

13 September 2023

Prue Torrance  
General Manager  
National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC)

By email to: [ethics@nhmrc.gov.au](mailto:ethics@nhmrc.gov.au)

Dear Ms Torrance

**Re: Consultation on proposed revisions to Section 4 of the National Statement on Ethical Conduct in Human Research.**

The Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Psychiatrists (RANZCP) welcomes the opportunity to contribute to the consultation on proposed revisions to Section 4 of the National Statement on Ethical Conduct in Human Research (Statement).

The RANZCP is the principal organisation representing the medical specialty of psychiatry in Australia and Aotearoa New Zealand and is responsible for training, educating, and representing psychiatrists. The RANZCP represents more than 8,000 members, including more than 5,500 qualified psychiatrists, and is guided on policy and practice matters by a range of expert committees including the Committee for Research.

The [RANZCP Code of Ethics](#) (2018) Principle 7 outlines the expectations of psychiatrists engaged in clinical research. Our Code of Ethics requires that psychiatrists involved in clinical research adhere to ethical principles embodied in national and international guidelines, including the NHMRC National Statement on Ethical Conduct in Human Research. We welcome the alignment between our Code of Ethics and the proposed revisions to the National Statement, particularly section 4.5 which outlines considerations for people experiencing physical or mental ill-health or disability.

The engagement of people with lived experience in the development of such guidelines is crucial and the RANZCP suggests that the Statement could benefit from acknowledgement of how people with lived experience were involved in its development.

If you would like to discuss this further, please contact Nicola Wright, Executive Manager, Policy, Practice, and Research via [nicola.wright@ranzcp.org](mailto:nicola.wright@ranzcp.org) or on (03) 9236 9103.

Yours sincerely,



Dr Elizabeth Moore  
**President**

Ref 4118