



australian nursing federation

Review of the National Statement on Ethical Conduct in Research Involving Humans

Thank you for the opportunity to make early comments on the above review. Nurses make up nearly half of the health workforce. Many nurses work in research either directly - undertaking their own research or as co-researchers; or indirectly - gathering data at the bedside or in the clinical field for research projects.

The National Statement is a comprehensive and detailed document that has served the research community well; along with the 'handbook' it provides an adequate guide to ethical considerations for researchers and Human Research Ethics Committees.

Often, requests are made of nurses to collect information for research purposes as part of the routine activities of their work. It is vitally important that nurses involved in such research are made fully aware of the ethical conduct required when doing this on behalf of primary researchers. The ANF recommends that reference be made to this 3rd party collection process in the National Statement, making it clear that education must be given to all data collectors, regardless of their number or location.

Nurses may also be made aware of ethical concerns regarding clinical research, either by direct observation or by comments from patients involved in the research. It is even more critical in this instance that nurses involved at that level are made aware of processes whereby they or other concerned people can communicate such concerns in a formal or informal manner, and receive feedback on the outcome of that communication.

The ANF looks forward to receiving the draft revised National Statement and hearing outcomes of the formal consultation process.