

Ethics Committee

The Ethics Committee exists to ensure that:







- risks and benefits of the research and participants' consent is assessed
- all research and investigation carried out by The Spastic Centre give full and appropriate consideration to harms, discomforts and/or inconveniences for participants including but not limited to physical, psychological, social/economic or legal harms and/or devaluation of personal worth.

The Ethics Committee is composed of:

The Ethics Committee is composed of men and women reflecting different age groups and lifestyles. The membership is:

- a Chairperson with suitable experience (Board member),
- Company Secretary
- at least two lay people - one man and one woman - who have no affiliation with The Spastic Centre and do not currently engage in medical, legal or academic work
- a person with knowledge of and current experience in the professional care, counselling or treatment of people with disabilities
- a person who performs a pastoral care role in the community
- a lawyer, where possible one who is not engaged to advise the institution
- at least two people with current research experience that is relevant to the research proposals
- a person with a disability whether this is an individual with a disability or a family member or carer of an individual with a disability.

The role of the Ethics Committee is to:

- consider ethical implications of all proposed research projects and to determine whether or not they are acceptable on ethical grounds.
- identify to the researchers areas of potential risk/harms and propose changes to the study that will manage/minimise risks and improve participants' understanding of potential harms and benefits so that they are able to provide informed consent
- maintain appropriate records of all proposed research projects, so that the following items of information are readily available:
 -  name of responsible institution
 -  project identification number
 -  principal investigator(s)
 -  short title of project
 -  ethical approval or non-approval with date
 -  date(s) designated for review.
- As a recognised National Health and Medical Council member, the Human Research Ethic Committee maintain communication with the NHMRC's Medical Research Ethics Committee and provide access, upon request, to information in the institutional ethics committees records.

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The Ethics Committee, in carrying out these functions, shall:

- conform to the NHMRC National Statement on Ethical Conduct in Human Research
- take account of local cultural and social attitudes in making decisions
- ensure that procedures relating to obtaining consent are observed
- ensure that no members of the committee adjudicate on proposals in which they may be personally involved
- ensure that, while accepting that health professionals have a duty to advance knowledge by research, the rights of individual participants or subjects of research take precedence over the expected benefits to human knowledge or to the community.

Deadline for submissions to the Ethics Committee:

- Applications are reviewed after they have been reviewed and approved by the Research Committee as they are submitted.
- Applicants will receive notification of the Ethics Committee decision, in writing, usually within four to six weeks.