

Sharing Data Ethically

Why share data



Data sharing

- ✓ Encourages scientific enquiry and promotes innovation
- ✓ Provides credit to the researcher as a research output in its own right by increasing the impact of the research
- ✓ Leads to new collaborations between data users and data creators
- ✓ Maximises transparency and accountability
- ✓ Reduces the cost of duplicating data collection

Meeting your obligations

The Australian Code for the Responsible Conduct of Research states:

“Researchers have a responsibility to their colleagues and the wider community to disseminate a full account of their research as broadly as possible” (Section 4.4)

Both the ARC and NHMRC encourage the dissemination of all research outputs.

What kind of data are we talking about?

We mean data which is created in the course of research on human subjects and which is subject to ethical approval and oversight. Many disciplines are involved in research which needs ethical approval and oversight: health, anthropology, sociology, psychology, history, journalism, economics, musicology and more.



How to share data



Research Administrators

- ✓ Encourage data sharing by ensuring that ethics forms include relevant questions
- ✓ Support institutional initiatives to encourage data management planning
- ✓ Support the creation of institutional data archives which can manage sensitive data



Human Research Ethics Committees

- ✓ Encourage data sharing
- ✓ Recognise that good data management involves careful data management planning
- ✓ Provide advice to researchers about designing their research so that the data can later be shared
- ✓ Add a question to your ethics form: “Is there any reason NOT to share the data from this project?”



Researchers

- ✓ Consider the need to share data when they design their project
- ✓ Seek approval from their HREC to share their data
- ✓ Use techniques to support data sharing
- ✓ Obtain consent
- ✓ Consider accessibility constraints
- ✓ Anonymise the data

