- Evaluate and approve suitable human research proposals in line with the National Health and Medical Research (NMHRC) guidelines (such as the [National Statement on Ethical Conduct in Human Research 2007 \(updated 2018\)](#)) and Queensland Health policies; and
- Monitor and review approved human research proposals.

The West Moreton Health HREC is registered with the NHMRC [EC00184] to review single site research projects (i.e. research taking place within West Moreton Hospital and Health Service only).

Why be an HREC member?

HRECs help to ensure that research participants are protected by ensuring the research being conducted is ethical. By being a member of the HREC you are contributing to the review of the research taking place in the West Moreton Health community.

Workload and meetings

Membership of the West Moreton Health HREC is voluntary and members are not paid. The HREC meets eight times per year, roughly every four to six weeks. Meetings are currently held as a mix of hybrid meetings where members can join face-to-face (currently at the Hayden Centre, 37 South Street, Ipswich) or virtually via Microsoft Teams, or completely virtual meetings Microsoft Teams. Members will need access to a computer or mobile phone to join the meetings and computer access to review the meeting documentation.

Members are sent the applications via email to review prior to the meeting. Depending on the level of detail involved in the application, it may take one to two hours to review the documentation for each study. During the meeting the HREC members provide their review on the applications in line with the ethical guidelines (in particular, the [National Statement](#)) which is discussed and collated into feedback to the research team by the Research Ethics and Governance Officer.

From time to time, members are also asked to review applications out of session via email.

Training

All members are provided induction, mentorship, continuing education and training opportunities.

As an HREC member, it is a requirement that you attend continuing education or training programs in research ethics at least every three years (*National Statement 5.2.3(c)*).