

Research in Schools Policy



1. Introduction

1.1 Background

EREA recognises that high-quality and ethical Research contributes to the national and international discourse in education. EREA values high quality, ethical Research that aims to improve the outcomes of students, staff and families in Edmund Rice school communities.

1.2 Principles

EREA welcomes Research that:

- supports and improves student learning, wellbeing, and engagement

- strengthens school leader, teacher, and parent capability to support children and young peoples' learning and development

- encourages government and community partners to reflect on and enhance their capability

the Researcher who wishes to conduct Research has met the threshold for the conduct of safe and appropriate Research in Schools. The Researcher is then at liberty to approach EREA Principals for Approval to conduct Research in their schools.

EREA Research Assessment Panel means the individuals appointed by the EREA Board on the recommendation of the Executive Director from time to time to endorse or reject requests for Research to be conducted in Schools. These appointees include internal and external members.

Principal means the head of any EREA educational entity, appointed by the EREA Executive Director to that position.

Research means all human research “with or about people, or their data or tissue... understood broadly,”¹ that is proposed to be conducted in EREA schools.

Researcher means the individual or individuals who seek to undertake Research in EREA schools or other entities.

Schools means any, some or all EREA educational entities.

2. Roles and responsibilities

Role	Responsibilities
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EREA

Principals must ensure that prior to Approval being granted, they have satisfied themselves that Research requiring Endorsement has received such Endorsement from the EREA Research Assessment Panel.

3.5 Exceptions to the need for Endorsement

The *Seeking Approval for Research in EREA Schools and Other Entities* flowchart identifies the categories of Researchers who may apply directly to Principals for Approval to conduct Research in Schools.

4. Policy compliance

4.1 Breach of this policy

EREA takes infringements very seriously. Employees/officers who fail to abide by these principles may face disciplinary action, including dismissal.

Individuals that are aware of a suspected breach of this Policy should refer to EREA's procedure for reporting complaints and can make a report to EREA's Complaints Officer. All reports will be treated confidentially.

EREA will not criticise or penalise employees/officers for any loss resulting from adherence to these principles. Similarly, we will not penalise employees/officers who report concerns in good faith even if on closer investigation these turn out to be unfounded.

4.2 Policy review

A review of this policy shall be conducted every three years or earlier if required, such as due to changes in legislation.

The EREA Board is responsible for ensuring this policy is reviewed and updated as needed and endorsing this policy.

5. Related policies, procedures and legislation

5.1 EREA policy linkage

This policy should be read in conjunction with the following related documents:

- (a) EREA Code of Conduct
- (b) EREA Child Safeguarding Standards Framework
- (c) EREA Child Safeguarding Policy
- (d) EREA Statement of Commitment to Child Safety

5.2 Related instruments

The following standards apply and this policy aligns with them:

- (a) *National statement on ethical conduct in human research* published by the National Health and Medical Research Council, as updated from time to time.

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Author	A. Taylor	Approved by the EREA Board	11/21
Responsible person	National Director School Engagement	Scheduled review date	11/24

- (b) *Seeking Approval for Research in EREA Schools and Other Entities* [Flowchart]
- (c) *The EREA Research Guidelines.*