

## Your rights as a research participant

As a participant in a CSIRO research project you have a right to:

- be treated with respect and consideration
- receive sufficient information about the project, in a form which you can understand, so that you can make a free and informed decision about whether or not you wish to participate
- This includes information on why the research is being done, what participation in the project will involve, how any information collected from you will be used, published and stored, who is funding the research and who will own any knowledge that is generated
- be given sufficient time to consider your decision and not be coerced in any way
- have your personal information treated confidentially, except where you give permission for it to be used otherwise
- withdraw your participation at any time without any future treatment or participation being compromised
- know who to contact if you have questions concerns or wish to make a complaint regarding the conduct of the research
- be notified if there are any important changes made to the research project which affect your participation and how the information you provided will be used.



**As an organisation we are committed to scientific excellence and working ethically and with integrity in everything we do.”**

Dr Larry Marshall, CEO

### CONTACT US

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### AT CSIRO WE SHAPE THE FUTURE.

We do this by using science to solve real issues. Our research makes a difference to industry, people and the planet.

### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

For further information about human research ethics in CSIRO or if you wish to raise any concerns about the conduct of our research please contact one of the following:

**Executive Manager, Social Responsibility and Ethics**  
Cathy Pitkin  
**t** (07) 3833 5693  
**e** [csshrec@csiro.au](mailto:csshrec@csiro.au)

# Human Research Ethics in CSIRO



# Our commitment to ethical research practice

CSIRO undertakes a wide range of research to inform and improve the health, welfare, sustainability and productivity of people, communities, regions and industries. Where this research requires the involvement or study of people as research participants, CSIRO accepts responsibility for the welfare of those participants within the scope of its research activities.

## What is human research?

Human research is research conducted with or about people, their data or tissue. Human participation in research includes the involvement of human beings through:

- taking part in surveys, interviews or focus groups
- undergoing psychological, physiological or medical testing or treatment
- being observed by researchers
- researchers having access to their personal documents or other materials
- the collection and use of their body organs, tissues, fluids or exhaled breath
- access to their information (in individually identifiable, re-identifiable or non-identifiable form) as part of an existing published or unpublished source or database.<sup>1</sup>



Using ultrasound technology to study blood flow

## About CSIRO's human research

CSIRO's human research can be grouped into two main categories:

**Social and interdisciplinary research** – this research typically involves engagement with individuals and communities, both within Australia and overseas, to explore the connections between natural, agricultural, industrial and urban ecosystems and social and economic processes.

It also includes research to understand stakeholder perspectives on climate change, future scenarios regarding emerging energy technologies, and studying human and technology interactions for the purpose of developing new information technology tools and communication platforms.

**Health and medical research** – this research includes clinical intervention trials examining the effectiveness of diet and lifestyle programs, the health and nutritional benefits of food components and consumer food choice, piloting of innovative electronic applications within hospital and residential settings, and DNA analysis to predict disease risk profiles within the population.

## Compliance with national standards

In accordance with CSIRO's *Ethical Conduct in Human Research Policy* all human research undertaken by the organisation must comply with the values, principles, governance and review processes specified in the *National Statement on Ethical Conduct in Human Research (2007)* and any relevant state and national legislative requirements such as the Privacy Act 1988 (Cth).

This includes ensuring that any research we do is justified by its potential benefit and is conducted by qualified staff using appropriate methods and resources.

It also commits the organisation and its staff to showing due regard for the privacy, welfare, beliefs, customs and cultural heritage of those involved in our research and their capacity to make their own decisions.

A copy of the National Statement can be found at [www.nhmrc.gov.au/guidelines/ethics/human\\_research/index.htm](http://www.nhmrc.gov.au/guidelines/ethics/human_research/index.htm).

## CSIRO values

CSIRO's organisational values also support our compliance with national standards. These values underpin all planning, decisions and actions within the organisation.

The CSIRO Values are:

- The integrity of excellent science
- Building trust and respect each day
- Initiative to explore new horizons
- Delivery on commitments
- Safety and sustainability

<sup>1</sup> NHMRC National Statement on Ethical Conduct in Human Research