

RESEARCH ETHICS AND GOVERNANCE

August 2024

MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF MEDICAL OFFICER, PROFESSOR DINESH ARYA

I am particularly pleased that the Department of Health and the University of Tasmania are collaborating to develop Tasmania's new Health Research Strategy. A State-wide Health Research Council has been formed to lead the development and implementation of Tasmania's Health Research Strategy.

The previous Research and Innovation Subcommittee (RISc) has been replaced by a Health Research Network. It will be co-chaired by Prof Kate Burbury (Executive Director Medical Services and Research, South) and Prof Nicholas Shackel (Director of Research, North).

APPLICATIONS TO THE DOH LOW RISK HUMAN RESEARCH ETHICS COMMITTEE

For guidance prior to submitting ethics applications to the DoH Low Risk Human Research Ethics Committee please contact the Research Ethics Office at research.ethics@health.tas.gov.au.

Dates of committee meetings and deadlines for submission of ethics applications are as follows. Further information on ethics is now available on the [Research Ethics and Governance Unit](#) intranet pages.

Ethics Meeting Dates and Deadlines 2024

Submission	First Review	Committee	Ethics Committee Meeting
August 7	August 9-13	A	August 19
August 22	August 24-28	B	September 3
September 4	September 6-10	A	September 16
September 19	September 21-25	B	October 1
October 2	October 4-8	A	October 14
October 17	October 19-23	B	October 29
October 30	November 2-6	A	November 11
November 14	November 16-20	B	November 26
November 27	Nov 29-Dec 3	A	December 9
Dec/Jan dates tbc			

NEED ASSISTANCE WITH RESEARCH ETHICS AND/OR GOVERNANCE?

Researchers requiring assistance with research ethics and/or governance are encouraged to review the information available on the [Research Ethics and Governance Unit](#) intranet pages prior to booking a consultation. The DoH internet page is also being redesigned and updated with information for external researchers.

REMINDER TO SUBMIT ANNUAL SITE PROGRESS REPORTS IN REGIS

Annual site progress reports for authorised projects were due on **1 August 2024**.

Instructions on how to submit the annual site progress report through REGIS are available on [Research Governance](#) intranet page, under the Research Ethics and Governance Information System (REGIS) header.

For paper-based projects, a report template (available on the [intranet](#)) must be completed and submitted via email to research.governance@health.tas.gov.au.

RGO POST APPROVAL MONITORING

In July, the RGO undertook a work intensive to focus on the review of amendments. The large majority of these were for paper-based projects. Over the month of July, the RGO reviewed over 70 amendments!

Researchers are advised that the RGO will close a submission where a response to feedback is not received from the researcher within two weeks.

Additionally, the RGO identified:

- A large number of studies are open but have not recruited any participants – researchers are encouraged to close these, where appropriate.
- Many studies have not been submitting annual reports or documents that require RGO approval.

REVISED DOCUMENTS AND FORMS

A number of key documents, including the Supporting Department form and the Deed of Confidentiality have been modified for clarity, and all documents have been made web accessible. These new versions of documents will be uploaded to the intranet shortly. Please refer to

Research Governance Newsletter

the intranet for current versions of research governance documents and forms and when to use them.

MIGRATING PAPER-BASED PROJECTS ONTO REGIS

Please ensure that research projects that are to remain open and active for more than 12 months are migrated onto Research Ethics and Governance Information System (REGIS) by **31 December 2024**. As of 1 January 2025, amendments through the paper-based system will not be possible. Please contact tasregis.enquiries@health.tas.gov.au if you need further guidance to migrate projects.

FREE GCP TRAINING VIA A-CTEC

The contract with the [Australian Clinical Trials Education Centre \(A-CTEC\)](#) has been renewed for another year. The A-CTEC provides the GCP course (free of charge), as well as several other educational courses, seminars and workshops. Please subscribe to the A-CTEC newsletter to be notified of new courses and upcoming webinars and workshops.

REGIS TRAINING FOR RESEARCHERS

REGIS researcher [training sessions](#) are currently scheduled for 10, 11 and 12 September 2024. [Click here to register](#) for a REGIS training session.

Please note that the REGIS website also contains quick reference guides and FAQs. For Tasmania-specific REGIS information and guides, refer to the [Research Ethics and Governance Unit](#) and please email tasregis.enquiries@health.tas.gov.au

RESEARCH TRANSLATION COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE

The next Tasmanian Collaboration for Health Improvement (TCHI) Research Translation Community of Practice (CoP) meeting is scheduled for **Thursday 29 August 12:00 pm - 1:30 pm** in person at the UTAS Podium Building (Room UG23) and online via Zoom (please email tchi.admin@utas.edu.au for the link).

Topic: knowledge translation frameworks, with a presentation from Dr Suzanne Waddingham (Senior Lecturer in Health System Improvement, Tasmanian School of Medicine).

NEW AUSTRALIAN TELETRIAL PROGRAM WEBSITE

The Australian Teletrial Program (ATP) aims to improve access to, and participation in, clinical trials for rural, regional and remote Australians.

Teletrials is a proven model that uses telehealth to connect rural, regional and remote (RRR) clinical trial site clusters, thereby enabling patients access to clinical trials that are delivered closer to home.

This week, the ATP updated their website to include more information about Teletrial model, the benefits of utilising this model and a case study.

Learn more about the ATP by visiting their [website](#) or emailing the ATP's Tasmanian Regional Clinical Trial Coordinating Centre at ATP-TAS@health.tas.gov.au.

RESEARCH GOVERNANCE OFFICE (RGO) TIPS OF THE MONTH

- Migrate active paper-based projects to REGIS.
- Submit Final Reports to close inactive projects.
- Ensure that "amendment" and the project reference (SSA/STE) number are included in the subject line email when amendments are submitted via email. Submissions without the RGO reference number will be returned to the researcher, unactioned.

Intranet:	Research Ethics and Governance Unit (REGU) Tasmanian Department of Health Intranet
Website	https://www.health.tas.gov.au/research
Research Governance Office	research.governance@health.tas.gov.au Research Governance consultations will be in 30-minute intervals at the following times: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Tuesdays 7.00am – 9.00am• Thursdays 8.00am -10.00am• Thursdays 2.00pm – 4.00pm
Research Ethics Office	research.ethics@health.tas.gov.au Consultations will be in 30-minute intervals at the following times: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Tuesdays 8.00am – 10.00am• Thursdays 1.00pm – 3.00pm
REGIS Support	tasregis.enquiries@health.tas.gov.au As required