

TABLE OF CONTENTS

TABLE OF CONTENTS..... 1

Context2

Purpose2

Research Quality Principles.....2

Principles3

Responsibilities4

 Institutional4

 Individual.....4

Complaints and Breaches5

References5

Related Policies and Procedures.....6

CONTEXT

The AIMS Research Quality and Integrity Policy seeks to update the existing AIMS Quality Policy. The update aligns and broadens the policy with ongoing developments in Australia's Code for the Responsible Conduct of Research (2018) and now includes ethics and other standard Australian research guidance statements.

PURPOSE

The credibility of research findings relies on research quality. AIMS is committed to the highest standard of quality and integrity in research. The AIMS Research Quality and Integrity Policy establishes clear standards and expectations for delivering quality scientific research and services in line with the Australian Code for the Responsible Conduct of Research (2018), and the broader suite of Australian statements on the conduct of research. The AIMS Research Quality and Integrity Policy forms an integral part of the Institute's governance framework, promoting quality and ethical research behaviour within the science and science support teams, and providing a foundation for high quality research and translation into impacts.

RESEARCH QUALITY PRINCIPLES

This Policy outlines the commitment of the Australian Institute of Marine Science (AIMS) to ensuring the highest standards of research quality and integrity in accordance with Australia's Code for the Responsible Conduct of Research (2018) hereafter 'the Code'. AIMS is dedicated to undertaking science and research activities that produce reliable, high-quality, and scientifically robust findings.

This Policy applies to all AIMS staff, researchers, collaborators (including Higher Degree by Research (HDR) candidates co-supervised at AIMS), interns, volunteers, contractors, and any individuals involved in the planning, conduct, and dissemination of research within the Institute. This policy supports and is aligned with the principles of the AIMS Code of Conduct.

Research quality includes compliance with several other guidance principles and statements that support the quality and reputation of Australian research. These are included in the principles below.

PRINCIPLES

AIMS is committed to the following:

1- Research Quality – AIMS and its staff are committed to the principles of Honesty, Rigour, Transparency, Fairness, Respect, Recognition, Accountability and Promotion as defined in the Australian Code for the Responsible Conduct of Research (2018).

AIMS is committed to the Code’s principles of data, which is an essential and highly valued component of AIMS’s work.

2- Ethical Research – AIMS and its staff uphold the ethical conduct of research and are guided by the national and state-level guides including:

- *National Statement on Ethical Conduct in Human Research 2007 (updated 2018);*
- *Ethical conduct in research with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples and communities: Guidelines for researchers and stakeholders (2018)*
- *Australian code for the care and use of animals for scientific purposes, 8th edition (2013).*

3 - Research Integrity - which is behaviour-based and requires adherence to the ethical principles and professional standards essential for the responsible conduct of research.

4 – Research Impact - focused on translating the benefits of research outside academia, such as economic, social and other benefits.

RESPONSIBILITIES

Institutional

AIMS supports a high-quality compliant research culture through:

- maintaining policies and procedures to support the responsible conduct of research.
- providing training that promotes and supports responsible research conduct for supervisors, research and other relevant staff. It is expected the HDR candidates receive Research Integrity Training through their university of enrolment.
- appointing Research Integrity Advisors who advise and promote a high-quality research culture.
- supporting the responsible dissemination of research findings, including access to facilities for the safe and secure storage and management of research data.
- facilitating the prevention and detection of potential breaches of the Code.
- investigating and resolving potential breaches of the Code, ensuring clear processes for investigating concerns or potential breaches of the Code in a timely and effective manner, and in accord with procedural fairness as per the AIMS Procedure for the Investigation of Breaches of the Code.

Individual

- All researchers and HDR candidates must act in accordance with the [Australian Code for the Responsible Conduct of Research 2018](#).
- Support a culture of responsible research conduct that is consistent with national research codes, guidelines and statements at both AIMS, externally and in their discipline.
- Provide guidance and mentorship on responsible research conduct to emerging and senior researchers.
- Undertake and promote to others education and training in responsible research conduct
- Comply with relevant ethics guidelines and permits, ensuring that approvals are obtained prior to the commencement of research, and that conditions of approvals are adhered to during the course of research.
- Ensure research follows ethical principles and respects Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples' rights, laws, and customs.
- Adopt methods appropriate to the aims of the research and ensure that conclusions are justified by the results.
- Retain clear, accurate, secure and complete records of all research including research data and primary materials.
- Disseminate research findings responsibly, accurately and broadly.

- Where necessary, act to correct the record in a timely manner.
- Disclose and manage actual, potential or perceived conflicts of interest.
- Ensure that authors of research outputs are all those, and only those, who have made a significant intellectual or scholarly contribution to the research and its output, and that they agree to be listed as an author.
- Acknowledge those who have contributed to the research.
- Cite and acknowledge other relevant work appropriately and accurately.
- Participate in peer review fairly, rigorously and maintaining confidentiality.
- Report suspected breaches of the Code to the relevant institution and/or authority.

COMPLAINTS AND BREACHES

A breach of this Policy, or the Code, may arise where a researcher fails to meet the principles and responsibilities set out in the Code and/or this Policy.

Complaints about the conduct of research, including potential breaches, will be dealt with in accordance with the AIMS 'Managing and investigating potential breaches of the Australian Code for the Responsible Conduct of Research' procedure.

Instances of research misconduct are restricted to research planning, methods, data collection, interpretation and analysis, acknowledgment and publications. Research misconduct is distinctive to staff misconduct. Forms of staff misconduct by AIMS staff and students are subject to the AIMS Code of Conduct and Disciplinary Procedure.

Where there is lack of clarity on the category of misconduct, AIMS will ensure that relevant processes are identified and implemented, noting there may be some instances where multiple parallel or sequential processes may be required.

REFERENCES

National Research Guidelines

Australian Code for the Responsible Conduct of Research (2018).

- <https://www.arc.gov.au/about-arc/program-policies/research-integrity/australian-code-responsible-conduct-research-2018>

Note the additional guidance notes stemming from the Code.

National Statement on Ethical Conduct in Human Research (2023)

- <https://www.nhmrc.gov.au/about-us/publications/national-statement-ethical-conduct-human-research-2023>

Ethical guidelines for research with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples

- <https://www.nhmrc.gov.au/about-us/resources/ethical-conduct-research-aboriginal-and-torres-strait-islander-peoples-and-communities>

Australian code for the care and use of animals for scientific purposes (2021)

- <https://www.nhmrc.gov.au/about-us/publications/australian-code-care-and-use-animals-scientific-purposes>

Australian Council of Graduate Research – Graduate Research – Good Practice Principles

- <https://www.acgr.edu.au/good-practice/graduate-research-good-practice-principles/>

RELATED POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

- Managing and investigating potential breaches of the Australian Code for the Responsible Conduct of Research
- Authorship & Authorship Disputes
- Research Integrity Advisor Procedure
- Code of Conduct
- Prevention of Bullying Harassment and other Harmful Behaviours Procedure
- Disciplinary Procedure
- Public Interest Disclosure and Whistleblower Policy and Procedures
- Disclosure of Interest and Management of Conflicts of Interest Procedure
- Intellectual Property and Indigenous Cultural and Intellectual Property Policy
- Intellectual Property Procedure
- Indigenous Partnerships Policy