



anf policy

australian nursing federation

nursing and midwifery research

It is the policy of the Australian Nursing Federation that:

1. Nursing practice should be evidence based to contribute to the safety, quality and cost effectiveness of nursing care for individuals, groups and communities using health and/or aged care services;
2. There is an acknowledgement that quality improvement projects, while not necessarily formalised research, contribute valuable evidence toward improving the quality of nursing practice and should be encouraged;
3. Nurses and midwives must abide by the national statement on ethical conduct in research involving humans prepared by the National Health and Medical Research Council;¹
4. Nurse/midwife researchers must adhere to the guidelines on research practice prepared by the National Health and Medical Research Council and Universities Australia;²
5. Nursing/midwifery research focuses primarily on developing knowledge about nursing and nursing practice, which includes the nursing care of persons in health and illness;
6. Nursing research may be directed toward:
 - understanding the fundamental mechanisms that affect the ability of individuals and families to maintain or enhance optimum function and minimise the negative effects of illness;
 - the outcomes of nursing interventions to ensure the safety, quality and cost effectiveness of nursing care;
 - the broader issues of health, illness, health services development and management, policy formulation and education;
7. Nurses should disseminate their research by publishing in professional national and international journals and presenting at professional forums;
8. Nurse researchers should be acknowledged appropriately in any publications arising from collaborative research projects;
9. Support networks for nurse researchers should be established in both the education and health care settings;
10. Nursing education, at pre and post registration/enrolment levels, should assist in the development of basic research skills including the ability to critically evaluate research methodologies and findings and to implement reliable and relevant research outcomes into their nursing practice;

11. Health care facilities should encourage and promote nursing research; and provide adequate and equitable resources for nursing research;
12. Funding should be made available through funding bodies such as the National Health and Medical Research Council to assist nurses to undertake nursing research;
13. The Australian Nursing Federation *Standards for research for the nursing profession* are strongly recommended as a framework for nurse researchers:³
 - Nurses undertaking research must have a level of knowledge and skill commensurate with the type of research being undertaken;
 - The research methodology selected must be appropriate to the research goals and be internally consistent;
 - The research must be conducted in a way that guarantees rigor;
 - All nursing research must be subjected to both initial and ongoing review processes that identify the ethical issues, have relevant ethics committee approval, and ensure that appropriate ethical standards are maintained;
 - All research undertaken by nurses must use clearly defined quality assurance processes;
 - Nurses should communicate findings so that research outcomes are widely disseminated to relevant communities;
 - Nurses conducting research must adhere to relevant nursing codes: *Code of Professional Conduct for Nurses in Australia*, the *Code of Professional Conduct for Midwives in Australia*, the *Code of Ethics for Nurses in Australia* and the *Code of Ethics for Midwives in Australia*.⁴

endorsed september 1994

reviewed and re-endorsed november 1996

reviewed and re-endorsed october 1998

reviewed and re-endorsed november 2005

reviewed and re-endorsed may 2009

references

1. See www.nhmrc.gov.au/publications/humans/contents.htm
2. See www.nhmrc.gov.au/grants/policy/code.htm
3. Australian Nursing Federation (1997) *Standards for research in the nursing profession - final project report*. Melbourne: ANF
4. See www.anmc.org.au